



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 April 2024

Report of the Executive Director - Place

TO CONSIDER AND REVIEW THE WORK BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE COUNCIL IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COUNTY'S MINERAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY TO DELIVER A NET ZERO INDUSTRY

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the work the Council has completed with the Derbyshire mineral products to support Derbyshire to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050.

2. Information and Analysis

- 2.1 The Council's ambitions to de-carbonise the Derbyshire economy and grow the local skills offer are well publicised and set out in key documents such as the COVID Economic Recovery Strategy, which was launched in January 2021 and more recently, the Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero (2021-2025) which was approved at Cabinet in October 2021 and Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy: 2022 – 2025 which was approved in April 2022. Within the context of a proposed combined authority for the area, it's likely additional strategies and plans for skills will emerge.
- 2.2 The Climate Change Strategy contains 28 priority targets across five key areas (four county-wide, one concerning the Council's estate and operations) which commits DCC to delivering net zero buildings, expanding local renewable energy generation, changing transport choices, generating green jobs, and preventing waste being sent to landfill, and to benefit the local economy. These targets are supported

by over 120 actions, initiatives, and projects which we anticipate Derbyshire County Council will either lead or support. DCC want to enable and empower our partners, residents, and businesses to take action to tackle climate change.

- 2.3 The COVID Recovery Strategy has been a key driver for DCC's role in the growth of low carbon skills, employment, and training and sets out the employment and skills priorities of:
- Young People - developing clear progression pathways.
 - Adults – realigning labour market, retraining and routes to employment.
 - Responding to Future Skills Needs – responsive skills system.
 - Entrepreneurship and Self Employment - stimulate enterprise and business growth.
- 2.4 As part of these strategies DCC has taken a different approach to working with the Mineral Products Industry. This formally started with the development of 'A collaboration to achieve Net Zero Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)'. The completed MoU is included as an appendix to this report.
- 2.5 The MoU was officially signed on the 18 April 2023 with the parties listed below:
- Derbyshire County Council

The Minerals Industry, specifically:

- CRH Group
 - Longcliffe Calcium Carbonates
 - Lhoist Group
 - Breedon Group
 - CEMEX
 - Aggregate Industries
 - Derbyshire Aggregates
 - Lomas Distribution
 - EPC Groupe
 - Institute of Quarrying
 - Mineral Products Qualification Council
 - Mineral Products Association
- 2.6 The collaboration has been lobbying for systematic change such as planning implications that may impact the minerals industry. Writing to the

then Minister of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the Derbyshire MPs.

- 2.7 There have been so far a few roundtable meetings to cover various thematic areas that will support the transition to Net Zero. The first of these held on the 26 May 2023 was around future skills and identifying the skills needed to transition to a net zero industry. This involved understanding the key issues, solutions, and next steps.
- 2.8 As a result of this roundtable DCC Employment and Skills Service has now started meeting with Minerals Matters* on a regular basis to discuss the work they are doing in Derbyshire and offer advice and support where appropriate. This has including making links with schools and other key stakeholders such as the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). DCC will also undertake a piece of work in collaboration with the Institute of Quarrying and Minerals Matters to map the careers options, occupations, the skills needed for those occupations and whether there is the training available in the Derbyshire. This evidence base will then inform a strategic approach to addressing skills shortages and skills gaps and enable the sector to maximise future opportunities. For example, the East Midlands Mayoral County Combined Authority (EMCCA) and devolution or developing sector-based work academy programme (SWAP) with the sector and DWP. SWAPs are government-funded and are designed to help prepare those receiving unemployment benefits to apply for jobs in different areas of work and support employers recruit a workforce with the right skills to sustain and grow their business. **Minerals Matter is a resource, funded by the sector. It supports young people, parents, guardians, carers, school teachers, careers advisors and educators, wanting minerals industry information to guide people with their career choices in the sector - <https://minerals-matter.co.uk/about/>*
- 2.9 It was also agreed that a joint bid would be submitted to the Innovate UK competition for the Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plans (LIDP) competition. The aim was to secure funding to develop place-based decarbonisation plans for the mineral products industries. The bid was submitted but unfortunately was unsuccessful. The concept that was developed is still considered to be appropriate but needs to find a different funding option to realise it. This will be further developed and deliver what can be without external funding whilst a funding source is secured.
- 2.10 The second roundtable was held on 13 February 2024 and was themed around transport including:
- Local Transport Plan (LTP) – policy context, key levers, and themes.

With Roundtable discussions covering:

- Air quality
- Future fuels
- Last mile/Consolidation
- Corporate Travel policies

2.11 The roundtable also raised awareness within DCC about the barriers to EV haulage adoption, the activity that the mineral products industry is doing around their travel policies, skills gaps, and whole lifecycle of their vehicle fleet. This has all helped to inform the LTP evidence base and has resulted in several follow up meetings around the sustainable travel agenda.

2.12 Officers continue to support the Institute of Quarrying with their aspiration to develop a new training centre and head office. The detail of this opportunity has been captured and will be included within the D2 Economic Strategy that is currently being drafted. It will also be promoted to the EMCCA to secure funding to support its delivery.

3. Consultation

3.1 None as a direct result of this report but a wide range of engagement and consultation exercises have taken place with the mineral products industry.

4. Alternative Options Considered

4.1 None directly relevant to this overview

5. Implications

5.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

6. Background Papers

6.1 A collaboration to achieve Net Zero Memorandum of Understanding

7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix 1 – Implications.

8. Recommendations

8.1 That the Committee:

- a) Notes the overview of the work the Council has completed with the Derbyshire mineral products to support Derbyshire to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050.

9. Reasons for Recommendations

- a) To understand the progress that has been made to date in its roles as a facilitator, voice, and delivery agent.
- b) To help shape the nature of future low carbon work programmes in the County in the drive to net zero by 2050.

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Implications

Financial

1.1 No financial implications as a direct result of this report.

Legal

2.1 No legal implications as a direct result of this report. Any such implications are considered in the development of each individual project or programme as part of the development process and are clearly articulated at the point of seeking approval.

Human Resources

3.1 No human resource implications as a direct result of this report. Some of the activities outlined in this update have secured additional resources through dedicated partnership expertise (e.g. Derby University in supporting the Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plans competition).

Information Technology

4.1 No information technology implications as a direct result of this report.

Equalities Impact

5.1 No equalities impact as a direct result of this report but at the stage of project inception and development due consideration is given to potential impacts and mitigations on key groups of people, particularly geographical disparities and those furthest from the job market – which often includes those from ‘protected characteristic’ communities.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 Delivery of the Economic Recovery Strategy and the Climate Change Strategy have been developed in direct support of the Council Plan objective to deliver a ‘green and prosperous Derbyshire’ and in particular, to achieve net zero for the Council by 2032 (or sooner) and for the County by 2050.

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

7.1 None