Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan Examination

Post Hearings Work Programme Update September 2026

Sand and Gravel Call for Sites

- The Sand and Gravel Call for Sites was published on DCC's website on 9th April until 21st May 2026.

- 7 potential sand and gravel sites have been submitted for consideration and assessment.

- Throughout September work has been progressed by officers on assessing the submitted sites. Highways Impact Assessments were received in w/c 28th Sept from Council's Highways Development Management Team. This has enabled the site assessments to be finalised.

- Officers will be meeting in w/c 5th October with the Council's Conservation and Design Team to review the final site assessments to agree which sites are likely to be most acceptable for proposed allocations in the Plan, which will be subject to consultation in Main Modifications in due course.

Joint Local Aggregates Assessment

- Following receipt of all the survey responses from operators, the 2026 LAA has been drafted and is being proof checked prior to sharing with the East Midlands Aggregate Working Party.

Transition to 2042 Issue

- In August, the County Council's Legal Services Team was requested by officers to provide advice on whether the Minerals Local Plan could legitimately include a policy which set out the MPAs support in principle, for the granting of extensions to minerals planning permissions, which expired in 2042.

- This legal advice was finally received in w/c 21st September, which concluded that the plan could legitimately include such a policy, although to reduce risk of potential challenge, it was advised that the 2042 issue should be addressed as an amendment to an existing policy rather than a stand alone new policy.

- Since receiving the advice, officers have drafted an amendment to Policy SP7 to indicate that the Council's will be supportive, in principle, for the granting of extensions of minerals planning permissions, which expire in 2042 where:

    - they are required to maintain at least a 10-year land bank of permitted reserves or to sustain production capacity to meet current and/or anticipated need as identified in the most up to date Local Aggregate Assessment, and/or
    - they will result in significant net sustainability benefits to the local community and/or the local/wider environment.

- The amended SP7 policy has been included in an updated Statement of Common Ground with the Minerals Products Association (see below).

Statement of Common Ground with the MPA

- A meeting was held with the MPA on 16th July 2026, to discuss the MPAs Statement of Common Ground, particularly in the context of the Council's ongoing work set out above on the LAA, the Call for Sites, the MCA, deletion of the compensatory extraction policy from the Plan with the Peak District National Park Authority and transition to 2042.

- Following receipt of the legal advice referred to above, and the drafting of the amendment to Policy SP7 also referred to above relating to the transition to 2042, an updated Statement of Common Ground was forward to the MPA on 30th September for review and agreement.

- Further comments on the SoCG are awaited at the time of writing.

Statement of Common Ground with the PDNPA

- A SoCG was drafted by officers in July to set out a formal agreed position between the Derbyshire and Derby City Councils and the PDNPA on the deletion of the compensatory extraction policy in the Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan and how the associated extraction policy approach in the recently published Peak District National Park Reg 19 Pre-Submission Plan, was compatible and aligned with the proposed policy deletion in the DDMLP. The Draft SoCG was forwarded to officers at the PDNPA on 5th August for review and agreement.

- Comments on the SoCG were received from the PDNPA on 26th August, prior to a meeting on the same day with officers to discuss those comments. The comments were fully supportive of the proposed amendments, subject to a number of minor tweaks and wording amendments.

- A final version of the Statement of Common Ground, incorporating the comments, was forwarded to the PDNPA on 25th September 2026 for final review and sign off.

- Feedback from the PDNPA was awaited at the time of writing.

SRFA Sequential Test

- As noted in the update to the Inspectors on 28th August, Aecom had confirmed that the flood risk modelling data files had finally been received from the Environment Agency, which would enable them to complete the Sequential Test Assessment.

- A draft final report was then received from Aecom on 18th September for review and comment. The report included assessments of all the sites included as allocations in the Submission Plan and sites that had been promoted at that time that had not been allocated.

- The report has been reviewed by officers and comments were sent back to Aecom on 28th September, seeking clarification on a number of the main outcomes and conclusions of the assessment.

- At the time of writing, a response is awaited from Aecom.

- Now that the report on the first tranche of sites above has been completed, Aecom has indicated that assessment of the Call for Sites submissions will now be carried out, on the basis of the new flood risk modelling data, which could be completed within approximately a month.

Main Modifications and Additional Modifications

- Work on drafting Main Modifications has progressed throughout September together with work to draft a full version of the Plan incorporating proposed Main and Additional Modifications. This work has been completed as far as is possible, pending the outcome of the Call for Sites assessments process and identification of potential sand and gravel site allocations; outputs from the completion of the Minerals Capacity Assessment; and outputs from the SRFA Sequential Test Assessments.

- Work has particularly focused on how the transition to 2042 can be addressed in the Plan. Following the advice revived from the County Council's Legal Servies Team (referred to above), Main Modifications have been drafted to set out the Council's support in principle for existing mineral permissions being extended beyond 2042, as part of Policy SP7. As noted above, a revised SoCG has been drafted with the MPA, based on the above and is subject to their review.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment

- Now that all of the work streams above are nearing completion on the Plan and Main Modifications are being finalised, contact was made with Aecom in w/c 28th September, seeking a proposal for carrying out a SA and HRA of the Main Modifications. Aecom had previously carried out the SA and HRA of the Submission Plan. A proposal from Aecom is anticipated shortly.

Cabinet Report and Meeting to Consider Main Modifications

- A Cabinet Report seeking approval to publish and consult on Main Modifications has been targeted for the meeting of the County Council's Cabinet on 26 November 2026.

- A briefing on the likely content of the Main Modifications was given by officers at a Cabinet Member for Environment briefing meeting on 2nd October.

Production Minerals Capacity Assessment

- Throughout September, work on the Minerals Capacity Assessment has progressed and has been further refined to take into account the new data set out in the completed 2026 LAA, together with an assessment of the implications for capacity and future supply of sand and gravel made through the Call for Sites submissions.

- A number of scenarios have been tested based on varying assumptions about potential implementation and delivery timescales for the Call for Site submissions and the information submitted by operators and follow up discussions with a number of the site promoters.

- As noted above, the provisional assessment work indicates that more than sufficient capacity could be provided by the Call for Sites submissions (subject to finalising the site assessments) to ensure that the Plan can demonstrate a healthy seven-year landbank of sand and gravel at the end of the Plan period, based on the likelihood that either two or more sites will need to be proposed for allocation in the Plan.

- Now that the Call or Sites Assessments have been completed, potentially suitable sites that have been identified as possible allocations have been factored into the MCA.

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Derbyshire County Council.

2nd October 2026.