Response ID BHLF-MWX6-MJTN-B

Introduction

Definitions

How to use the Issues and Options

About you

What is your name?

Name:
Matt Barrow

What is your organisation? (if relevant)

Organisation:
Heatons

What is your Job Title/Role (if relevant)

Job title/role:

What is your email address?

Email:
██████████████████

Are you making a submission on behalf of someone else?

Yes

If you are submitting on behalf of someone else, please provide details:

Name (on behalf of):

Organisation (on behalf of):
Star Energy Group PLC

About you (equalities questions)

Please provide the first 5 digits of your Postcode (for example LE13 1).

Enter the first 5 digits of your postcode:

Gender: How do you identify?

█████████

If self-describe, please state :

Would you describe yourself as transgender?

█████████

What is your sexual orientation?

█████████

If other, please state:

What is your age?

█████████

Do you consider yourself to have a health problem or a disability which has lasted, or is expected to last at least 12 months?

██████████

If you selected other, please state:

What is your ethnic origin?

Please describe your ethnicity and race:

What is your religion?

██████████

Please state your religion:

Vision and objectives

Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 1: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 1 - Option 1: No change:

Question 1 - Option 2: Refocused and simplified version [preferred option]:

Question 2: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this section

Please, provide further context:

Introduction

These comments are submitted on behalf of our client, Star Energy Group PLC ('Star Energy') who have land and mineral interests within Melton Borough. Star Energy is a British onshore energy company listed on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange who deliver a mix of crude oil and natural gas to the UK's energy market and are developing a geothermal business to provide renewable heat using the skill set and experience of.

Star Energy has more than thirty years' experience of successfully and safely extracting and producing hydrocarbons onshore in the UK, working closely with local communities, regulators, and Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs). The UK is recognised globally as a leading example for oil and gas industry regulation. With considerable experience in onshore drilling and field development, Star Energy is able to exploit hydrocarbon reserves which contribute to Britain's energy security.

Oil and gas are both naturally occurring sources of energy which met 75% of energy demand within the UK in 2022 (UK Energy In Brief, 2022: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy). Notwithstanding important pledges to bolster the sustainability of the economy and society in Leicestershire and Melton, oil and gas resources will continue to play a vital role in the future and beyond the proposed plan period. For example, the Oil and Gas UK Economic Report 2023 projects that through to 2050, half of all UK cumulative energy demand will be met by oil and gas. Moreover, the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee report 'Accelerating the transition from fossil fuels and securing energy supplies: Fourth Report of Session 2022-2023' recognised the continued need for oil and gas use over the coming decades, concluding that throughout the transition to net zero "the UK must nevertheless continue to be able to access oil and gas to ensure that the country can continue to heat its homes, fuel its transport and generate a declining proportion of power" (2023: 4). For these reasons, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is unambiguous in placing great weight on the importance of extracting mineral resources from within the UK (see the National Planning Policy Framework and Guidance section of this letter). It is considered the emerging Melton Local Plan should consider the importance of indigenous hydrocarbon extraction and not prejudice, either directly or indirectly, Star Energy's operations in the Borough.

The purpose of this letter is to represent the interests of the oil and gas industry within Leicestershire and Melton and highlight that despite important commitments to decarbonise the economy there is a need for and continued reliance on fossil fuels for the foreseeable future indeed, every scenario produced by the Climate Change Committee demonstrates a continuing role for oil and gas throughout the transition to and at the outcome of achieving net zero. Therefore, consideration of this ongoing need for and reliance on fossil fuels should be given consideration when drafting policies and allocating land within the emerging Local Plan.

This letter sets out the adopted national and local planning policy and guidance context relating to mineral extraction, specifically for oil and gas. Our comments on behalf of Star Energy regarding the content of the Local Plan Consultation Draft are then set out.

Star Energy Interests in Melton

The Long Clawson Oilfield was first developed during the 1960s and Star Energy have two conventional well sites in Melton extracting oil from it – Long Clawson A and C. These sites are currently the only permitted and operational oil well sites in Leicestershire. The well sites are located east of Melton Road, approximately 1.2km south of Long Clawson village (see Figure 1).

Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2019)
The Adopted Minerals and Waste Plan includes spatial vision, spatial strategy, strategic
objectives, and core policies which set out the key principles to guide the future winning and
working of minerals and the form of waste management in the County of Leicestershire over the
period to the end of 2031.

Throughout the minerals plan, there is a positive approach to mineral development, as minerals and energy minerals are governed by geology and have to be developed on site. Which leads to a proactive response to need of extraction and working.

The Strategic Objectives of the Mineral and Waste Local Plan are crucial to developments within the county, as it sets out clear aims for of the mineral authority as well as aims for the developments. Strategic Objectives 1, 4, 6, and 7 are highlighted for Melton Borough Council. Objective 1 defines that the Authority will make sufficient provisions of minerals in the County to meet national and local requirements.

