

AGENDA ITEM No. 10

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING
26 JUNE 2009
STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT

PART A

1. MINERALS STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN- RECONSIDERATION OF ISSUES RELATING TO CEMENT PRODUCTION (A.65/RJB)

Purpose of the report

- 1 Following consideration of the Draft Action Plan at the Authority meeting on the 22 May 2009, it was resolved to accept the plan subject to certain relatively minor changes to be agreed by the Chair and Head of Planning Service, and for further consideration of action point 14 which relates to cement production. This report proposes amendments to seek to respond to the resolution made at the previous meeting.

Recommendations

- 2 **The alterations to the Minerals Strategic Action Plan in relation to the cement works at Hope and as identified in Appendix 1 to this report, be accepted.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

- 3 The Plan expresses how some of the actions identified in the National Park Management Plan with respect to minerals will be achieved. In addition, it states how the Authority's statutory duties with respect to Minerals will be carried out.

Background

- 4 The draft action plan as presented to the Authority meeting on 22 May 2009 contained a section setting out "Major (minerals) issues facing the Peak District" and various action points, including Action Point 14, relating to cement production.
- 5 It was resolved at the meeting that the references in the "major issues" section and the Action Point 14 presumed too much in respect of the future of the cement works. The planning permission for the works, granted in 1969, links the life of the works to that of the adjacent shale and limestone quarries which are to cease in 2042.
- 6 Planning policies in the government's Minerals Planning Statement 1 and PPS7 are concerned to limit major minerals development in National Parks to that where there is an essential need, there are no alternative sites outside national parks and the environmental impacts are acceptable. The East Midlands Regional Plan (policy 37) requires Local Development Frameworks "to make provision for the progressive reduction..... in the amounts of land- won minerals in the Peak District National Park"
- 7 In this strategic policy context the LDF process will need to produce policies governing the development of the cement works and associated quarries before and after 2042.

Proposal

- 8 The concerns expressed at the last Authority meeting centred on the need to ensure all options for the cement works and quarries were kept open. The previous Committee report (para 3.20) had the heading “Major(minerals) issues facing the Peak District” stated “there is a case for seeking closure of the Hope cement works and the replacement of its output by supplies elsewhere”. The draft Action Point 14 also had references to the potential closure of the works and stated” even though there is little which can be done in the short term to achieve the process of relocation (of the works), the NPA needs to begin now the process of making the change more feasible in future.”
- 9 Further to the resolution of this Committee the wording in relation to the future of the works has been altered and is represented in Appendix 1. The main changes are underlined for ease of reference.
- 10 The references to the future of the works and quarries are now less conclusive and allow for further comprehensive research and evidence gathering with the company, cement industry, government, other agencies, and the public. The development of the policy context will be essentially through the LDF process. However, this Action Plan needs to recognise the need to commence this process with the longest possible lead in time and the significant work the Authority has to engage in, to provide the comprehensive evidence to inform the LDF process, in the current emerging plan and subsequent plans.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

- 11 **Financial:** Progress on the action will be monitored and may need extra financial input, in the future, normally in the form of staff or consultants. These resource decisions will be made as part of the annual budgetary cycle.
- 12 **Risk Management:** It is possible that the resource demand of the action may turn out to be greater than initially envisaged as some outcomes of the proposed actions cannot be predicted with certainty. However, there is a monitoring and reporting procedure which should allow the implications of any unpredicted outcomes to be properly considered.
- 13 **Sustainability:** The action 14 helps to achieve the aims of the Climate Change Action Plan in terms of actions to reduce emissions (action point 14). Furthermore, the consideration of the future of the works in the national park has fundamental implications for sustainability.

14 **Background papers**

The East Midlands Regional Plan 2009
The PDNPA Local Plan 2003
National Park Management Plan 2006-11
Minerals Planning Statement 1 (MPS 1) CLG 2006

The following PDNPA Strategies in the course of preparation :
The Landscape Strategy
Sustainable Transport Plan
Climate Change Action Plan

Appendices

Appendix 1: The proposed changes to the Draft Minerals Strategic Action Plan

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

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