

DERBYSHIRE AND DERBY MINERALS LOCAL PLAN

VISION AND OBJECTIVES SUPPORTING PAPER

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1. Introduction

Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council are working together to prepare a joint minerals local plan. It will be called the Derby and Derbyshire Minerals Local Plan and cover the geographical area of Derbyshire, excluding the part which falls within the Peak District National Park; the National Park Authority is responsible for its own planning arrangements. The Plan will cover the period up to 2030.

The Plan will set out the detailed planning strategy and policies to enable the delivery of sustainable minerals development in the Plan area to 2030. This means that the Plan will need to ensure that sufficient opportunities for mineral development are provided in order to maintain an adequate and steady supply of minerals over the Plan period. This will support growth, regeneration and economic development, whilst protecting the environment and local communities from any significant adverse impacts of extraction.

It is important the Plan gets the balance right between the needs of the economy, the environment and local communities. It is important, therefore, that communities, businesses and organisations are involved in the Plan's preparation so that, as far as possible, it contains an agreed set of priorities that will deliver sustainable minerals development that is right for the Plan area.

1.1 The Vision and Objectives

The Vision and Objectives seek in general to address the key issues concerning future mineral development in the Plan area. The Vision uses the key issues to help define the direction of the Plan. It sets out what the Plan area will be like in terms of minerals development in 2030 if the policies and proposals of the Plan have been delivered successfully over the Plan period. The Objectives then set out the key goals that need to be attained to make the Vision a reality. The policies and proposals deliver the objectives.

This Paper provides a background to the information which has been used to set the context for and to help develop the vision and objectives for the Minerals Local Plan. Comments received at the stakeholder workshop at the beginning of the preparation process in 2009,

the Issues and Options stage in 2010, and subsequent comments received throughout the continuous consultation process, have helped to shape this key part of the Plan.

2. Minerals Background

Minerals are essential raw materials, which are used to provide the infrastructure, buildings energy and goods that our country needs. They are vital, therefore, for sustaining economic growth and 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 help to ensure their long-term conservation and availability for future generations.

The Plan area of Derbyshire and Derby has a long history of minerals production. It is a national leader in the delivery of minerals, exhibiting a wealth and diversity of important mineral resources, which bring significant economic and social benefits to the county in terms of jobs, expertise and skills and also from the environmental value of restored sites.

In broad terms, the north of the county has significant resources of hard rock, including limestone and sandstone whilst the south of the county, in particular, exhibits rich resources of alluvial sand and gravel. There are also significant resources of coal, predominantly in the east of the county. The Spatial Portrait includes much more detail in this respect.

3. Key Issues

A series of key issues have emerged through the scoping and preparation of the Plan, which must be addressed through the MLP. These are issues that are highlighted in national and local planning policy documents, as well as issues that have been identified by stakeholders having first considered the characteristics (the spatial portrait) of the Plan area. The vision and objectives will seek to address and resolve the matters in the key issues.

The following section outlines the key issues and how they have emerged and developed during the preparation of the Plan.

Stakeholder Workshop 2009

The following key issues were identified through discussions at the stakeholder workshop in July 2009. They emerged with stakeholders having first considered the characteristics of the area.

1. The need for each mineral and how this is calculated.
2. Sustainability – difficulty of meeting present society’s needs at the same time as protecting resources for future generations. Also high grade minerals should only be used for high grade uses.
3. Safeguarding – mineral resources of economic and conservation value should be protected.
4. Impact of quarrying on flooding.
5. Whether strategic sites are identified in the Plan – they must be deliverable.
6. Export of minerals from the county to other areas – resource should be extracted close to its market.
7. An integrated restoration strategy for the Trent Valley should be drawn up – lack of infill material availability and birdstrike are issues. Restoration should be sympathetic and restored land should be accessible to the public. Good opportunity to provide high quality environment.
8. Reducing the impact of quarrying on communities and the landscape.
9. Climate change - reducing the carbon footprint of quarrying activities.
10. Transportation – lorries travelling through communities is a problem. Alternative forms of transport such as rail and canal should be explored.
11. Increased role of coal given the need for national energy security. Also the need for the regeneration of former coalfield communities.
12. The role of future technologies, construction techniques and energy efficiency (i.e. zero carbon homes). What effect will these have on mineral extraction?
13. Reduction in mineral extraction from the Peak Park will have implications for Derbyshire. The authorities must work together on this.
14. There should be more effective monitoring of recycled materials and they should provide a genuine replacement for a wider range of primary aggregates.
15. Areas of strong landscape character should be protected from quarrying.

