

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PLACES** held on Wednesday, 27 July 2022 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Matlock.

## **PRESENT**

Councillor S Bull (in the Chair)

Councillors J Siddle, N Gourlay, D Greenhalgh, A Clarke (substitute for D Collins), P Moss (substitute for J Nelson) and D Murphy (substitute for R Redfern).

Also in attendance – Councillors B Bingham and G Kinsella.

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor D Collins, J Nelson, P Niblock and R Redfern.

Officers present: Roz Savage (Improvement and Scrutiny Officer), Michelle Spence and Bryn Walters.

**13/22**     **COUNCILLOR ALAN GRIFFITHS** The Chairman referred to Councillor Alan Griffiths who had recently passed away. The Committee observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

**14/22**     **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**15/22**     **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

**16/22**     **PUBLIC QUESTIONS (30 MINUTE MAXIMUM IN TOTAL)**

There were no public questions.

**17/22**     **MINERALS LOCAL PLAN PURPOSE AND KEY THEMES EMERGING FROM THE PROPOSED DRAFT DERBYSHIRE AND DERBY MINERALS LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION**

Michelle Spence and Bryn Walters from the Council's Development Plans Team, attended the meeting to inform the Committee of the purpose of the Minerals Local Plan and to provide an update on the

latest position in relation to representation received on the recent public consultation on the Proposed Draft Minerals Local Plan.

Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council were working together to prepare a new joint Minerals Local Plan which would cover the period to 2038. It would be called the Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan and the plan area would cover the geographical County of Derbyshire, excluding that part which falls within the Peak District National Park.

Derbyshire was one of the country's leading producers of minerals with limestone being the most important mineral. The working of Derbyshire's mineral resources brought significant benefits to both the local and national economy. Consequently, planning decisions about opening new sites or expanding existing sites were more apparent for Derbyshire's communities more than elsewhere in the country.

The Minerals Local Plan would set out priorities for delivering sustainable minerals development through its vision and strategic objectives. It will include a framework of strategic policies aimed at addressing those priorities, together with non-strategic development management policies aimed at avoiding, minimising and mitigating the adverse impacts of minerals development. The strategic policies will set out an overall strategy for the pattern and scale of mineral development and make provision for the supply of minerals (including cross-boundary supplies) over the Plan period. Where appropriate, they will identify specific sites for working.

The preparation of a local plan was a lengthy process and typically involved several stages of public engagement and consultation, both informal and formal and culminating in the submission of the plan to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for Examination in Public.

The two councils were currently at the informal 'preparation' stage of plan making and several rounds of extensive public consultation and engagement had already been undertaken in developing the Plan to its current stage. All the comments received in response to the previous consultations had been taken into account and used to inform the Plan's preparation and the development of the most recent Draft Proposed Minerals Local Plan consultation document.

The Derbyshire and Derby Development Plans Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), consisting of members from both councils,

provided a key co-ordinating role in steering the preparation of the Plan and the public consultations. The Committee had been involved in advising on all the previous public consultations and had been instrumental in shaping and developing the Draft Proposed Minerals Local Plan for public consultation. The consultation period had run for just over 8 weeks from 2 March 2022 to 29 April 2022.

All the representations received had now been logged, acknowledged and recorded. Some 463 individuals and organisations had responded to the consultation, making a total of 3,560 separate representations. The representors included national Government bodies and agencies, local authorities, mineral operators and other businesses, national and local interest groups, County Councillors, parish/town councils and individual members of the public. Approximately 70% of representors had submitted the same letter of objection mainly relating to climate change and fossil fuel issues accounting for 2,978 of the total representations. Members asked if the majority of representations that had been received were from Derbyshire residents. The officers agreed to look into this.

A report highlighting all the representors main objections and supporting comments was being prepared. This report had not yet been finalised and was currently in draft form. However, the draft Report of Publicity and Consultation was appended for information at Appendix 2 to the report as it provided a clear indication of the key issues raised in the representations. It showed that the key themes emerging from the Proposed Draft Plan consultation related to concerns and objections to the policies and text of the Vision and Objectives, Climate Change, Fossil Fuels and Hydrocarbons. More detail on the nature of the representations was set out under the chapter headings.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Michelle Spence and Bryn Walters for their informative presentation and looked forward to an update at a future meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee notes:

- a) The purpose of the Minerals Local Plan; and
- b) The update on the latest position in relation to representations received on the recent public consultation on the Derbyshire and Derby Proposed Draft Minerals Local Plan.

## **UPDATE - (VERBAL REPORT)**

The Chairman provided feedback to the Committee about the activities of the Highways Future Model Scrutiny Working Group.

To date, the Working Group had met twice and Neil Bennett, the Assistant Director for Highways Commissioning, had facilitated these meetings with officers from his team. The meetings had led to very productive discussions about how to better engage and communicate with Members and the general public about Derbyshire Highways.

A small group of Members from this committee had been involved, and other Members were encouraged to join in this work. It was an opportunity to add value and make improvements in how information relating to Highways Asset Management was understood and communicated.

As local members, a high volume of correspondence and comments about highways defects and maintenance was received. Therefore, it was important that Members devoted time to improving systems to ensure that the correct information was provided to the relevant people, in a timely manner.

So far in the working group meetings Members had:

- Shared the challenges they currently experienced in relation to the communication of highways information.
- Shared frequently asked questions from members of the public.
- Identified issues and topics where it would be helpful to have easily accessible explanations for Members to share with their constituents, or that could be accessed directly by the public.
- Put forward ideas about how information might be better communicated.

For example, the Group had reviewed and commented on infographics that concisely explained concepts and reduced the need for Members and residents to read large volumes of text.

- The Group had also talked about whether it would be helpful for the Highways Team to hold a series of surgeries for elected Members so that information could be shared during face-to-face conversations.

The in-person meetings had been working well, however the intention was to continue with the option of Members also being able to join online.

## **RESOLVED:**

That the Committee note the update on the work carried out by the

Working Group and the request for more Members to take part.

**19/22**    **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The work programme for 2022-23 was circulated for review and members were asked to suggest any possible agenda items for the remainder of the year.

It was noted that the Bus Improvement Strategy item had moved to the September meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee notes the 2022-23 work programme.

The meeting finished at 3.25 pm