

REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 12
DATE OF MEETING:	2nd JUNE 2016	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING SERVICES	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	TOWARDS A MINERALS LOCAL PLAN FOR DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE – TOWARDS A VISION AND OBJECTIVES	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS03

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that the comments made under the Section 7 of the report “Conclusions”, be forwarded to Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council as the Council’s response to the consultation exercise.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 The purpose of the report is to obtain a Council response to the Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council consultation “Towards a Minerals Local Plan for Derby and Derbyshire – Towards a Vision and Objectives”.

3.0 Detail

3.1 As part of the on-going series of consultation exercises addressing the various aspects of their emerging Minerals Local Plan, Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council have published a proposed Vision and Objectives for comment, as set out at Annexe A. Members will recall that other consultation papers dealing with different aspects of the emerging plan have been reported to previous meetings of the Environmental and Development Service, most recently the meeting of 3rd March 2016 (minute EDS/86 refers).

3.2 National Planning Policy sets out the need for the Minerals Plan to respond to a range of issues, including the particular characteristics and features of the area it covers. In Derbyshire, these include the type and quantity of available minerals; the extent of need for minerals; where geographical location of minerals deposits; where the minerals will be used; the relationship with the Peak District National Park; the environmental, economic and social impacts of mineral extraction; the cumulative impact of all minerals extraction activity; restoration, aftercare and after-use; sustainability and climate change.

3.3 A draft Vision and Objectives were published in 2010 as part of an Issues and Options consultation document. However, these have been redrafted for consultation to take account of the subsequently published National Planning Policy Framework and to reflect current National Planning Practice Guidance.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The emerging Minerals Plan has implications for the following key aims of the Corporate Plan:

- “Enhance environmental standards”, in that minerals working and subsequent site after uses can potentially have environmental and amenity implications in terms of noise, vibration, air quality, flood risk, contamination, ecological, landscape and traffic generation impacts.
- “Maintain a skilled workforce”, in that the minerals industry can generate local employment.
- “Help to influence and develop the infrastructure for economic growth” in that minerals development can often provide infrastructure benefits as part of a mitigation package.
- “Increase levels of participation in sport, health, environmental and physical activities”, in that mineral workings are often restored for recreational and ecological after- uses.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The emerging Minerals Plan has implications for the following themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy:

- “Sustainable communities” in that mineral workings potentially impact upon the environment and can provide economic and employment benefits.
- “Vibrant communities” in that mineral workings and their after uses can have implications for the perceived attractiveness of the District and for carbon emissions, particularly in regard to arrangements for the transport of materials.
- “A healthier and more active lifestyle across all communities”, in that mineral workings are often restored for recreational after-uses.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The Vision and Objectives for the minerals plan substantially address the issues of concern within South Derbyshire and can be supported, although it is considered the Council should make the following points in responding to the consultation:

7.2 Objective 1 could be clarified by indicating that rather than providing an “adequate number of sites”, the plan will seek to provide “adequate overall site capacity”, since potential output is not just a function of site numbers, but a variety of factors, including the size of the sites and the rates at which they can be worked within the limits imposed by the minerals planning authority.

7.3 It is considered that Objective 2 should be strengthened by indicating that the plan will seek to “maximise”, rather than “improve”, levels of secondary and recycled aggregates and the reuse of other materials.

7.4 Objective 3 is about the spatial distribution of minerals development. In the interests of clarity, it is considered that the reference to using the “highest standard of transport links” should be replaced by “the most sustainable transport links”, to ensure that the

three dimensions of sustainable development: environmental, social and economic, are properly addressed.

- 7.5 Objective 5 is concerned with minimising impacts on communities. It is considered that the policy should be strengthened by making clear that any adverse impacts will be mitigated.
- 7.6 In regard to Objective 6, the County Council's previously published Climate Change supporting paper emphasises the importance to wildlife of ensuring that water is managed so that water bodies, water courses and wetlands are receiving and retaining water for the benefit of wildlife and highlights that creating space for flood waters can also provide new habitats for wildlife. It is therefore considered that Objective 6 should be amended to indicate that as well as avoiding, minimising and mitigating potential adverse impacts on wildlife, minerals development should seek to maximise ecological benefits.
- 7.7 It is considered that Objective 8 is insufficiently robust in seeking to minimise and mitigate flood risk. The National Planning Policy Framework requires that where development in the floodplain is necessary it must be made safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere. Furthermore, sand and gravel workings sometimes create potential for additional water storage capacity, thus helping to reduce the risk of downstream flooding. In light of this it is considered that Objective 8 should be amended to indicate that development will not lead to increased flood risk and will, where possible, reduce flood risk.

8.0 Background Papers

Derby and Derbyshire Minerals Local Plan Review: Towards a Vision and Objectives	April 2016
Derby and Derbyshire Minerals Local Plan Review: Climate Change Supporting Paper	December 2015
National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG	March 2012