Dear Sir/Madam

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL - LANCASTER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN 2011-2031
PART ONE: STRATEGIC POLICIES AND LAND ALLOCATIONS DPD PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS VERSION (AUGUST 2019)

The Mineral Products Association (MPA) is the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries. With the affiliation of British Precast, the British Association of Reinforcement (BAR), Eurobitume, QPA Northern Ireland, MPA Scotland and the British Calcium Carbonate Federation, it has a growing membership of over 530 companies and is the sectoral voice for mineral products. MPA membership is made up of the vast majority of independent SME quarrying companies throughout the UK, as well as the 9 major international and global companies. It covers 100% of UK cement production, 90% of GB aggregates production, 95% of asphalt and over 70% of ready-mixed concrete and precast concrete production. Each year the industry supplies £20 billion worth of materials and services to the Economy and is the largest supplier to the construction industry, which had annual output valued at £151 billion in 2016. Industry production represents the largest materials flow in the UK economy and is also one of the largest manufacturing sectors. For more information visit: www.mineralproducts.org.

We note the Inspector’s recommendations for the deletion of Policy SG12 in order to safeguard the mineral resources and support the Council’s proposed modifications.

We do however, remain mystified, how the Council continues to fail in its duty to identify Minerals Safeguarding Areas on the Inset Maps. Undoubtedly this was the cause of confusion at the EiP, and we assume this omission is unintentional in light of the inspector’s comments. The Planning Practice Guidance is also clear: “District councils should show Mineral Safeguarding Areas on their policy maps”

Accordingly, we cannot support the plan in its current state. This matter is easy to address for the Council, to enable the MPA to withdraw its objection.

We trust the Council will give this matter urgent attention

Yours faithfully

Nick Horsley
Director of Planning

Email: nick.horsley@mineralproducts.org
Tel: 07568 427720