

Meeting: **JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT**

Date: **11TH MARCH 2016**

agenda item number: **6**

From: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN

Purpose of report

1. To inform Committee of progress with preparing the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan.

Information and Advice

2. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), as amended by the Localism Act (2011), along with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012), requires the production of a 'Minerals Local Plan'. The Minerals Local Plan is a statutory document that all Minerals Planning Authorities must prepare.
3. Nottingham City Council include minerals policies within their Local Plan to ensure that the regulations are met.

Background

4. Nottinghamshire is a major minerals producing area where a diverse range of minerals are extracted. The biggest extractive industries are sand and gravel and gypsum extraction but brick clay, limestone, building stone and oil are also exploited. In most cases permitted reserves are inadequate for the plan period and new resources in suitable locations are needed to ensure that the County continues to supply its share of national and local mineral supplies.
5. New minerals could also be exploited in the future. These include high grade industrial dolomite, coal bed methane and shale gas. Extraction of industrial dolomite, found only in a small area in the north-west of the County, could be needed to replace production at Whitwell Quarry in Derbyshire.
6. Large resources of coal bed methane and shale gas may also underlie significant parts of the County and new technologies are making their extraction economically viable. The Government requires all Minerals Planning Authorities to set out policies as to how applications for the exploration, appraisal and extraction of these hydrocarbons will be assessed.

Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan

7. The Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan identifies sites and sets out policies against which all minerals development proposals will be assessed and determined by the County Council. The overall aim of the Plan is to ensure that sufficient minerals are provided to meet expected demand in the most sustainable way and to

safeguard proven mineral resources from being unnecessarily sterilised by other development.

8. The current Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan was adopted in December 2005 and was prepared under previous Government legislation. This plan is now becoming out of date and will be replaced by the new plan. The new plan will look ahead to 2030.
9. The informal public consultation stages have now been completed which began with a broad 'Issues and Options' consultation in 2012 identifying the key issues that needed to be considered.
10. The Preferred Approach consultation document published in October 2013 looked at the main options for each mineral and explained which options were preferred and which were not preferred and why. It showed how account was taken of the various consultation responses the County Council received on the Issues and Options consultation and also showed how the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal have influenced the document.
11. Due to the comments received during Preferred Approach consultation, a further round of consultation on the sand and gravel provision section of the document was required. This was undertaken in May 2014. As part of this, the operator for a site at Shelford west that was previously considered undeliverable, submitted further information to show that the site could be delivered and it was necessary to undertake a further round of consultation on this site in October 2014.
12. In total, from all stages of consultations, 6953 representations from 5090 people or organisations were received along with 16 petitions. Where appropriate, all of the representations received have been used to inform the preparation of a submission draft consultation document.
13. The County Council's Full Council meeting on 14th January 2016 resolved to approve the publication of the Submission Draft Document for a six week period of formal consultation which began on 15th February 2016 and will end on 29th March 2016.

Next Steps

14. The representations made during this consultation period will be considered and amendments made to the plan, where appropriate, prior to returning to Full Council for approval to submit to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for independent examination.
15. The plan and all the representations received will be subject to an independent examination by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The inspector's role is to consider the 'soundness' of the whole plan.
16. If considered sound by the independent inspector the Local Plan can be adopted. Approval to adopt is likely to be sought from Full Council in mid-2017.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Joint Committee note the progress on the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan.

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