

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE** held at County Hall, Matlock on 11 October 2018

**PRESENT**

Cabinet Member - Councillor S A Spencer

Also in attendance - Councillor T Ainsworth and P Smith.

**90/18      PETITION      RESOLVED** (1) to receive the under-mentioned petitions:-

Location/Subject	Signatures	Local Member
A6187 Hope Road, Bamford, Hope Valley – Request to Change the Speed Limit from 40mph to 30mph	128	Councillor J Perkins

(2) that the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment considers the matters raised in the petition.

**91/18      MINUTES      RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure held on 19 September 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

**92/18      AWARD OF GRANTS TO EXTERNAL RECIPIENTS      RESOLVED** to approve the award of grant to Love Belper Independents (£887).

**93/18      GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS ON THE FUTURE PLANNING CONSENT REGIMES FOR THE EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION OF SHALE GAS** The County Council has received consultations from Government on two separate, but related, proposed reforms to the consenting regimes for the exploration and production of shale gas. The consultation from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) was on Permitted Development for Shale Gas Exploration and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on Inclusion of Shale Gas Production Projects in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project regime (NSIP). The deadline for comments is 25 October 2018.

In developing the response, two important factors have been taken into account. Firstly, between January and June this year, the House of Commons Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee (HCLGSC), carried out an inquiry into whether planning guidance on fracking and the existing

planning regime were fit for purpose. The Committee published its report and recommendations from the inquiry on 5 July 2018. Of particular note, the Select Committee made a number of recommendations relating to the potential for making shale gas exploration projects subject to permitted development rights and bringing shale gas production projects into the NSIP regime. In both cases, the Select Committee has recommended that neither option should be introduced by Government, not least because both would take decision making on shale gas development proposals out of local control. Secondly, and of particular relevance to the County Council, was the planning application and subsequent appeal by Ineos Upstream Ltd under Section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for planning permission for exploratory vertical hydrocarbon drilling on land at Bramley Moor Lane, near Marsh Lane, Derbyshire. The appeal was allowed by the Inspector in her decision letter dated 16 August 2018. However, the planning application and subsequent appeal processes have highlighted how shale gas development proposals, including proposals for exploratory drilling, raise a range of complex site specific issues which local Mineral Planning Authorities were competent to examine through their professional resources and local knowledge base, particularly those issues relating to environmental, highways, residential amenity, public health and economic impacts, and opportunities for mitigation. This recent application has also highlighted how shale gas proposals raise high levels of anxiety within local communities, even where the proposals did not include substantial extraction or hydraulic fracturing.

Each consultation posed a range of questions on which views were invited. Appendices 1 and 2 of the report set out the relevant questions and proposed responses as the basis for the County Council's formal response.

**RESOLVED** to delegate authority to officers to send formal responses on behalf of Derbyshire County Council to the consultations by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government : Permitted Development for Shale Gas Exploration; and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy : Inclusion of Shale Gas Production Projects in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project regime, on the basis of the draft responses in the appendices to the report and Appendices 1 and 2 to these minutes.

**94/18      BUDGET MONITORING 2018-19 – PERIOD 3**      The net controllable budget for the Highways, Transport and Infrastructure portfolio was £78.048m. The Revenue Budget Monitoring Statement, prepared at Period 3, indicated that there was a projected overspend of £3.516m. Of this overspend £2.526m related to Winter Maintenance of which £1m would be met from the Winter Maintenance Reserve.

The key variances included Waste Management (projected underspend £0.615m), Planning and Development (projected underspend £0.545m), Highways Maintenance (projected overspend of £3.212m) and Highway Management and Land Reclamation (projected underspend £0.819m).

Budget savings totalling £2.127m were allocated for the year, with a brought forward figure from 2017-18 of £2.794m, giving an overall target to date for 2018-19 of £4.921m. Savings expected to be achieved by the end of 2018-19 were £0.840m.

Earmarked reserves relating to this portfolio, totalling £19.251m, were currently held to support future expenditure and to help manage the savings programme.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

.