

## **DERBYSHIRE AND DERBY MINERALS LOCAL PLAN (2022 – 2038) (the Plan)**

### **Post Hearings Note 2**

#### **Purpose of Note**

To provide the Councils with the views of the Inspectors regarding certain elements of the work programme identified on the Gantt Chart and identify where amendments may be necessary to accommodate additional Hearing Sessions. In addition, the note identifies those areas of ongoing work where emerging evidence needs to be provided to the Inspectors.

#### **Statement of Common Ground (SoCG)**

It is noted that a SoCG is being discussed with the Minerals Products Association. This is welcomed. An agreed and signed version should be provided to the Inspectors and included in the Examination Library. Although it is recognised that discussions are ongoing, the Inspectors would welcome sight of a draft version when this is sufficiently advanced. It would also be helpful to identify a target date for the completion of the SoCG.

#### **Discussion with the PDNPA**

The October 2025 Update Note suggested that a Joint Local Aggregate Assessment has been completed and that further discussions with the PDNPA are planned regarding the compensatory policy. A copy of the Joint Local Aggregate Assessment should be made available on the Examination Website and provided to the Inspectors together with a note explaining the implications of the Assessment for the Plan.

The Inspectors made their views known regarding a compensatory policy in the Hearing sessions and therefore a note should be provided to the Inspectors when discussions with the PDNPA have been concluded to explain the revised approach intended to be taken in the Plan.

#### **Revisions to the Timetable**

The latest Gantt Chart, received on 13 October 2025, indicates that the Sequential Flood Risk Appraisal (SFRA) will be completed by 22 December 2024. Thereafter, the site assessment methodology and the accompanying revisions to the Sustainability Appraisal are indicated to be completed by w/c 2 February 2026.

Although consultation on the above and consequential Main Modifications (MMs) is anticipated to commence on 23 February 2026, the timetable makes no provision for the prior consideration of intended consultation documents by the Inspectors. This is particularly necessary as an additional sand and gravel site may need to be allocated. Therefore, provision should be made for a minimum of 2 weeks consideration of the intended consultation information from w/c 23 February 2026.

#### **Additional Hearing Session**

The timetable also shows that Main Modifications are planned to be submitted to PINS w/c 27 April 2026. This is premature. The changes that are likely to be necessary to the submitted Plan as a consequence of the revised site allocation methodology, and the inclusion of an additional site, are significant. Consequently, an additional Hearing session will be necessary to consider any consultation responses to the proposed MMs and the associated supporting evidence.

The timetable should therefore be modified to enable sufficient time for the Councils to consider the responses to the consultation and suggest any further MMs. Thereafter a 2 day (1 day sitting, 1 day contingency) Hearing should be programmed to ensure that representors are given adequate opportunity to share their views of the changes to the Plan as a consequence of the proposed MMs.

On the basis of the current Gantt Chart, it is likely that such Hearings would need to be held in late May or early June 2026 on a date to be agreed with the Inspectors. Thereafter, the final MM Schedule proposed by the Councils would need to be considered by the Inspectors in advance of a final public consultation

### **Next Steps**

The Gantt Chart should be amended to reflect the above and submitted via the Programme Officer for the Inspectors' consideration in early/mid-December.

*Stephen Normington and Martha Savage*

INSPECTORS