

DERBYSHIRE AND DERBY MINERALS LOCAL PLAN (2022 – 2038)

Post Hearings Note

Introduction

1. Following the final scheduled hearing session on 22 May 2025, this note sets out our initial thoughts as to the next stages of the examination, including submission of documentation to us and consideration of necessary consultation and further hearing sessions.
2. Our view is that the Plan, as submitted, is unsound but that it **may** be capable of being made sound. We sent the Councils a set of action points which arose out of the hearing sessions, which the Councils have now had opportunity to comment on and requested that a timetable for further work be submitted for our consideration.

Discussions regarding compensatory provision policy approach

3. Concerns were raised during the hearings regarding the consistency of the compensatory provision policy approach with national policy. The Councils have proposed to hold discussions with the Peak District National Park (PDNP) over the summer. The Councils should provide us with an update following the conclusion of these discussions, including any suggested modifications.

Calculation methodology & production capacity assessment

4. Concern was raised during the hearings regarding the calculation methodology used for sand and gravel as well as the approach to transitioning to 2042. The Councils advise that significant liaison is required with the minerals industry, as well as discussion with the East Midlands Aggregates Working Party.
5. It is understood that a Statement of Common Ground has been received from the Minerals Products Association regarding the approach to transitioning to 2042. Given the implications of this work for the Plan, it is requested that the outcome of this exercise is shared with us at the earliest opportunity.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment & Site Assessment Methodology

6. Concern was raised during the hearings regarding the approach to the Sequential Test and the site assessment methodology. It is understood that the Councils intend to seek outside support to carry out this work. The Councils propose to consult on this work and to seek approval to consult on this work. The Councils should provide a draft copy of this document, including any relevant supporting assessments, to us at least two weeks prior to any consultation.

Local Development Scheme

7. Given the additional work that is required to ensure that the Plan is sound, the Local Development Scheme will need to be revised. The Councils indicate that an updated version will be published in September 2025. Please ensure that we are provided with a copy at the earliest opportunity.

Main Modifications and Additional Modifications

8. The Councils should produce a schedule of Main Modifications (MMs) and a separate schedule of Additional Modifications and provide a draft copy to us. Once we are satisfied with the schedule of MMs, it will need to be the subject of additional Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment work.

Updates

9. The Councils have set out an ambitious timetable, which suggests the submission of Main Modifications to the Planning Inspectorate in February 2026. However, given the level of work required, which may necessitate further changes to the Plan, it is important that we are kept informed regarding progress made and provided with updates, so that we can consider whether further hearing sessions are likely to be required.
10. Can the Councils please provide an update at the end of each month, briefly summarising work carried out to date and any issues / actions arising from that work, including implications for the timetable (if any). A revised Gantt Chart, reflecting progress and any slippage, should also be provided with the update with submissions commencing 30 September 2025.

Stephen Normington and Martha Savage

Inspectors

Date: 5 September 2025