



meeting **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

date **27 APRIL 2004**

from: **Director of Environment**

agenda item number

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MINERALS LOCAL PLAN

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Members that the Public Inquiry into the Minerals Local Plan has now started, and to indicate likely issues of interest.

Background

2. Members will be aware that in making decisions on planning applications for mineral extraction and processing, reference is always made to the Minerals Local Plan. This forms part of the Development Plan, and must, by virtue of Section 54A of the Town & Country Planning Act 1991, be taken into account when making decisions. Decisions must accord with the Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
3. Members will also recall that the Revised Deposit Draft of the Replacement Minerals Local Plan was approved, for the purposes of public consultation, at the County Council meeting of 15 May last year.
4. Following an extensive period of consultation during last summer, on the 18 December 2003 County Council approved a Statement of Response to the objections received and still outstanding at that time.
5. With all that in mind, Members will be interested to note that the Public Inquiry into the Replacement Minerals Local Plan opened on 20 April. A Planning Inspector, appointed by the Government, will hear evidence from objectors, from supporters and from the Council's own witnesses in respect of the policies and proposed allocations for future working.
6. The Inquiry is expected to last seven working weeks, although it will not sit on every day. The most up-to-date Inquiry programme is attached.
7. Unlike a Public Inquiry into an appeal against a decision on a planning application, only those persons who have made a representation and had that duly registered, may speak at the Inquiry. However, Members may wish to attend on those days when a proposal in their area, or which may be of particular interest to them, is due to be heard.

8. Of particular interest may be the proposed allocations at Gunthorpe, Sturton-le-Steeple and Kirton, and Omission sites at Little Carlton, Foxholes Farm (Bathley), Newington, Botany Bay (near Retford), Besthorpe.
9. The Inquiry is being held at the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont. Should Members wish to attend, it is suggested that they first contact the Programme Officer (Mr Ian Kemp) on 0115 982 5528.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been brought out in the text of the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

11. It is RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

PETER WEBSTER
Director of Environment

Director of Resources' Financial Comments

An additional budget provision of £100,000 has been allowed for 2004/05 to cover the costs of the Public Inquiry. [DJK 8.4.04]

Head of Legal Services' Comments

This report is duly noted. [SHB 16.4.04]

Background Papers Available for Inspection

None.

Electoral Division(s) Affected

All Districts.

EPD.NEH/ME/EP4510
5 April 2004