Objective 4 states that the Authority will 'co-ordinate and work with all relevant organisations, in particular Leicester City Council and Leicestershire Local Authorities, to ensure that the Local Plan addresses planning issues that cross administrative boundaries.'

Objective 6 refers to the safeguarding of mineral resources and mineral sites from inappropriate development.

Objective 7 states that mineral development should seek to reduce the impacts on climate change by mineral development.

The Policies of the Mineral and Waste Local Plan are to provide sufficient clarity and understanding of the County's position on mineral development and to provide guidance and direction for future developments. Policies M10 and M12 are relevant to the interests of Star Energy and to this consultation.

Policy DM1 states that proposals for minerals and waste development should contribute to the economic, environmental and social aspects of sustainable development as well as providing clear evidence of how a proposal would make a positive contribution to reducing its effects on climate change.

Policy DM12 seeks to deliver high quality restoration of minerals and waste sites and provide net gains in biodiversity.

Policy M10 supports the exploration, appraisal and production of conventional hydrocarbons in Leicestershire, and is consistent with Paragraph 215a of the NPPF.

Policy M12 safeguards existing mineral sites and associated minerals infrastructure, including hydrocarbon developments, against development that would adversely affect operations.

National Planning Policy Framework and Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework 2023

There is a degree of established responsibility for planning policies at local, regional and national levels to safeguard mineral resources and mineral operations from sterilisation by non-mineral developments and policy making. The NPPF proposes a positive approach towards mineral development across the UK.

Paragraph 7 of the NPPF defines the objective of sustainable development, which can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Paragraph 8 of the NPPF states that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways. These are:

•
'An economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;

•
A social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and

•
An environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy'.

Paragraph 35 states that local plans and spatial development strategies are examined to assess whether they have been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements, and whether they are sound. Plans are 'sound' if they are:
a)
Positively prepared
b)
Justified
c)
Effective; and
d)
Consistent with national policy

Section 17 of the NPPF relates specifically to 'facilitating the sustainable use of minerals'. Paragraph 215 states it is essential that there is a sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. Paragraph 217 confirms that great weight should be given to the benefits of mineral extraction, including to the economy.

Paragraph 221a states that Minerals Planning Authorities should 'when planning for on-shore oil and gas development, clearly distinguish between, and plan positively for, the three phases of development (exploration, appraisal and production), whilst ensuring appropriate monitoring and site restoration is provided for. Planning Practice Guidance 2014 The responsibility for safeguarding mineral resource is not limited to Mineral Planning Authorities. Paragraph: 005 (Reference ID: 27-005-20140306) of the Planning Practice Guidance (Minerals) identifies that, 'whilst district councils are not mineral planning authorities, they have an important role in safeguarding minerals in three ways:

• having regard to the local minerals plan when identifying suitable areas for non-mineral development in their local plans. District councils should show Mineral Safeguarding Areas on their policy maps;

• in those areas where a mineral planning authority has defined a Minerals Consultation Area, consulting the mineral planning authority and taking account of the local minerals plan before determining a planning application on any proposal for non-minerals development within it; and

• when determining planning applications, doing so in accordance with development policy on minerals safeguarding, and taking account of the views of

the mineral planning authority on the risk of preventing minerals extraction.'

Local Plan Partial Update Issues and Options Consultation Document (November 2023)

The Draft Local Plan published for this consultation provides respondents with the opportunity to respond to existing adopted policies and strategies and whether and how these should be changed for the emerging Local Plan.

There are several Strategic Objectives within the adopted Local Plan relevant to Star Energy's interests in particular Environment Objectives 21, 22, 23, and 24.

Objective 21 aims to reduce pollution within Melton. Objective 22 aims at protecting and managing the use of natural resources and mitigate activities that cause their loss or degrading

Objective 23 states that for developments they should 'Prepare for, limit, and adapt to climate change and promote low carbon Development'. This objective allows for proactive measures in anticipation of climate change, implement strategies to minimise its impact, and encourage sustainable development with a focus on reducing carbon emissions.

Objective 24 seeks that developments will minimise the use of energy and promote forms of renewable energy generation in appropriate locations.

Comments - These Environmental Objectives seek to take a proactive response to climate change and the use of renewable energy to minimise the consumption of natural resources. Whilst this is not objected to in principle, these proposed objectives must take consideration of the overarching aims of the Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Plan and NPPF not conflict with objectives and policies of the Minerals and Waste Plan which support the ongoing supply of minerals as well as the exploration and production of new oil and gas resources.