Issues and Options 2010

The issues identified above were considered for inclusion in the Issues and Options report in 2010. Some of the general issues which were identified, such as flooding, environmental impact and transportation were considered to be areas where the policy approach is already clear and could, therefore, be addressed through general policies, similar to those in the current Minerals Local Plan. Officers considered that a number of additional key issues relating to each specific mineral should be included. In the Issues and Options paper, therefore, the majority of the above issues, together with the additional mineral specific issues were included and published for consultation. These were as follows:

- Issue 1 Calculating the Provision for Aggregate Minerals
- Issue 2 Evaluation of Sites for Sand and Gravel
- Issue 3 Criteria Based Policy for Industrial Limestone
- Issue 4 Identifying Future Working Areas for Coal Extraction
- Issue 5 Surface Mining Constraint Areas
- Issue 6 Proper and Efficient use of Building Stone
- Issue 7 Meeting the Need for Building Stone
- Issue 8 Managing how we make Provision for Clay
- Issue 9 Managing how we make Provision for Vein Minerals
- Issue 10 Managing how we make Provision for Conventional Oil & Gas
- Issue 11 Managing how we make Provision for New Coal Exploitation Technologies
- Issue 12 Reducing the Supply of Aggregates from the Peak Park
- Issue 13 Safeguarding Sites for Recycled Aggregates
- Issue 14 Reworking Spoil Tips for Secondary Aggregates
- Issue 15 Definition of Mineral Safeguarding Areas
- Issue 16 Safeguarding of Mineral Resources
- Issue 17 Reducing the Landbank of Aggregate Crushed Rock in Derbyshire
- Issue 18 Should there be a Strategic Scheme for the Restoration of Sand & Gravel Workings in the Trent Valley
- Issue 19 Should there be a Strategic Scheme for the Restoration of Quarries along the A515 Corridor, Buxton

Further Development of Key Issues

Since that time (April 2010), some issues have changed and a number of additional significant factors and issues have emerged, including new Government policy and guidance, those from discussions with stakeholders and from assessing comments that have been received through planning applications. These new and revised factors will have to be addressed in the Plan. They are as follows:

- 1) The new National Planning Policy Framework has been published. It promotes sustainable development to stimulate the economy and emphasises the three dimensions of sustainable development; social, economic and environmental. It also sets out that Local Aggregate Assessments must be published.
- 2) Hydraulic Fracturing has become an important issue in terms of energy production and its environmental and social impact.
- 3) We have had meetings with operators and neighbouring MPAs under the Duty to Cooperate requirement, from which a number of further of strategic issues have emerged. This has, in particular, highlighted the need for an extension to Whitwell Quarry during the Plan period.
- 4) Cumulative impact not only of quarrying activity in an area over time, but also of the combined impact of other industries operating in an area where quarrying takes place or could take place in the future.

Taking account of all of the above, a list of key issues has been formulated which the Minerals Local Plan will seek to address:

Sustainable Provision of Minerals

1. Maintaining Derbyshire and Derby's position as a leader in UK mineral production, supporting economic growth and the creation of jobs and skills.
2. Retaining and developing minerals expertise, skills and employment within the area.
3. Providing a steady and adequate supply of minerals, ensuring flexibility of supply. Determining the need and requirement for each mineral over the Plan period, including the specific provision of aggregate minerals determined through a Local Aggregate Assessment. From this, indicating sites which can be delivered to meet any identified shortfall in need over the Plan period.

