

From: planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk

Sent: Fri, 15 Jan 2021 14:55:35

To:

Subject: Scottish Borders Local Development Plan (LDP2) - Proposed Plan Consultation

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CAUTION: External Email

Dear Forward Planning Team

Following the policy consultation on 04 November 2020, please find attached our comments relating to the above policy.

If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised, please contact us.

Regards

Planning and Local Authority Liaison team

T: [REDACTED]

E: planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk

W: <https://www.gov.uk/coalauthority>

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The Coal
Authority

Scottish Borders Local Development Plan (LDP2) - Proposed Plan Consultation

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Date

15 January 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Scottish Borders Local Development Plan (LDP2) - Proposed Plan

Thank you for your notification received on the 4 November 2020 in respect of the above consultation.

As you will be aware, the Scottish Borders Council area has been subjected to coal mining which will have left a legacy. Whilst most past mining is generally benign in nature, potential public safety and stability problems can be triggered and uncovered by development activities.

Our records indicate that within the Scottish Borders area there are coal mining legacy features at shallow depth including; approximately 151 mine entries, recorded and unrecorded shallow coal workings and past surface mining activity. Mine entries and mining legacy matters should be considered by Planning Authorities to ensure that site allocations and other policies and programmes will not lead to future public safety hazards. The records we hold also indicates that surface coal resource is present in the area and the sterilisation of this mineral should be considered when development schemes are proposed.

We have reviewed the Development Plan documents currently open for consultation and have the following comments to make:

Proposed Local Development Plan – Volume 1 Policies

Comment 1

Policy ED11: Safeguarding of Mineral Deposits – The Coal Authority supports the inclusion of this policy which provides a framework against which proposals for mineral extraction will be assessed.

Comment 2

Policy ED12: Mineral and Coal Extraction – The Coal Authority supports the inclusion of this policy which sets out criteria against which proposals for coal, and other mineral extraction, will be assessed. Such a criteria based policy enables readers of the Local Plan to understand when and where such proposals are likely to be acceptable and the nature of information necessary to address the policy requirements.

Comment 3

Policy IS13: Contaminated and Unstable Land – The Coal Authority supports the inclusion of this policy which requires consideration by the risks posed to development proposals by unstable land and appropriate remedial works and mitigation measures carried out, where necessary to the satisfaction of the LPA.

Comment 4

Infrastructure and Standards - Policy IS13 Contaminated and Unstable Land - Paragraph 1.6 – We support the inclusion in the pre-amble to the policy that areas of unstable land are likely to be present within the Scottish Borders area due to past coal mining activity.

Proposed Local Development Plan – Volume 2 Settlements

As you will be aware the Coal Authority provides the LPA with downloadable GIS data in respect of Development Risk and Surface Coal resource plans. This data is refreshed annually and the LPA notified accordingly.

It is assumed that any site allocations proposed have been assessed against this GIS data.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss the above comments further.

Yours faithfully



Melanie Lindsley 
Development Team Leader (Planning)

