

CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The New Forest District Council Contaminated Land Strategy 2018 replaces the Council's previous Contaminated Land Strategy (November 2001) to reflect changes in statutory and technical guidance.
- 1.2 The Strategy sets out how New Forest District Council will implement the contaminated land regime as required by Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and in accordance with statutory guidance
- 1.3 The Strategy relates to New Forest District Council and land administered by the New Forest National Park Authority.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Contaminated land is an important public health issue. When considering the potential for land contamination, the Government has adopted a risk assessment approach on a site by site basis. This is to ensure land is suitable for its current or proposed new use, and any required land remediation is proportionate. That said, the starting point is to assume land is not contaminated unless there is substantive evidence to the contrary.
- 2.2 Local Authorities take the primary role under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and are required to publish a Strategy explaining how they will deal with contaminated land. They also have a duty to inspect their area to identify contaminated land.
- 2.3 The Contaminated Land Strategy 2018 details the concepts and principles of the contaminated land regime, how New Forest District Council will address contaminated land, it summarises the work completed to date and any future planned work.
- 2.4 Following publication of the Contaminated Land Strategy in 2001, New Forest District Council has undertaken considerable work to identify and prioritise potentially contaminated land sites throughout the district. This has enabled the Council to make informed decisions in taking further action under the legislation, the redevelopment of land and responding to requests for information from the public and business.

3. KEY OUTCOMES

- 3.1 The Contaminated Land Strategy 2018 advises that over 2300 potentially contaminated sites have been identified and prioritised within the New Forest district since 2001.
- 3.2 The aim of the Strategy is to state how the Council will use a strategic risk based approach to remove unacceptable risks associated with contaminated land.

3.3 The key strategy messages are:

- The Council will encourage voluntary action, where appropriate, prior to enforcement action to deal with identified land contamination;
- The Council will agree, where appropriate, realistic timescales to action work with all relevant stakeholders;
- The contaminated land regime will be used as a last resort when no other regimes are available to deal with the identified land contamination; and
- The majority of contaminated land sites will be dealt with under the planning and building control regimes during redevelopment.

3.4 A task and finish group met on 8 May 2018 to review the draft strategy. Members received a brief presentation and raised questions and comments. Minor amendments to the strategy were agreed and have since been implemented.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The Contaminated Land Strategy 2018 has been updated to replace the previous Strategy (2001) and has been reviewed and revised following scrutiny by a task and finish group attended by Members.

4.2 The attached strategy will be reviewed by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel and then will be forwarded for formal approval to Cabinet and Full Council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct financial implications from adopting this strategy. Potentially contaminated land will be investigated in line with the strategy and any financial or legal implications will be raised on a case by case basis at the appropriate time.

6. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are none.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Any implications are addressed in the strategy.

8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are none.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the Contaminated Land Strategy 2018 be supported and commended to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regulatory Services for adoption.

For further information contact:

Rachel Higgins
Environmental Protection Team Manager
Rachel.higgins@nfdc.gov.uk

Joanne McClay
Service Manager – Environmental and Regulation
Joanne.mcclay@nfdc.gov.uk

Background papers:

Attached