Final Comments

There is no question the UK will continue to need oil in the foreseeable future, and we are not currently in a position to rely solely on renewable energy sources. Furthermore, UK produced oil offers significant emissions savings compared to imported oil as well as associated economic and geopolitical energy security benefits. In summary, domestic oil production is demonstrably preferable to imported oil and gas whilst there is a need for such energy.

Star Energy are keen to engage with the preparation of the Melton Local Plan and ensure that it is prepared in a manner consistent with national policy, and appropriately reflects the balance to be drawn between net zero carbon commitments and market demand.

We would welcome opportunity to discuss the contents of this letter with you. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Question 3: What do you think are the most important objectives to be covered by our Vision? Please select your top 3

Question 3 - Improving facilities for all of the community and providing the new infrastructure needed to support our growing population:

Question 3 - Addressing the causes and effects of climate change:

Question 3 - Ensure local housing meets the local communities current and future needs:

Question 3 - Supporting a diverse, competitive and innovative rural economy:

Question 3 - Enhancing Melton Mowbray's town centre:

Question 3 - Promoting high quality and well-designed development to help create healthy, sustainable and safe communities:

Question 3 - Enhancing nature and minimising harm to the natural environment:

Question 3 - Other (please specify below):

Please, provide further context:

Policy SS1. Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development

Policy SS1: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 4: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 4 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 4 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:

Question 5: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy SS3. Sustainable Communities (unallocated sites)

Policy SS3: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 6: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 6 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 6 - Option 2: Review the policy to better define meeting local need:

Question 6 - Option 3: Review the policy to enhance wider sustainability [preferred option]:

Question 7: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Question 8: Under what circumstances do you think new homes in the borough's smallest and least sustainable settlements are justified?

Please, provide further context:

Question 9: Do you think criteria should be introduced to require homes built in the borough's smallest and least sustainable settlements to be built to the highest sustainability standards? If yes, what types of criteria do you think the policy should consider?

Please, provide further context:

Policy SS4. South Melton Mowbray Sustainable Neighbourhoods

Policy SS4: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 10: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 10 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 10 - Option 2: Amend to reflect the 2021 Masterplan [preferred option]:

Question 11: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy SS5. Melton Mowbray North Sustainable Neighbourhood

Policy SS5: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 12: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 12 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 12 - Option 2: Amend to reflect the 2021 Masterplan [preferred option]:

Question 13: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy SS6. Alternative Development Strategies and Local Plan Review

Policy SS6: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 14: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 14 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 14 - Option 2: Reduce to locally specific criteria only [preferred option]:

Question 14 - Option 3: Additional criteria:

Question 15: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy C2. Housing Mix

Policy C2: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 16: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 16 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 16 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:

Question 17: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policyPlease, provide further context

Please, provide further context:

Policy C3. National Space Standard and Smaller Dwellings

Policy C3: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 18: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 18 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 18 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:

Question 19: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy C4. Affordable Housing Provision

Policy C4: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 20: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 20 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 20 - Option 2: Amend the policy to reflect National Planning Policy Framework and new evidence [preferred option]:

Question 21: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy C7. Rural Services

Policy C7: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 22: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 22 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 22 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:

Question 23: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy C8. Self Build and Custom Build Housing

Policy C8: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 24: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 24 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 24 - Option 2: Address increasing needs:

Question 24 - Option 3: Address increasing needs and add local-specific criteria [preferred option]:

Question 24 - Option 4: Adding the two optional local eligibility tests:

Question 25: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy C9. Healthy Communities

Policy C9: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 26: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 26 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 26 - Option 2: Revise the policy but also make health and wellbeing a key thread that runs throughout the entire plan [preferred option]:

Question 27: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Question 28: Do you think the Local Plan should require Health Impact Assessments for large scale developments?

Not Answered

Question 29: If you answered 'yes' to question 28, what size and types of development do you think should require them and why?

Please, provide further context:

Policy EC1. Employment Growth in Melton Mowbray

Policy EC1: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 30: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 30 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 30 - Option 2: Amendments to reflect Use Class Order, new evidence and National Planning Policy Framework:

Question 30 - Option 3: Create separate policies for employment allocations and employment development in Melton Mowbray:

Question 31: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Question 32: Unless submitted already as part of the Employment-only Call for Sites (June-July 2023), is there any employment site you want us to consider as a potential allocation? If there is, please submit the details, including a location plan showing the boundaries to planningpolicy@melton.gov.uk and add a note in this section

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EC2. Employment Growth in the Rural Area (Outside Melton Mowbray)

Policy EC2: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 33: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 33 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 33 - Option 2: Policy Wording Amendments [preferred option]:

Question 34: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy EC3. Existing Employment Sites

Policy EC3: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 35: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 35 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 35 - Option 2: Add specific class uses to policies:

Question 35 - Option 3: Adding Flexibility to the Policy:

Question 36: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EC4. Other Employment and Mixed-use Proposals

