

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

9 April 2020

Report of the Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND – DONCASTER COUNCIL

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek the Cabinet Member's approval for Derbyshire County Council to enter into, and be signatories to, Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) with other local authorities/organisations within and outside Derbyshire.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Under Section 33A of the Planning and Compensation Act 2004, local planning authorities are under a duty to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, when local plans (including mineral and waste local plans) are being prepared which concern 'strategic matters' that cross administrative boundaries.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), February 2019, sets out national policy in respect of this duty. Paragraph 25 of the NPPF expects strategic policy-making authorities, including county councils, to collaborate and identify the relevant strategic matters which they need to address in their development plans.

Paragraph 26 of the NPPF emphasises that effective and ongoing joint working in this regard is integral to the production of '*positively prepared and justified development strategies*.' In particular, joint working should help to determine where additional infrastructure is necessary, and where development needs that cannot be met wholly within a particular area could be met elsewhere.

In order to demonstrate effective and ongoing joint working, Paragraph 27 of the NPPF expects strategic policy-making authorities to prepare and maintain one or more SoCG to document the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress made in cooperating to address these matters.

National Planning Guidance advises that SoCG should be prepared and maintained throughout the plan-making process. By the time of draft local plan publication, SoCGs should be available on the websites of each of the

responsible local planning authorities to provide transparent documentation that the collaboration has taken place.

Derbyshire County Council is the minerals and waste planning authority for the County (outside the Peak District National Park) and has a statutory duty to prepare minerals and waste local plans, which it is carrying out in collaboration with Derby City Council to provide new, joint minerals and waste local plans. It is therefore required to provide SoCG in respect of these local plans.

Derbyshire County Council is also a statutory consultee on mineral and waste local plans prepared by other mineral and waste planning authorities and on general development plans prepared by district and borough councils, both within and adjoining Derbyshire. Therefore, it has a duty to co-operate with these councils on the strategic, cross-boundary matters affecting these plans and is expected similarly to enter into SoCG with the relevant authorities and prescribed parties.

Requests for SoCG in which the County Council is expected to enter/be signatories to have been received from the following local authorities/organisations:

Local Authority /Organisation	Title/Nature of Statement of Common Ground	Date Received
Doncaster Council	Doncaster Local Plan SoCG (February 2020)	27 February 2020

Specific details about the draft SoCG, including a summary of the strategic matters proposed to be agreed to as common ground, on behalf of Derbyshire County Council, and any significant issues on which there appears to be an absence of common ground, are provided in the appendix attached.

The draft SoCG is considered to provide an appropriate acceptance or confirmation of common ground between the County Council and Doncaster Council on matters of strategic planning which affect Derbyshire.

(3) **Financial Considerations** There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The recommendation in this report is made having full regard to the County Council's responsibilities and services under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and NPPF.

(5) **Social Value Considerations** The relevance of social value, in terms of social, economic and environmental wellbeing, is considered in the

preparation of local plans. Meeting the current and future needs of communities and the management of scarce resources (i.e. sustainable development) is central to the role of local and county planning authorities in preparing and implementing their local plans. Where social value considerations are particularly significant in co-operation under the duty to co-operate under Section 33, this can be expected to be reflected in the content of any corresponding SoCG.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(6) **Key Decision** No.

(7) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(8) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That the Cabinet Member approves for Derbyshire County Council to enter into a Statement of Common Ground referred to in the appendix to this report with Doncaster Council.

Mike Ashworth
Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

Appendix

Statement of Common Ground – Doncaster Council

Name of Local Authority(s)/Organisation (s) with whom SoCG is to be signed.	Doncaster Council
Officer contact:	Michelle Spence, Development Plans Manager

Summary of strategic [cross-boundary] matters proposed to be documented as common ground in the SoCG:

Minerals move around the country to meet requirements of supply and demand, especially in areas where supplies are limited. Although Doncaster has some of its own mineral resources, as is the case with most areas, aggregate minerals from a number of other surrounding areas are still required to meet demand from the Doncaster area. None of Derbyshire's sand and gravel resource is used in this area so, in respect of Derbyshire, this agreement only applies to aggregate crushed rock.

There are currently no problems with supply in relation to crushed rock aggregate in Doncaster; the market is meeting the current demand for aggregate mineral in the area. In 2018, 1.85 million tonnes of Derbyshire's aggregate crushed rock (20% of Derbyshire's total aggregate crushed rock production) was exported for use in the Yorkshire and Humber Region. No specific figures are available for the proportion of this which was used in Doncaster, but there is clearly a demand from this area which should continue to be met. This agreement seeks to ensure that this will continue in the future. Doncaster Council will continue to undertake annual monitoring of mineral supply and demand. This will indicate any issues with supply and demand which need to be addressed.

There is likely to be increasing demand for mineral in Doncaster because all authorities within the Yorkshire and Humber Region are currently experiencing an increase in Local Plan housing requirements. In addition, the prospect of HS2 in the medium term will increase the demand for mineral in the area.

As a result, Doncaster Council is seeking to ensure sufficient supply of mineral to provide for infrastructure and other development proposals. Each producing area identified in the SoCG (which includes Derbyshire) is, therefore, requested to agree to continue to supply (should conditions allow) aggregate to meet future demand within the Doncaster area.

Officer discussions have concluded that, as a result of the scale of its landbank of permitted aggregate crushed rock reserves, currently anticipated to last around 80 years, Derbyshire will be in a position to continue to provide the Doncaster area with this resource. However, the demand and supply of aggregate crushed rock will be monitored on an annual basis through its Local Aggregate Assessment and any significant issues that arise in relation to supply and demand of aggregate crushed rock will be addressed accordingly.

Outline of projections/analyses/assessments/policy positions and points of view proposed as common ground under the SoCG which reflect previous authorisations by the Cabinet Member:

None identified.

Outline of other projections/analyses/assessments/policy positions and points of view proposed as common ground under the SoCG by the Cabinet Member:

The main purpose of the SoCG is for Derbyshire to agree to continue to supply Doncaster with aggregate crushed rock to meet its future requirements. Based on the scale of the existing landbank of permitted reserves, Derbyshire is in a position to enable the continuation of this supply but the situation will be kept under review.