

DERBYSHIRE AND DERBY MINERALS LOCAL PLAN

Towards a Minerals Local Plan: Spring 2018 Consultation

CHAPTER 3

Vision and Objectives

December 2017

Introduction

- 3.1 Minerals and minerals-based materials, products and the physical structures made from them underpin our way of life and are essential to modern society. Minerals are the basic ingredients used in the construction of our homes, schools and other buildings, our transport infrastructure and other essential services such as health and recreation. They provide the raw materials for manufacturing and a major part of our energy generation and are therefore vital to enable the new development that is necessary to support our economy and future economic growth.
- 3.2 The Plan area is rich in a variety of economically viable minerals, many of which are extracted to meet not only the needs of the local area but also to support the economy of the country and society as a whole. The minerals industry is an historic and important part of the local economy and contributes to the prosperity of the national economy, all enabled by the skills of the local workforce and the established supply infrastructure. The impact of the minerals industry has been significant and has influenced and shaped how the Plan area now looks and functions.
- 3.3 The minerals which are present in the Plan area will continue to be required over the Plan period to sustain economic growth and to maintain our quality of life. They are, however, a finite resource and can only be worked where they are found. It is important, therefore, that we make the best use of them to ensure their long-term availability for future generations.
- 3.4 Most mineral developments require prior planning permission. The Minerals Local Plan will contain a set of policies, which will provide a series of tests to ensure that approval is only given to those developments that would not have unacceptable impacts on the environment and local communities. Those policies will be based on the guiding principles of the Plan; that is the Vision and Objectives.
- 3.5 The Vision and Objectives are central to the Plan; setting out the high level, strategic requirements for future mineral development. The Vision will help to define the direction of the Plan, by stating where we want to be in terms of

mineral development by the end of the Plan period. It will set out what the Plan area will be like in terms of mineral development in 2030 if the policies and proposals of the Plan have been delivered successfully over the Plan period. The Objectives set out the key goals that will need to be attained to make the Vision a reality. In turn, the policies and other detailed proposals of the Plan will help to deliver those objectives.

Consultations Undertaken and Comments Received

Stakeholder Workshops 2009

- 3.6 In July 2009, Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council held a workshop for key stakeholders. This helped to identify the key issues and themes that people thought the new Minerals Local Plan should address and sought the input of stakeholders in developing the vision and objectives for the Plan. The outcomes of the workshop were published on the Council's website and in a newsletter that was circulated to all stakeholders.
- 3.7 These comments were taken into account in the preparation of the Issues and Options Report. There were a number of additional matters that had to be included in the vision and objectives in order to accord with various aspects of central government policy on minerals. These included the requirement to contribute to the national and local need for minerals, safeguarding, climate change and the need to address the social and environmental impact of mineral extraction. Comments from stakeholders reflected some of these matters, but in addition they were particularly useful in adding and developing a more local dimension to the vision and objectives.

Issues and Options 2010

- 3.8 The Issues and Options Paper put forward a draft vision and a set of objectives to show how it was anticipated that the Plan area would look in terms of minerals development by 2030. It proposed twelve elements to the vision and eleven separate objectives.

- 3.9 In response to the draft vision, about half of respondents considered that we had got it right and the remaining responses suggested more specific additions or changes. Generally, the issues raised were concerned with taking up opportunities that mineral extraction provides and seeking more restraint on mineral extraction.
- 3.10 In response to the set of draft objectives, about half agreed that they covered all the necessary points, whilst the other respondents put forward further objectives or amendments. Generally, these were concerned with seeking greater environmental protection and enhancement.

