

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – JOBS, ECONOMY AND
TRANSPORT**

11 February 2014

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**CONSULTATION ON NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL'S MINERALS LOCAL PLAN – PREFERRED
APPROACH**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To agree a County Council response to the consultation on the Nottinghamshire County Council Minerals Local Plan – Preferred Approach.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Nottinghamshire County Council has a statutory duty to produce an up-to-date Minerals Local Plan. The first phase of this process (Issues and Options) was subject to public consultation in 2012. Responses to that consultation, including that from Derbyshire County Council on minerals apportionment, biodiversity, archaeology and landscape character, were taken into account and used to develop the preferred approach for future minerals development in Nottinghamshire. The Preferred Approach document sets out:

- how much mineral is considered to be likely to be needed up to about 2030;
- where it is considered it should be worked, including potential sites; and
- what environmental standards it is considered should be in place.

Local Member Comments

Any comments received will be reported at the meeting. In addition to Councillors Dixon, Botham and Collins, those representing electoral divisions bordering Nottinghamshire, were also consulted, namely Councillors Birkin, Coyle, Frudd, Hosker, Jones, McGreger, Major, Marshall-Clarke, Mosley, Neill, Smith and Stockdale.

Officer Comments

The Preferred Approach document would benefit from further explanation of:

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- a) How the preferred approach for each topic was reached, especially the links between the evolution of national planning policy, the influence of updated evidence, the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal, and individual comments; and
- b) How these influences have been used, and taken into account, to inform the preferred approach, as well as the discarding of reasonable alternatives.

It would be helpful to clarify, and express in more detail, the reasons for using the 'Sustainability Appraisal' (SA) as the method to assess potential sites, rather than developing a site assessment method of which the SA is a part.

The 'preferred approach' does not deal with safeguarding minerals infrastructure, as set out in paragraph 143 of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012). Derbyshire County Council is proposing to safeguard sites of such infrastructure in its Minerals Plan. If similar safeguards are not put in place in Nottinghamshire, such infrastructure could be lost through redevelopment for other purposes, thereby putting greater pressure on the infrastructure situated in Derbyshire.

The Vision for managing minerals is designed to "contribute towards 'a greener Nottinghamshire' by ensuring that the County's diverse environmental assets are protected, maintained and enhanced.....The quality of life and health of those living, working in or visiting Nottinghamshire will be protected".

This 'Vision' is supported, as is the strategic objective to protect and enhance natural assets, although it would be helpful to know how the 'highest quality landscapes' are to be defined and identified.

It is suggested that the policy title for Draft SP2: 'Biodiversity-led Restoration' be changed to reflect the broader purpose of mineral restoration and include other issues, namely agricultural land use, landscape character, visual amenity, historical assets and recreation, rather than simply habitats creation.

Derbyshire County Council is very supportive of a holistic vision and long-term strategy for the Trent Valley, straddling the County boundary, with its aims of facility economic growth, developing a new landscape character, redressing the impacts of sand and gravel extraction, and creating a wildlife-rich landscape for local residents.

Whilst Draft Policy SP6: The Built and Natural Environment, highlights the need for all mineral development proposals to deliver a high standard of environmental protection and enhancement, such considerations should also be emphasised in relation to restoration.

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Under Draft Policy MP9: Industrial Dolomite Provision, Holbeck Quarry (MP9a), reference to joint working between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire County Councils is welcomed. The extension of this joint approach to quarry restoration should be included in the text, particularly in view of the location of potential extraction sites on either side of Creswell Craggs. Specifically, consideration should be given to the inclusion of appropriate wording in relation to working with all relevant councils and organisations towards a joint restoration approach.

Draft Policy DM5: Landscape Character, and its approach, are fully supported.

(3) **Financial Considerations** There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The recommendation in this report is made in the context of the County Council's responsibilities and services under the Localism Act 2011.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file 1031.1 by the Planning Services Manager. Officer contact details – David Dale, 39810.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That the Cabinet Member authorises officers to respond formally to Nottinghamshire County on its consultation for its Minerals Local Plan – Preferred Approach, as described in this report.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment