

11. DERBYSHIRE STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK MEMBER UPDATE (IF)

1. Purpose of the report

Derbyshire County Council is seeking re-assurance from D2 partners for their continued commitment towards the production of a Strategic Planning Framework (SPF) for Derbyshire. This report therefore seeks members' endorsement to engage in further joint working with D2 partners. (D2 means Derby and Derbyshire).

Key Issues

- **The primary role of the SPF is to set out a consensus amongst the D2 partners around key strategic objectives and priorities through an overarching spatial planning vision for the County covering the period 2020 to 2050.**
- **The SPF follows up on a desire from D2 partners (including the National Park Authority) for more effective and collaborative joint working on strategic planning and infrastructure matters.**
- **The SPF would be a key tool to help manage good / green growth and provide important evidence to demonstrate that co-operation on strategic matters has been an integral part of local plan preparation; a key requirement in the local plan examination process.**
- **The SPF would be a non-statutory document. It would not usurp or take precedence over the local plan for the National Park.**
- **The SPF could be seen as a material consideration in the preparation of future local plan policies, and in the determination of planning applications where relevant to the policy area or the development proposed.**

2. Recommendations

- 1. Members note the progress made in developing the Strategic Planning Framework (SPF) to date as set out in Appendix 1; and**
- 2. Members endorse the continued participation of planning officers in developing the Strategic Planning Framework.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3. In the NPMP section 3 we said:

- We would work together to engage in new ways of working.
- We want to embed new and smart ways of working in the peak district national park.
- We want funding for joint working in rural areas.
- We would continue to be a test bed for new ways of working.
- We need to join or create new partnerships as well as developing our existing

partnerships.

In Corporate Strategy KPI 28 we commit to identify all existing partnership arrangements and review their effectiveness.

Background Information

4. Strategic planning and the need for local authorities to work more effectively together to prepare their development plans, particularly joint working on cross-boundary strategic planning matters, started to emerge as a high priority for Government in 2017 and 2018. This priority was set out in:
 - The Housing White Paper published in February 2017 entitled ‘Fixing Our Broken Housing Market’;
 - Follow-up consultation published in September 2017 entitled ‘Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places’;
 - The draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), culminating with the publication of the final version in July 2018.
5. The joint working of planning authorities and the production of a strategic planning document puts all planning authorities into a better position to address priority needs of the area. It also potentially puts Derbyshire in a stronger position to access support from central government and other sources to address such priorities.
6. The Authority has been an active participant since the early stages of the SPF. We have been involved in constructing a Statement of Common Ground, which will shortly come back to partners for sign off. We have inputted information on our Local Plan evidence gathering requirements, and we have raised the key issues of importance to the National Park as a whole, as evidenced in our Development Plan and our National Park Management Plan.
7. The next stages will involve partners sharing evidence and commissioning some new evidence. This will involve officer resource, and very occasionally a request to share the costs (though this will be exceptional and Derbyshire County Council will lead on most pieces of work)
8. There are very real benefits to us working in this way. Officers have participated in joint evidence gathering at a cross county scale (e.g. Gypsy and Traveller Assessments, and economic projections). Similar practice has been undertaken with Derbyshire Dales District Council and High Peak Borough Council for strategic flood risk and housing related evidence. Such collaborations make financial sense and are mutually beneficial in terms of our respective plan making obligations. For the NPA in particular it helps us re-assert our status as a protected landscape at a time when a national need for economic growth and renewal is expected to bring pressure on protected areas.

Proposals

9. Officers at Derbyshire County Council have produced a briefing paper (attached as Appendix 1). The purpose of the paper is to assist officers of the Derby and Derbyshire (D2) local planning authorities, including the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA), in the drafting of reports to their respective members on planning committees or planning boards on the preparation of a Strategic Planning Framework for Derby and Derbyshire (SPF), particularly in order to seek their respective members’ endorsement to engage in further joint working by the D2 partners to prepare the SPF.
10. The Authority commits staff and financial resources to the production of the Derby and Derbyshire SPF commensurate with the needs and benefits to the Authority in terms of

its own local plan making.

11. The Authority retains a strong voice for the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the whole National Park as the economic growth agenda for Derbyshire develops.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial:

12. There are no financial risks. Any Authority involvement in evidence gathering commissions will only be within budgets for plan making. This will be agreed by the Head of Planning if the evidence is useful or essential to our own plan making work.

Risk Management:

13. The Head of Planning will have responsibility for managing any emerging risks.

Sustainability:

14. There are no elements of the SPF that constrain our work to improve sustainability through our Local Plan, National Park Management Plan or Corporate Plans.

Equality:

15. There are no issues relating to equality.

16. Climate Change

The decision means that the Authority's role in tackling climate change becomes embedded in a Strategic Planning Framework for Derbyshire.

It enables us to input relevant knowledge and evidence to a Derbyshire wide spatial framework and enables us to promote exemplars of sustainability as relevant to the Derbyshire area (such as best practice in renewable technology).

It helps protect the National Park by raising its profile and enables the Authority to promote sustainable land management amongst Derbyshire Authorities.

The Spatial Framework will complement and reflect our own plans and policies which require us to work with communities to tackle climate change.

This decision contributes to the National Park meeting its commitment to the carbon net zero target by 2050.

17. Background papers (not previously published)

None

18. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Derby and Derbyshire Strategic Planning Framework Briefing note for D2 partners.

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Ian Fullilove, Policy Planner, 11 March 2021.