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- 3.11 The draft vision and objectives set out in the Issues and Options exercise were prepared prior to the introduction of significant changes in national planning policy, notably the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework. Other emerging local policies and strategies and new evidence base were also considered to be important factors that should be taken into account in the formulation of the vision and objectives for the new Plan. Accordingly, the earlier draft statements were revised for the latest consultation exercise.
- 3.12 Three organisations responded and together made several broad comments and numerous detailed suggestions about the wording of the draft vision and objective statements. The broad observations included:
- The emerging local plan should recognise the critical importance of feasibility and economic viability to the working or use of any safeguarded resource, and the range of benefits which can be reaped from the restoration and development of sites where mineral workings have permanently ceased or are not feasible or viable.
 - The paper should make reference to NPPF policy relating to the effective use of previously developed land, with a view to ensuring that the goals of the Minerals Local Plan relate to wider objectives in relation to

communities, minimising impact upon the natural and built environment, minimising flood risk and minimising climate change.

- The Vision and Objectives for the Minerals Plan substantially address the issues of concern within South Derbyshire and can be supported.
- The widespread nature of the mineral resource provides the Mineral Planning Authority with the opportunity to pro-actively drive minerals development to locations – and at a scale – that will provide the greatest opportunities for delivering strategic restoration benefits.
- Concerned by the narrow focus of the consultation document on adverse environmental impacts. We believe that it is also important to identify the potential for environmental enhancements, particularly through the opportunities provided by mineral site restoration.
- The Plan should be much more visionary and aspirational than simply aiming to minimise and mitigate adverse environmental impacts.
- Whilst mineral sites can be restored to a variety of after-uses, the Plan should acknowledge that mineral site restoration provides nationally significant opportunities for enhancing biodiversity, in particular.

Assessment of Comments and Outcomes for the Preferred Approach

- 3.13 The respondents were generally supportive of the vision and objectives but in addition, the main themes of the specific comments were that the statements could be more encompassing of the issues in the Plan area. Some of the suggestions in this regard were based on the particular issue or area of concern of the respondent and were too detailed and specific for inclusion in the vision and objectives. Some conflated several issues or repeated statements already submitted in response to other consultation papers which again were inappropriate for the intended purpose of this part of the Plan. Further information on the representations made and responses to them can be found in the following document:

Towards a Minerals Local Plan: Spring 2018 Consultation
Report of Representations and Responses, December 2017

Duty to Co-operate

- 3.14 The Duty to Co-operate was created by the Localism Act 2011, which places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation relating to strategic cross-boundary matters. This is embodied in the NPPF and NPPG. The provision for a steady and appropriate supply of minerals and the implications of the corresponding development could have significant cross-boundary implications for neighbouring areas.
- 3.15 The Councils have undertaken discussions with authorities within the Plan area and with neighbouring authorities with an interest in mineral development issues. The outcome of these discussions so far is that the authorities have agreed jointly to set out how they will proceed to ensure the development of a consistent and complementary approach towards minerals policy, to new development and proposals, and to undertake joint monitoring and evidence base production as required.
- 3.16 The outcome and messages from the Duty to Co-operate have been taken into consideration in the revised draft vision and objectives.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 3.17 The Sustainability Appraisal process is a way of testing the impact of the Plan against a series of sustainability objectives. Where the process recommends improvements to the Plan, these will be incorporated. A sustainability appraisal has been undertaken on all the papers included in the Towards a Minerals Local Plan Rolling Consultation 2015-2017.
- 3.18 It concluded that the emerging draft vision supports a number of sustainability objectives. There is a clear aim to achieve a sustainable balance between

economic, social and environmental impacts. In particular, there is a focus on protecting valuable minerals that can be processed and transported sustainably with minimum negative effects and maximum benefits through aftercare. This will help to support the local economy. Addressing the contribution towards and adaption to climate change impacts is a positive aspect of the vision. Achieving sustainable modes of transport is also comprehensively discussed.

3.19 Logically, the objectives follow on from the vision but provide additional detail. Overall, the SA was supportive of the objectives as a means of delivering sustainable development. Some potential conflict between them was identified but this was not considered to be inappropriate as they reflect different aspects of sustainability.

3.20 The full appraisal is set out in the following document:

**Towards a Minerals Local Plan: Spring 2018 Consultation
Interim Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report, December 2017**

Emerging Vision and Objectives

3.21 All the comments received have been taken into account in preparing this chapter and the suggested amendments and additions, where appropriate, have been incorporated into the revised vision and objective statements. The development of these statements however, has had to have regard to a number of other factors including the need to maintain consistency with national planning policy.

