

# **SD:SPUR Learning Network**

## **Key Principles (Draft v2.0)**

**DRAFT**

### **VERSION CONTROL**

DOCUMENT TITLE: **SD:SPUR Key Principles (v1.3)**  
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HISTORY: **Second full draft produced by CIRIA following comments from the SD:SPUR Key Principles Drafting Group on Draft v1.3 (May 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.

Following the meeting CIRIA pulled together the information provided and produced a 1<sup>st</sup> full draft of the key principles. This was then sent to the drafting group for comment. The draft was then amended to take account of the comments, resulting in this the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft. The intention is for the draft principles to be taken forward for more detailed consultation during the 2007/8 financial year SD:SPUR programme.

## 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

Although economic considerations have not at this stage been included within a specific principle, it has been requested that further consideration be given to the duty on site operators to deliver 'value for money'.

## 3.0 DRAFT KEY PRINCIPLES

### Key Principle 1: Improvement on current practice

*During the development & implementation of strategies, plans and procedures for the management of decommissioning wastes and items<sup>1</sup>, site owners/operators should continually strive to improve on current practice.*

In doing so site owners/ operators should:

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<sup>1</sup> 'Items' include whole buildings, including their fixtures and fittings, plant and equipment

- 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);
- 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.

## **Key Principle 3: Stakeholder involvement**

*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). In some cases specific skills and/or interests will be required to support decision-making and can be co-opted.

The term 'stakeholder involvement' spans a range of techniques from information giving through to co-decision making. In the context of the management of decommissioning wastes and items it should be noted that the taking of final decisions is the sole responsibility of the site owner or operator.

Planning how to involve stakeholders in strategy development and option selection is best carried out in consultation with those stakeholders who may wish to be involved. It is important this dialogue leads to a shared understanding of what the key decisions are and when and how stakeholders will be involved. It is also more efficient for site operators, who can save time and money by not pursuing involvement methods that are unlikely to succeed.

If a wide range of stakeholders are involved throughout strategy development it may not be necessary to involve them to the same extent when selecting options for particular wastes and items. It could be sufficient for them to check that the selection methodology is acceptable and that the options selected are consistent with the site's strategy.

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 reduce the need to re-visit decisions later in the process as a result of new or conflicting information.

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. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from burning hydrocarbons)*

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

**Key Principle 5: Record-keeping**

*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. This will provide a clear audit trail for current and future generations.*