

## **Report to Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration**

**Subject:** Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan Issues and Options consultation paper

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**Author:** Principal Planning Officer (Planning Policy)

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### **Wards Affected**

All

### **Purpose**

To agree a response to the County Council's Minerals Local Plan Issues and Options consultation paper.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a key decision.

### **Background**

The County Council are preparing a new Minerals Local Plan which will cover the period 2017 – 2036. Its overarching theme is the promotion of sustainable development and achieving high quality restoration. The Plan will identify a steady and adequate supply of minerals over the Plan period.

The Issues and Options consultation set out the main issues over the plan period and seeks to explore options. The document is commendably brief and poses 26 questions some of which have relevance to minerals issues within Gedling Borough. The main mineral resources within Gedling Borough include clay deposits around Dorket Head, sand and gravel deposits in the Trent Valley, Sherwood sandstone quarried at Bestwood 2 Quarry and building stone at Linby. The document is open for consultation until 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

In terms of next steps, the County Council intend to publish a draft Minerals Local Plan in the summer of 2018, followed by a publication draft plan anticipated late 2018 /early 2019 with adoption in the summer of 2019.

### **Proposal**

The consultation paper sets out a series of questions which are set out in the Appendix together with a response and the Portfolio Holder is asked to agree these responses so that these can be sent to the County Council by 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Whilst, the questions are of a fairly general nature, the consultation raises important issues and the responses will help inform the publication draft Minerals Local Plan. This is an opportunity to have an early input into the preparation of the draft Minerals Local Plan and responses are set out in the appendix. There will be further opportunity to comment during future consultations as the new plan emerges. This report now focusses on the questions relating to the main mineral resources worked in Gedling Borough which include:

- Sherwood Sandstone (question 11);
- Clay - identifying a specific replacement quarry (either a remote extension or new site) at Dorket Head (question 15); and
- Building Stone (question 21).

Question 11 is concerned with Sherwood Sandstone provision and in this context, the Issues and Options document notes that there is a predicted shortfall of 3.3 million tonnes of Sherwood sandstone which is worked at a number of quarries between Nottingham and Mansfield including Bestwood 2 Quarry near Ravenshead. However, the document states that there is a planning application for an eastern extension at Bestwood 2 Quarry which would provide 1.4 million tonnes. The Borough Council is being consulted on the planning application and if approved this proposed extension would provide 10 years supply at the quarry. Given this context, there is no need for further comment though the Issues and Options consultation.

Turning to clay, the document raises significant issues for clay extraction and brick manufacture at Dorket Head. The document provides an estimate that permitted clay reserves at Dorket Head Quarry are likely to last until 2030. The document states that a key issue is how adequate clay reserves will be maintained to supply the Dorket Head Brick works in future. It outlines potential options as the identification of a specific site (either in the vicinity of the existing brick works or a more remote location) or the inclusion of a criteria based policy to ensure supply can be maintained. The response is set out below question 15 in the appendix. The response acknowledges the importance of the brickworks to the local economy and expresses a strong preference for the County Council to identify a specific site to achieve more certainty about the future planning of the area. On this basis the response to question 16 states that Gedling Borough Council would have concerns about relying on a criteria based policy as this would provide less certainty.

Yellowstone Quarry near Linby is the only building stone resource worked in Nottinghamshire working 'Bulwell Stone' although it is inactive at present. The document states that estimated reserves of 'Bulwell Stone' are around 120,000 tonnes which would be adequate until 2035 and furthermore as the quarry is inactive it is likely to last well beyond the plan period. The response to question 21 notes the position at Yellowstone Quarry and agrees that it is unlikely that there would be a shortage of building stone over the Plan period.

## **Alternative Options**

To not respond to the consultation in which case Gedling Borough Council's view would not be heard.

## **Financial Implications**

None.

## **Appendices**

Appendix: Consultation Questions and Gedling Borough's response.

## **Background Papers**

None

## **Recommendation**

That the Portfolio Holder agrees the response to the questions set out in the **Appendix** which is to be sent to Nottinghamshire County Council by 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

To ensure that Gedling Borough Council's views are sent to Nottinghamshire County Council by the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018.