

Policy 23

Id No Respondent

141 Brethren's Gospel Trusts

200 Environment Agency

163 Friends of the Earth North East

Policy 23

We support the spirit of policy 23 in recognition of the vital contribution that chemical and steel industries make the economy of the region and the significant employment benefits which flow from these industries.

3.41

“growth should not be to the detriment of the environment through associated pollution” – We suggest rewording to: “growth should not be to the detriment of the environment or people’s health”.

3.42

The land de-allocated for chemical and steel use in Redcar and Cleveland could be used as open/green space.

Friends of the Earth opposes this policy on the grounds of its incompatibility with sustainable development, environmental justice, environmental limits and the RSSs vision of a high quality of life for all.

While not denying the role that the chemical and steel industries play in the regional, national and global economies and the need for their continued viability, having run a community development project on Teesside between 2001-2005, we have direct experience of the adverse social and environmental impacts that the concentration of these industries have on the area. Communities adjoining the major chemical and steel sites exhibit some of the highest deprivation, social exclusion, poor health and environmental problems in the country. Overall quality of life for many is low even after decades of local industrial operation.

Sustainable development requires the integration of economic, environmental and social objectives so that they are achieved together, rather than one or two being prioritized over the others. Any further expansion of the chemical and steel industries in the Tees Valley would be to prioritise economic goals over social and environmental considerations without guaranteed economic benefits for those most affected by environmental and social disadvantage. It would therefore be unsustainable and not in-keeping with the RSSs overarching sustainable development framework.

Environmental justice is about upholding everyone’s right to live in a clean, healthy, attractive environment, and this is a principle which the RSS explicitly endorses on page 97:

‘Some parts of the region suffer from poor environmental quality, often as a result of former industrial activity and associated dereliction. The right of everyone to live in a clean, healthy, attractive environment is a central principle of the RSS.’

Policy 23 is wholly contradictory to this statement and the principle of environmental justice.

The principle of environmental limits states that the natural systems on which we depend have a fixed capacity to absorb pollutants before their ability to provide us with the services we need (i.e. clean air, clean soil etc) are diminished. In the Tees Valley, the chemical and steel industries are putting these natural systems under considerable strain. Further increases in this kind of activity could well see these limits breached.

Paragraph 3.41 states that the further growth of the chemical and steel industries, ‘...should not be to the detriment of the environment through associated pollution.’ Because of the existing high concentration of these industries in the Tees Valley which are putting the environment of the Tees Valley under considerable strain, any additional expansion would be environmentally damaging. This statement is another reason why

Id No Respondent

Policy 23

policy 23 is unacceptable in its current form.

Rather than encouraging the expansion of this industry, the RSS should be supporting the economic diversification of the Tees Valley to provide a wider range of opportunities for local people, and adherence to the principles and practice of environmental justice and limits.

Of greatest benefit to the Tees Valley would be economic diversification, and an emphasis on attracting clean, non-polluting businesses that will serve to 'balance out' the concentration of heavy industry. This would provide a wider range of employment opportunities for local people, improve the local environment and public health through reduced pollution, improve the image of the area to businesses, help attract people to the Tees Valley to live and work, and boost tourism.

We therefore recommend that policy 23 is rewritten as follows:

Policy 23- Chemical and Steel Industries

In order to promote economic diversification and improve quality of life in the Tees Valley, Local Development Frameworks will ensure that the land allocations below are prioritized for non-polluting industries and businesses. Any proposals for expansion of the chemical and steel industries on this land must be able to demonstrate that there would be no net increase in emissions and general pollution levels as a result.

215 Government Office For The North East

Is 740 hectares credible? The text should be expanded to explain this vast allocation. The policy should also provide a breakdown of the allocation on a borough basis within the Tees Valley

160 Highways Agency

Important to the regional economy and must be supported financially and also by safeguarding 740 ha of land for expansion.

453 Member of Public

I agree with the response from FoE to this policy.

Policy is contradictory to their statement and to the principle of environmental justice.

Natural systems on which we depend have a fixed capacity to absorb pollutants before their ability to provide us with the services we need are diminished. In Tees Valley the chemical & steel industries are putting these systems under considerable strain.

Para 3.41 states further growth of these industries should not be detrimental to the environment through associated pollution. Any additional expansion will be damaging.

Rather than encouraging expansion the RSS should be supporting economic diversification of the Tees Valley to provide a wider range of opportunities for people and adherence to principles of environmental justice and limits
recommend policy is rewritten :

in order to promote economic diversification and improve the quality of life in Tees valley LDFs will ensure that the land allocations below are prioritized for non polluting industries and businesses. Any proposals for expansion of the chemical and steel industries on this land must be able to demonstrate that there would be no net increase in emissions and general pollution levels as a result

449 National Trust North East

Would like to see some of the text in para 3.41 included in the policy. There are no references to sustainable expansion of these industries in the policy, although the text does state: "However, this growth should not be to the detriment of the environment through associated pollution".

The Trust would like to see more detail contained within the Policy, to make it clear that LDFs must set environmental standards for expansion of chemical and steel industries.

Id No Respondent**Policy 23**

338 Northumberland Tyne & Wear NHS

Risks of pollution, major incidents to balance employment opportunities.

194 PD Ports (Teesport & Seal Sands)

PD Ports support the chemical and steel industries and maintain they are a vital component of the regional economy.

42 Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

Support Policy 23 with respect to Redcar and Cleveland

124 South Tyneside Council

Need to resolve issue at Durham Tees Valley Airport of releasing Airport land for non-airport related uses. This is of great concern to the South Tyneside Council and the Tyne & wear Authorities in general, owing to the potential impact of the release of significant areas of land that could prejudice the development of the Prestige Employment Sites within the City region

It is requested that Policy 21 is amended to delete reference to non-airport related use except where it can be demonstrated that it is genuinely ancillary and subsidiary to the main airport related uses. It is also requested that the 80 hectares of land reserved at Durham Tees Valley Airport be reviewed to establish if it is genuinely needed for airport related expansion

151 Sunderland ARC

Chemical & Steel Industries is supported