

SD:SPUR Learning Network

Key Principles (Draft v1.3)

DRAFT

VERSION CONTROL

DOCUMENT TITLE:	SD:SPUR Key Principles (v1.3)
VERSION AND DATE:	1st draft, 31 May 2007
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HISTORY:	First full draft produced by CIRIA following discussions at the SD:SPUR Key Principles Drafting Group meeting in April 2007

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The SD:SPUR Key Principles Drafting Group met in April 2007 to begin the development of first draft SD:SPUR Key Principles. At the meeting, members of the group proposed a number of draft key principles. For each principle the drafting group suggested:

- a title;
- key issues/information to be incorporated into the brief description of the principle; and
- points of clarification or definition.

This paper, which has been produced by CIRIA, pulls together this information into a 1st full draft of the key principles.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The development of SD:SPUR Key Principles is intended to enable the Learning Network to:

- incorporate the diverse range of views within the Learning Network and ensure 'buy-in' to the SD:SPUR approach going forward;
- underpin the SD:SPUR guidance (new or updated), by making explicit the links between particular key principles and the management stages covered by the guidance

The key principles are intended to be:

- aspirational and supportive of improvement on current practice
- voluntary but formed through consensus amongst a broad range of stakeholders
- non-overlapping, complementary and applied together
- a central part of the ethos

3.0 DRAFT KEY PRINCIPLES

Key Principle 1: 'Beyond the minimum' or 'Improvement on current practice' [WG views requested on these options or an alternative]

During the development & implementation of strategies, plans and procedures for the management of decommissioning wastes and items¹, site owners/operators should continually strive to improve on current practice.

In doing so, site owners/ operators should:

- recognise that best practice will not always equate to the regulatory minimum (i.e. site owners/ operators should avoid simply limiting practice to minimum regulatory standards);

¹ 'Items' include whole buildings, including their fixtures and fittings, plant and equipment

- maintain an up-to-date knowledge of best practice (e.g. developing technologies, stakeholder involvement processes) and seek to review and revise strategies, plans and procedures accordingly

Key Principle 2: Protection of People and the Environment

The protection of people and the environment, both now and in the future, is a fundamental objective for the sustainable management of decommissioning wastes and items.

The 'protection of people' refers to the health, safety and well-being of the workforce and the public, both for current and future generations.

The 'environment' in this context includes both the natural environment (e.g. water bodies, the atmosphere, land, natural ecosystems) and the built environment (e.g. houses).

In this context, people and the environment should be considered together, in recognition of their interdependence [I would appreciate some help from the Drafting Group in developing this text – I don't think I've captured it fully].

Key Principle 3: Stakeholder involvement [participation?]

Site owners/operators should develop and implement stakeholder involvement plans early in the development & implementation of strategies, plans and procedures for the management of decommissioning wastes and items.

Stakeholders are all the people with an interest in the situation. In this context, they include 'institutional' stakeholders, such as regulators, local and national government and senior management within site owner/operator organisations, and others who could be affected by, or have a direct interest in the decision, such as local residents, community based organisations (CBOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). [Text taken from SAFEGROUNDS Land Management Guidance]

The term 'stakeholder involvement' spans a range of techniques from information giving through to co-decision making. Who is to be involved and the extent of their involvement should be agreed with stakeholders as part of the development of a stakeholder involvement plan.

Efforts to involve stakeholders should be taken early in the development of strategies, plans and procedures. This will maximise the value of stakeholder input, avoid constraining options/thinking and avoid potential delays later in the process caused by the introduction of new and potentially conflicting ideas.

The processes used to develop and implement a stakeholder involvement plan should be transparent and facilitate stakeholders' access to information.

Key Principle 4: Minimising the impact on natural resources

During the development & implementation of strategies, plans and procedures for the management of decommissioning wastes and items, site owners/operators should seek to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and to minimise the secondary impacts from their use (e.g. CO₂ emissions from burning hydrocarbons)

'Natural resources' in this context would include rock, timber, oil, soil, land etc.

Key Principle 5: Record-keeping

[No text was suggested for this principle at the drafting group meeting. I have therefore adapted text from the equivalent SAFEGROUNDS principle – could the drafting group please advise whether the text is suitable?]

Site owners and operators should keep comprehensive records of their inventory of decommissioning wastes and items, the decision-making processes used to determine preferred options for the management of these wastes and items, and the results of the implementation and validation of these options.

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