4. Developing policies which ensure that minerals provision meets the requirements of sustainable development to help stimulate the economy and create jobs, whilst also seeking to deliver benefits to local communities and protecting areas of important landscape, heritage and ecological assets.
5. Developing policies to address the issue of cumulative impact of development on communities and areas.
6. Continuing to encourage and promote the increased use of recycled and secondary aggregates to help achieve a reduction in the use of primary aggregates.

Protecting the Environment and Local Communities

7. Achieving the right balance between the need for minerals and the economic and social benefits they deliver with the need to protect the natural and built environment and local communities from unacceptable adverse impacts of minerals developments.

Cross-Boundary Working

8. Under the Duty to Co-operate, continue to work in partnership with relevant authorities and other stakeholders to ensure that a co-ordinated cross-boundary approach is taken to mineral development and supply.
9. Helping to achieve a progressive reduction in mineral extraction from the Peak District National Park.

Safeguarding

10. Safeguarding important minerals to ensure they are not sterilised by other development and therefore are protected for longer term supply for future generations.
11. Safeguarding minerals related infrastructure to ensure it is taken into account when assessing proposals for non-mineral development on the site.

Energy Minerals

12. Developing policies and proposals to help achieve greater security of energy supply whilst affording protection to local communities and environmental interests. It is likely that Industry will be seeking to discover and exploit accessible reserves of

energy minerals (oil, gas and coal) known to be present in the Plan area. In this respect, there is further potential for coal extraction in Derbyshire. The Plan will need to address the use of new technologies for the exploration and extraction of energy minerals, including the consideration of hydraulic fracturing technologies to extract gas from deep shale resources.

Restoration

13. Ensuring that high quality restoration of mineral workings is carried out with schemes agreed at the outset of the development to secure benefits for the site and the local community for the long term.
14. Developing a strategic approach for the future working and restoration of sand and gravel sites in the Trent Valley and for crushed rock quarries near Buxton.

Climate Change

15. Through site allocations and policies, reducing the carbon footprint of mineral development by minimising the distance that the mineral is transported and taking into account the overall impact that climate change has on flooding of low lying areas of the river valleys.

The background information, which has been used to develop the key issues for the Plan, is set out in detail below.

A. National Legislation

Set out below is the most up to date national legislation and local information, which guides the development of the Minerals Local Plan.

A.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in March 2012. It states that the purpose of planning is to help achieve sustainable development, to which there are three elements; economic, social and environmental.

- **an economic role** – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;
- **a social role** – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- **an environmental role** – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

With regard to Development Plan making, it states that “local planning authorities should seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area”; it also requires that the authorities set out strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan.

It sets out national policy for minerals planning in Chapter 13 and provides the parameters within which we must develop the policies and proposals in the Minerals Local Plan. Below is a summary of its main minerals policy guidance under two broad themes.

Sustainable Development of Mineral Resources

- To support economic growth and our quality of life, it is important that there is a sufficient supply of minerals, including energy minerals. Since minerals are a finite resource, it is important to use them efficiently in order to secure their long term conservation.
- Account must be taken initially of the contribution that secondary and recycled materials would make to the supply of materials before considering extraction of primary minerals.
- Provision must be made for aggregate minerals (crushed rock and sand & gravel) through the preparation of a Local Aggregate Assessment, and taking account of the advice of the Aggregate Working Parties and the National Aggregate Co-

ordinating Group. Provision should be through the identification of specific sites, preferred areas and/or areas of search.

- Ensure the maintenance of landbanks of at least 7 years for sand and gravel, at least 10 years for crushed rock, at least 15 years for cement materials to maintain an existing plant and at least 25 years for brick clay.
- Mineral resources of local and national importance should be safeguarded from sterilisation by other non-mineral developments (e.g. housing and industry) to ensure that future generations have sufficient supplies of minerals to meet their needs. The prior extraction of minerals should also be encouraged if it is necessary for non-mineral development to take place in mineral safeguarding areas.

Ensuring that the Impact of Mineral Extraction on the Built and Natural Environment is minimised

- Permitted operations should not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment or on human health. The cumulative effect of multiple impacts from one site and/or a number of sites in a locality should be taken into account.
- As far as is practical, non-energy minerals should be provided from areas outside internationally, nationally and locally designated areas of landscape value and conservation importance.
- Opportunities for the sustainable transport of goods by modes of transport other than by road should be exploited, for example by rail or on inland waterways.
- Once extraction has ceased, worked land should be reclaimed at the earliest opportunity, taking account of aviation safety, and high standards of restoration and aftercare of mineral sites should take place.

Other parts of the NPPF, whilst not referring specifically to minerals, include policies which are relevant to minerals planning in more general terms:

Chapter 4 refers to the requirement to make use of more sustainable forms of transport.

Chapter 10 deals with climate change and flooding issues. It sets out how planning, in providing for the new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by communities, should move us towards sustainable development and, in particular, help to shape places with lower carbon emissions and which are more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Chapters 11 and 12 cover issues relating to the conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environments (including heritage, archaeology) respectively.

A.2 National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) (2014)

This document supports the NPPF. It sets out that planning for the supply of minerals has a number of special characteristics that are not present in other development:

- Minerals can only be worked (i.e. extracted from the ground) where they occur naturally, so location options for the economically viable and environmentally acceptable extraction of minerals may be limited. This means that it is necessary to consider protecting minerals from non-minerals development and has implications for the preparation of mineral local plans and approving non-mineral development in mineral safeguarding areas;
- Working of minerals is a temporary use of land, although it often takes place over a long period of time;
- Working may have adverse and positive environmental effects, but some adverse effects can be mitigated effectively;
- Since the extraction of minerals is a continuous process of development, there is a requirement for routine monitoring, and if necessary, enforcement to secure compliance with conditions that are necessary to mitigate impacts of mineral working operations; and
- Following working, land should be restored to make it suitable for beneficial after-use.

The NPPF states that mineral planning authorities should plan for the steady and adequate supply of minerals in one or more of the following ways (in order of priority):

1. Specific Sites – where viable resources are known to exist, landowners are supportive of minerals development and the proposal is likely to be acceptable in planning terms.

2. Preferred Areas, which are areas of known resources where planning permission might reasonably be anticipated.
3. Areas of Search – areas where knowledge of mineral resources may be less certain but within which planning permission may be granted, particularly if there is a potential shortfall in supply of the mineral.

In terms of aggregate minerals, the NPPF explains that the Managed Aggregate Supply System seeks to ensure a steady and adequate supply of aggregate mineral, to handle the significant geographical imbalances in the occurrence of suitable natural aggregate resources and the areas where they are most needed. It requires mineral planning authorities, which have adequate resources of aggregates, to make an appropriate contribution to national, as well as local, supply.

It also sets out that a Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) should include a forecast of the demand for aggregates based on both the rolling average of 10-years sales data and other relevant local information and an analysis of all aggregate supply options. It states that it should also look at average sales over the last three years to identify the general trend of demand as part of the consideration as to whether it might be appropriate to increase supply. Aggregate landbanks should be used as a trigger for a mineral planning authority to review the current provision of aggregates in its area and consider whether to conduct a review of the allocation of sites in the Plan.

It also states that the suitability of each proposed site, whether an extension to an existing site or a new site, must be considered on its individual merits, taking into account issues such as:

- the need for the specific mineral;
- the economic considerations (such as being able to continue to extract the resource, retaining jobs, being able to utilise existing plant and other infrastructure);
- the positive and negative environmental impacts (including the feasibility of a strategic approach to restoration);
- the cumulative impact of proposals in an area.

