

The Minerals, Waste and Renewable Energy Planning Team falls under the remit of City Development and comprises four officers:

- Clive Saul – Manager (Acting)
- Jade Corcoran – Senior Planner
- Ann Stewart – Senior Planner
- Emma Hargreaves – Enforcement (& monitoring) Officer

The team is responsible for determining planning applications, enforcement, pre-application enquiries and monitoring including:

- Mineral extraction (quarries & opencast)
 - *Dimension / block stone – limestone / sandstone*
 - *Aggregates – sand & gravel / limestone / sandstone*
 - *Opencast coal*
 - *Clay & brickworks*
- Waste management and processing
 - *Materials recycling facilities*
 - *Landfill*
 - *Transfer & skip waste depots*
 - *Vehicle depollution & breaking*
- Energy from waste
 - *Anaerobic digestion*
 - *Energy recovery facilities (incineration)*
 - *Biofuel plants*
 - *Composting*
 - *Gasification / autoclave plants*
- Land restoration / engineering works
 - *Golf course remodelling*
 - *Land raising*
 - *Remediation*
 - *Soil treatment facilities*
- Renewable / low carbon energy
 - *Wind turbines*
 - *Biomass systems*
 - *Solar farms / standalone PV arrays*
 - *Hydroelectric*
 - *Landfill gas*

- Infrastructure
 - *District Heating Network*
 - *Concrete / road stone production sites*
 - *Aggregate processing facilities*
 - *Wharves & railheads for minerals & waste*
 - *Gas pipelines*
 - *Utilities – (Yorkshire Water / National Grid)*
 - *Consultees for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)*

- Hazardous Substances
 - *Consents*
 - *Revocations*

- Related matters
 - *Marine aggregate study*
 - *Regional waste group*
 - *Policy development & monitoring*
 - *Monitoring, inspection & enforcement of active / unauthorised sites*

Planning and other regulatory regimes are separate but complementary. The planning system controls the development and use of land in the public interest. For example, when a site is operated under an Environmental Permit, then the Environment Agency will regulate the site in terms of pollution control (in particular noise, dust, odour etc.), whilst the waste planning authority will monitor compliance with conditions attached to the site's planning permission(s), for example operating hours, restoration works etc. Most landfills and waste sites will require an Environmental Permit in order to operate.

In addition to determining planning applications and dealing with matters as other development management area teams would, the team endeavours to monitor all active minerals and waste sites regularly. However, taking into account the limited resources of the team in Leeds and the considerable number of waste sites (100+), they are visited with varying frequencies. We aim to prioritise visits to sites that are active and have the potential for problems should they not be operated to a sufficient standard. The team has had considerable success in recent years through implementing a schedule of proactive visits sites and meeting with operators regularly to identify potential issues at an early stage and resolve them before problems arise. A large part of this success has been due to the specialist enforcement officer role embedded within the team who has extensive experience and knowledge of many sites and their operators.

Regulations were introduced in 2006 to allow mineral & waste planning authorities to undertake formal inspections of mining and landfill sites each year and levy a charge on operators for doing so. A comprehensive report is produced by the officer following the site visit and supplied to the operator. This normally provides a description of the current situation at the site, details of the site history, identification of any breaches and highlights any actions required to be carried out.

The team has also instigated closer working practices with the Environment Agency over the last couple of years, convening regular meetings to discuss waste management operations within the district. This helps minimise duplication and ensuring that, wherever possible, a coherent, joined up approach is applied towards the regulation of waste sites.