Adopted Derby and Derbyshire Minerals Local Plan April 2000

3.22 The current Plan does not contain specific statements setting out the vision and objectives in the same way that will be incorporated in the new Plan. It did however, set out the purpose of the Plan which included statements of the

aims it was intended to deliver and the reasons why the policies were considered appropriate and necessary to achieve those aims.

- 3.23 It is acknowledged that the evidence base of the adopted Plan is now of limited relevance to the new, emerging Plan but monitoring reports produced since adoption demonstrate that it was successful in delivering the stated aims. Accordingly, it is appropriate to revisit the Plan to examine what may still be relevant and what lessons can be learnt for the new Plan.

National Planning Policy

- 3.24 There have been a number of significant developments in national planning policy in general and in mineral planning policy in particular since the adoption of the current Plan and also since commencement of work to prepare a new Plan for the area. Most of the former Planning Policy Guidance notes, Planning Policy Statements and Mineral Planning Statements have been rescinded and replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance in 2012 and 2014 respectively.
- 3.25 Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council fully recognise the significance and role of the mineral industry in the Plan area and the many benefits it delivers, both locally and nationally, and the way that the industry has influenced how the area now looks and functions. Accordingly, the approach of both authorities to the administration of their planning responsibilities has always been positive and pro-active, but it remains necessary to ensure that the new Plan is formulated in accordance current national planning policy and continues to help deliver sustainable mineral development and sustainable economic growth.

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- 3.26 The recent consultation exercise presented a series of papers which sought to obtain views, not only on the draft emerging vision and objectives, but also on all other issues in order to help formulate the overall strategy and overarching sustainability principles of the Plan and the policies it will contain. The vision and objectives has taken account of any relevant messages from those responses.

The Vision

Minerals Provision

Over the Plan period to 2030, Derbyshire will continue to provide a steady and adequate supply of minerals to meet its share of local and national needs.

Minerals development will continue to reflect the importance of the industry to the area and to make a positive contribution to delivering the materials required to support planned growth and to sustain the local, regional and national economies, whilst protecting and enhancing the area's environment.

The supply of minerals will have the support of those who live and work in the area through the close co-operation between the minerals industry, local communities, local authorities within and adjacent to the area and all other interested parties.

Sustainable Development

Minerals development will be located, designed and operated in accordance with the economic, social and environmental principles of sustainable development. Minerals will continue to be recognised as a valuable natural resource whereby they are extracted and used as efficiently as possible and the maximum benefit is obtained by reusing minerals wherever possible.

Spatial Distribution of Minerals Development

Within natural geological constraints, minerals development will be located in areas to optimise the match between the locations of supply and demand and which allow the use of the most sustainable form of transport.

Safeguarding of Mineral Resources and Facilities

Mineral resources and the facilities which enable the sustainable processing and transport of extracted minerals will be safeguarded from inappropriate development.

Protection of Local Communities, the Natural and Built Environment and Cumulative Impacts, Restoration

Minerals developments will contribute to the protection and enhancement of the areas outstanding environmental assets and the quality of the built environment. All developments will be located, designed and operated in accordance with the highest practicable standards to ensure that they do not adversely impact on, and where possible, enhance the historic environment, landscape character and biodiversity of the area and will incorporate proposals to ensure that sites are restored to the most appropriate use, providing maximum benefit to the area and local communities. Where possible, minerals development will also be located in areas - and at a scale - that provide the greatest opportunities to deliver strategic restoration benefits.

Minerals development will also be located, designed, operated and restored to prevent any adverse cumulative impacts on the area, either as a direct result of the development or in association with other developments.

Protection of the Peak District National Park

Derbyshire will help to protect the special quality and characteristics of the Peak District National Park area by assisting in achieving a progressive reduction of minerals obtained from sites in the Peak Park.

Flood Risk and Climate Change

Minerals developments will be located, designed and operated in ways which help to reduce flood risk and maintain or enhance water quality. Developments will also be located, designed and operated to ensure that impacts on climate change are minimised.