B. Council Plans

B.1 Derbyshire County Council – Council Plan

The Council Plan sets out a series of pledges for tackling the challenges that will be faced in the county for the period 2014 - 2017. These five pledges are – A Derbyshire that works, i.e. building a strong and resilient economy by attracting investment and developing skills; A Healthy Derbyshire: A Safer Derbyshire; A Derbyshire that Cares i.e. for children, older people and those with disabilities; and A Local Derbyshire i.e. by fighting for a fair financial deal from central government and ensuring that communities are fully engaged and involved in shaping their area. Each of these is followed by a series of priorities to help to meet these pledges. The Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan will need to take these pledges and priorities into account and seek to assist in delivering them, where appropriate. This will be particularly relevant to the Minerals Local Plan in terms of helping to build a strong economy and ensuring that local communities are involved in the development of the Plan.

B.2 Derby City – Council Plan

The Derby City Council Plan sets out a series of big ambitions for 2014/2015. These include improving educational attainment, improving skills and creating jobs and making the city a better place to live by improving inner city areas. It seeks to ensure that the Council will deliver good quality services that meet local needs by having better outcomes for the communities; ensuring improved value for money; more efficient and effective processes and a skilled and motivated workforce. The Minerals Local Plan will need to take these priorities into account and seek to assist in delivering them, where appropriate.

C. Sustainable Community Strategies

The Local Government Act (2000) places a duty on all local authorities to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), which sets out ways to help improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area. Sustainable Community Strategies set out the long-term vision and key outcomes to deliver a more sustainable pattern of development for the future. They tackle local needs and cover a wide range of themes for local communities. In the interests of delivering sustainable development, the Minerals

Local Plan will need to take into account the SCSs and seek to deliver their vision and outcomes, where appropriate.

C.1 Derbyshire County Council

Working together for a better Derbyshire. Derbyshire's Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 – 2014.

The SCS sets out a number of priorities, including:

“to improve and protect the local environment, support a thriving local economy, promote sustainable communities and provide well connected communities.”

In the ‘How will we get there?’ section, specific reference is made to minerals. It includes the phrase, “to recognise Derbyshire’s role as a provider of minerals, locally, regionally and nationally, whilst minimising the impact of quarrying on local communities (e.g. dust, quarry vehicles on country lanes and heavy traffic through villages).

C.2 Derbyshire Dales and High Peak

Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 – 2014

There are no references in this document that can be linked specifically to the Minerals Local Plan. The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) priority challenges are listed as: affordable, decent housing; supporting future generations; developing an economy that provides high-wage and high skill jobs and helping to ensure that people’s older years are happy and healthy.

C.3 Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire

Sustainable Community Strategy for Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire 2009 – 2026

There are five strategic themes. Within the ‘Sustainable Communities’ Strategic Theme is the aim to create:

‘a high quality and diverse natural and built environment, which is compatible with the needs and expectations of our current and future communities’

It goes on to state:

“We will work closely with businesses and households to help ensure that they can contribute individually and collectively to reducing the local impact on the environment. We support the reduction of pollution affecting our land, air and water and minimise local waste. We will promote recycling, energy efficiency, the adoption of renewable energy sources and champion the adoption of a broad range of energy saving techniques and technologies.”

Within the “Working and Learning Communities” Strategic Area is the aim to create:

‘a successful local economy, supporting the development of sustainable communities’

The strategy identifies the need to stimulate economic activity to tackle unemployment.

C.4 Bolsover

Bolsover Partnership Sustainable Community Strategy: 2006 – 2020, Refreshed for 2013 – 2020.

Under “A Better Place to Live” section of the SCS is the 2020 Vision, which sets out that “Everyone will live in homes that meet the required standard and within communities that are sustainable and safe. Best use will have been made of available land to develop new housing and recycling and the use of renewable energy will be the norm. Everyone will have access to high quality sporting and leisure provision. Everyone will have access to green spaces, and our natural environment will be nurtured and protected to ensure future generations can enjoy the natural heritage of the area.”

C.5 Amber Valley

Amber Valley Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 - 2014

The work of the Amber Valley Partnership is underpinned by five principles. These include: ‘working to bring inward investment and jobs for residents in Amber Valley’ and ‘Sustainable Development – development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’

A cross cutting theme is 'Sustainable Environment' Relevant priorities for minerals include: preserving historic sites and building, protecting greenfield and Green Belt land from development, sustainable design for new buildings, building in the most sustainable locations, ensuring flood protection and prevention, and promoting renewable energy.

C.6 Erewash

Improving our future together: Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 – 2014

A number of priorities are listed including:

Jobs, Skills and Housing

Issues that the Partnership will address are increasing skills, business and economic activity.

Safer, Cleaner and Greener

Issues that the Partnership will address under this section include improving environmental cleanliness in the Borough and reducing CO₂ emissions.

C.7 South Derbyshire

Fit for the Future: Our Sustainable Community Strategy for South Derbyshire 2009 - 2029

Under the heading 'Sustainable Development' is the vision for the future for sustainable development, which envisages successful existing and new communities that meet the population's needs and aspirations."

This will be achieved by seeking growth that is accompanied by the provision of appropriate services and supporting infrastructure.

Also, to address development and economic issues through cross-border working, wherever appropriate.

This will be achieved by developing sub-regional approaches to tourism related activities and by taking opportunities to implement environmental improvements alongside growth.

D. Derbyshire Economic Strategy

This document, produced by the Derbyshire Economic Partnership, seeks to ensure continuing prosperity for Derbyshire – supporting Derbyshire businesses to compete in the world economy, enabling people to access well paid and rewarding jobs and ensuring that the communities remain healthy and vibrant. It also seeks to develop a Derbyshire that is safe and fair, a place where all individuals and communities are supported and given the opportunity to share from the benefits of economic growth.

The Derbyshire Economic Strategy Statement has been developed to articulate what Derbyshire needs for economic prosperity and, more importantly, sets out what Derbyshire can do to promote and deliver growth.

E. Local Enterprise Partnerships

E.1 D2N2 – Strategic Economic Plan

This strategic document covers the districts/boroughs of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire together with the cities of Derby and Nottingham. It sets out proposals for creating increased prosperity and higher levels of employment in the area....in order to make the greatest possible contribution to national economic growth. It is very much a document which seeks to promote and stimulate economic growth through increased skills and employment provision. Providing the right conditions to bring further investment to the area is considered to be key to this. The Vision of the Plan is that D2N2 will become a more prosperous, better connected and increasingly competitive and resilient economy.

It recognises Derbyshire as being of national importance for mineral extraction, describing this as a high value activity. This principle of helping to stimulate the economy will be incorporated into the vision and objectives of the Minerals Local Plan.

E.2 The Sheffield City Region LEP

The Sheffield City Region overlaps the D2N2 area to some extent. It comprises the nine local authority areas of Barnsley, Bassetlaw, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales, Doncaster, North East Derbyshire, Rotherham and Sheffield. It therefore includes five of the districts covered by D2N2. The two LEPs have agreed to work together closely to align approaches to

implementation and delivery of funding in the overlap area. The Strategic Economic Plan 2015-2025 sets out how the Sheffield City Region (SCR) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) will help transform the City Region economy – to deliver growth and jobs, and in so doing, drive up UK exports, expertise and productivity.

F. Other Information

A wealth of other information, collected as part of the evidence base for the Plan, has also been used to help develop and refine the key issues. This includes information and data relating to the economy, the natural and historic environment as well as transport data. The local knowledge of stakeholders has also led to the development of some key issues for the Plan.