The Objectives

- 3.27 The Plan will need to include appropriate mechanisms to ensure that the Vision is delivered. The identification of Objectives is one way the Plan can express the mechanisms that it will include. Some aspects of the Vision may only be deliverable by one particular mechanism, whilst others could be delivered by a variety of methods and a variety of different methods in combination. The list below identifies those mechanisms and methods that could be used for this purpose.

Objective 1 - Ensuring a Steady and Adequate Supply of Minerals

- 3.28 The provision for a steady and adequate supply of minerals will be delivered by the identification and maintenance of future supply requirements in line with national planning policy and locally agreed estimates. This will include the figures identified in the Local Aggregate Assessment and maintaining adequate landbanks for other minerals and the provision of an adequate number of sites to deliver the identified supply requirement.

Objective 2 - Delivering Sustainable Minerals Development

- 3.29 Delivering sustainable minerals development will be achieved by the combined implementation of all the policies and proposals of the new Plan. This will include policies to direct the location of new and extended mineral extraction sites to areas which can help to deliver the economic, social and environmental principles of sustainable development and by ensuring the best use is made of primary mineral resources to ensure their long-term conservation by minimising waste, maximising levels of secondary and recycled aggregates and the reuse of all other minerals.

Objective 3 - Achieving the most Appropriate Spatial Distribution of Mineral Development

- 3.30 This includes developing locational policy which encourages new or extended minerals developments in locations as near as possible to where they will be used and which can be delivered using the most sustainable transport links. Locational policy will be developed with regard to the restrictions which are imposed by choices being limited to where mineral resources are present and to sites which are genuinely deliverable.

Objective 4 – Safeguarding Mineral Resources and Facilities

- 3.31 Mineral resources and the facilities which are used to process and transport extracted minerals will be protected from inappropriate development that would impair their availability and use for future generations. This will include the identification and safeguarding of surface and underground mineral resources of local and national importance, important aggregates supply and transport infrastructure such as rail heads, coating and concrete plants and effective co-operation with the district and borough councils in the area.

Objective 5 – Minimising Impacts on Communities

- 3.32 The Plan will seek to minimise the potential adverse impacts of minerals development on local communities in the area by protecting their existing amenity, quality of life, social fabric and health. Particular emphasis will be given to the need to prevent further cumulative impacts. This will include developing locational policy to ensure the appropriate separation between minerals sites and the places where people live and work, policies which promote the highest standards of design and operation and setting out criteria to ensure that only acceptable development proposals are allowed, which incorporate appropriate mitigation measures and secure appropriate forms of restoration and beneficial after-uses.

Objective 6 – Protecting the Natural and Built Environment

- 3.33 The Plan will conserve and enhance the area's natural and built environment, including its distinctive landscapes, habitats, wildlife and other important

features by avoiding, minimising and mitigating potential adverse impacts of minerals developments.

Objective 7 – Protecting the Peak District National Park

- 3.34 The Plan will continue to help protect and preserve the special qualities and characteristics of the Peak District National Park through the implementation of its policies and proposals. This will include making sufficient provision for minerals from within the Plan area to help achieve a progressive reduction in mineral extraction from the Peak Park area to help minimise the impacts of further developments.

Objective 8 – Minimising Flood Risk and Climate Change

- 3.35 The Plan will seek to minimise and mitigate the risk of flooding, both on site and elsewhere, as well as the impacts of climate change arising from minerals developments. This will include the development of locational policy to avoid inappropriate locations and encouraging well designed and operated developments that make provision for the management of water, minimise the use of machinery emissions and transport, the most appropriate location and use of processing plant and by securing appropriate forms of restoration which address how sites interact with their surroundings in the longer term.

Monitoring and Implementation

- 3.36 The effectiveness of the Plans' policies towards achieving the objectives and delivering the vision will be monitored so that, if necessary, issues can be identified and addressed through a revision of the Plan, either in whole or part. Details of the monitoring to be undertaken are addressed in detail in chapter 15.

Do you have any comments on the draft Vision and Objectives?