4. Development of the Vision and Objectives

The current Derby and Derbyshire Minerals Local Plan does not contain explicit statements of the vision and objectives on which it is based. Instead the Plan listed the aims which indicated the main purposes of the Plan and how they were to be achieved. The new Plan will expand these aims to provide a more transparent and detailed statement of the principles underlying the plan; to explain what the Plan will achieve and how it will do so.

This section sets out how the vision and objectives have developed during the preparation of the Plan. It includes the draft statements which emerged from earlier consultation exercises; however, these are included for information purposes and to audit the consultation process that underpins the current consultation exercise. The Vision and Objectives for the new Plan will need to take account of changes in Government policy in the intervening period and consultation responses made in light of current circumstances in the Plan area.

4.1 The Vision

The following Vision was set out in the Issues and Options document in 2010:

- 1. The plan will have helped to achieve the best possible balance between maintaining the economic and other benefits to be gained from mineral*

extraction in Derby and Derbyshire and its impact on the environment and communities.

- 2. We will have worked in partnership with industry, communities and neighbouring authorities to ensure that the Derby and Derbyshire of 2030 has a pattern of sensitively located, worked and restored mineral extraction sites.*
- 3. The working of these sites will have enabled Derby and Derbyshire to meet its contribution to the local, regional and national need for minerals and assisted in achieving a progressive reduction of minerals won in the Peak District National Park.*
- 4. Development will have also helped the achievement of sustainable economic development and regeneration of the area, including through the delivery of materials for use in industry, the creation of jobs and training and addressing the legacies of the historic economy, especially in areas of identified deprivation.*
- 5. The use of primary resources will have been minimised through efficient working practices, prudent and efficient use of minerals and through the maximum use of recycled and secondary materials*
- 6. Derbyshire's valuable and economically viable mineral resources will have been identified and safeguarded for use by future generations.*
- 7. There will have been a reduction in the excessive landbank of permitted reserves of crushed rock in Derbyshire.*
- 8. The adverse social and environmental effects of mineral extraction on local communities will have been minimised to an acceptable level, unavoidable social effects mitigated and opportunities for community benefits maximised.*

9. *The impacts of climate change and the potential for flooding, will have been taken into account in decision making, unavoidable effects minimised and mitigated, and adaptations made for the effects of climate change in mineral developments.*
10. *Minerals will be transported more sustainably, the adverse environmental effects of their transportation will have been be minimised, including the effects of moving minerals long distances, the effects on communities, and opportunities will have been taken to achieve a modal shift in their transportation.*
11. *Potential for effective and high standards of restoration and productive after-use will have been integral to site selection and to the consideration of proposals for mineral extraction, ensuring that proposals have regard to existing landscape character and the need to protect wildlife and enhance biodiversity. Restoration of mineral workings will have made optimum use of scarce **inert fill** resources and will have led to an increase in the provision of outdoor recreation or other facilities in accordance with other local strategies.*
12. *Restoration strategies will also have been developed for particular areas subject to long term cumulative impact of quarrying, such as for the Trent valley and the A515 corridor near Buxton, and will have provided a longer term, more coherent approach to the sustainable development and restoration of sites.*

What People said

We received a total of 27 responses to the Vision at this stage.

13 of these 27 considered that all the elements of a vision had been covered. The other 14 offered various suggestions for some amendments or additions to the draft vision.

The comments received are summarised below:

- It should recognise that mineral extraction provides opportunities for environmental enhancement rather than simply referring to the minimisation of potential adverse impacts.
- Need to ensure that an integrated approach to sustainable development is achieved.

- Restoration can also provide economic and community benefits.
- The historic legacy of quarrying can also provide regeneration opportunities through visitor attractions.
- It should recognise that former sand and gravel workings can reduce downstream flooding.
- It should recognise that environmental impacts will be considered in the context on the Landscape Character Assessment work.
- Justification needs to be provided as to why the crushed rock landbank is considered to be excessive.
- It should set out that the adverse social and environmental effects of mineral extraction should be controlled to acceptable levels but not necessarily minimised.
- It should be more visionary.
- It is not genuinely possible to reconcile two diametrically opposed concepts: the preservation of the Derbyshire landscape and its exploitation for financial ends. The minerals plan should impose a great deal more restraint on these activities than has been evident in recent years.

4.2 Objectives

The following Objectives were set out in the Issues and Options Paper, 2010:

- To make sufficient provision for all mineral resources (in particular the agreed sub-regional apportionment requirements for aggregates provision) to meet national, regional and local requirements.*
- To assist in the delivery of sustainable economic development and regeneration.*
- To help achieve a progressive reduction in mineral extraction from the Peak District National Park.*
- To protect the quality of the natural and built environment from the impact of minerals development, including the Peak District National Park and the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.*
- To make the most sustainable use of mineral resources, including by maximising the use of recycled and secondary materials in meeting recognised national and regional requirements and by ensuring the most efficient use of high quality minerals and the minimisation of waste materials.*

- F. *To safeguard a sufficient supply of mineral resources from unnecessary long term sterilisation.*
- G. *To reduce the landbank of crushed rock in Derbyshire.*
- H. *To protect local communities from the impact of minerals development.*
- I. *To help mitigate the impacts of climate change, including increased flood risk, by minimising energy use and maximising the use of renewable energy and adapting appropriately to the impacts of climate change.*
- J. *To make the best use of existing infrastructure and ensure that new infrastructure provision encourages opportunities for sustainable means of transporting minerals.*
- K. *To ensure that after extraction, land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity, and that high quality restoration and aftercare takes place which maximises community and environmental benefits and makes optimum use of inert fill material.*

We received 17 comments on the objectives at this stage, as follows:

12 agreed that the draft objectives covered all the necessary points. 5 suggested further objectives or amendments to those put forward.

The main changes suggested were:

- There should be an objective for meeting habitat creation targets set out in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Additional objective to provide local communities with an inspiring, wildlife-rich landscape as a result of sensitively designed restoration schemes.
- Reference should be made to the protection of Creswell Crags and “other heritage resources of international importance.”
- More comprehensive reference should be made to the mitigation of flood risk.
- The justification behind draft Objectives C and G (reduction of reserves in Derbyshire and the Peak Park) must be included in the MCS. Where mineral extraction in National Parks is not "major" or it is in the public interest, it is not contrary to national policy for minerals planning.

- It should set out that resources should only be used to meet domestic, not export, demand.
- Aim to 'protect, restore, recreate, enhance and reconnect' the natural environment.

5. Sustainability Appraisal

The interim sustainability appraisal considered the draft vision and objectives as presented in the Issues and Options document. It provided the following assessment:

“The Vision and Objectives of the draft Minerals Plan are very broad and it is difficult, therefore, to determine what impact there would be on environmental, economic and social factors. However, a quick check of the draft Plan vision and objectives against the SA objectives can help to identify if there are potential conflicts or if key issues have not been tackled.

The draft vision supports a number of sustainability objectives. There is a clear aim to achieve a suitable balance between economic, social and environmental impacts. There is a particular focus on achieving positive outcomes for communities, with a specific reference to deprived areas. This is positive in terms of improving health and wellbeing.

However, the aim to create jobs ‘especially’ in areas of deprivation implies that the location of workings and facilities will be close to urban areas. This indirectly rules out some locations in rural areas that may be suitable for other reasons.

Addressing the contribution towards and adaptation to climate change impacts is a positive aspect of the vision. Achieving sustainable modes of transport is also comprehensively discussed. There is no reference to the need to reduce energy and water use in minerals workings, however, the objectives build upon the vision and do consider this issue.”