Policy EC4: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 37: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 37 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 37 - Option 2: Wording amendments and define Mixed-use Development:

Question 37 - Option 3: Split the Policy:

Question 38: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Town Centre and Retail Evidence

Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 39: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 39 - Option 1: Focus on Melton Mowbray Town Centre:

Question 39 - Option 2: Carry out a full Town Centre and Retail Study including needs assessments:

Question 40: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this section

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EC5. Melton Mowbray Town Centre

Policy EC5: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 41: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 41 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 41 - Option 2: Update and incorporate elements of the Town Centre Vision [preferred option]:

Question 42: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EC6. Primary Shopping Frontages

Policy EC6: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 43: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 43 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 43 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:

Question 44: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EC7. Retail Development in the Borough

Policy EC7: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 45: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 45 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 45 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:

Question 46: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EC8. Sustainable Tourism

Policy EC8: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 47: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 47 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 47 - Option 2: Clarify the policy to focus on socio-economic benefits:

Question 47 - Option 3: Amend the Policy to define sustainable tourism:

Question 48: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EN2. Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Policy EN2: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 49: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 49 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 49 - Option 2: Amend the policy:

Question 49 - Option 3: Split the policy:

Question 50: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Draft Policy EN2 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity'

Policy EN2 currently states that the Borough Council will seek to achieve net gains for nature and proactively seek habitat creation as part of new development proposals. It will also protect and enhance biodiversity, ecology networks and geological conservation.

Comments – The supporting text for policy EN2 suggests that a 'crossover with climate change mitigation and adaptation' could be considered as an option for the re-draft of the policy. Firstly, we do not disagree that biodiversity and geodiversity can be directly related to climate change, including through mineral and waste development. Mineral and waste development provides locally sourced resources and mitigates the need to import them. Furthermore, the restoration of minerals and waste sites provides the opportunity to create new habitats and enhance biodiversity on-site. In this regard, we must iterate that Leicestershire's Mineral and Waste Local Plan provides suitable direction and scope for Mineral Development needing to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change (Policy DM1) and enhance biodiversity in restoration (Policy DM12). Any 'crossover' in this context could cause conflicting views with the MWLP. Should Policy EN2 be amended, it must be ensured that existing and proposed mineral operations are not prejudiced.

Definitions

Policy EN3. The Melton Green Infrastructure Network

Policy EN3: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 51: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 51 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 51 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:

Question 52: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy EN5. Local Green Spaces

Policy EN5: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 53: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 53 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 53 - Option 2: Incorporate Green Belt criteria:

Question 53 - Option 3: Designate additional Local Green Spaces:

Question 54: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Question 55: If you wish to propose a new area for Local Green Space, please send a map and supporting information to planningpolicy@melton.gov.uk and add a note in this section

Please, provide further context:

Policy EN7. Open Space, Sport and Recreation

Policy EN7: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 56: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 56 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 56 - Option 2: Update the policy, particularly the standards [preferred option]:

Question 57: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy EN8. Climate Change

Policy EN8: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 58: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 58 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 58 - Option 2: Delete the policy, and make climate change a 'core thread' that runs throughout the entire plan:

Question 58 - Option 3: Retain but update policy EN8 and make climate change a core thread that runs throughout the entire plan [preferred option]:

Question 59: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Draft Policy EN8 'Climate Change'

Policy EN8 states that all new development proposals will be required to demonstrate how the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change has been considered, subject to consideration of viability. The policy also suggest provisions in which proposals can demonstrate the need and adaptation. The Council's preferred option to amend this policy is to make climate change "a core thread that runs throughout the entire plan".

Comments – The concern over this policy and its preferred amendment is not towards the ambition and the response to climate change, but because of the potential conflict this could bring with the Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan. It is acknowledged that achieving net-zero is a momentous target set by the UK Government, which they aim to achieve by 2050, and Melton by 2030. However, it must also be acknowledged that certain sectors of the economy are much harder to decarbonise than others. By its very nature, the extraction of indigenous hydrocarbons is an economically important but relatively carbon intensive process (although much less carbon intensive than importing oil and gas from abroad). Moreover, the emerging Local Plan must demonstrate it is consistent with national policy at public examination to be found 'sound'. As a result, it is submitted that any revisions to Policy EN8 should acknowledge that mineral developments must be evaluated through the objectives and policies of the Mineral Authority, which are consistent with the relevant sections of the NPPF. Also, the importance of mineral resources to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs cannot be ignored or underestimated, including at the District planning level.

Policy EN9. Ensuring Energy Efficiency and Low Carbon Development

Policy EN9: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 60: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 60 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 60 - Option 2: Refocus the policy and split it into new more specific policies as required [Preferred approach]:

Question 60 - Option 3: Make the policy more robust and specific, to ensure all new development meets the highest standards:

Question 61: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy EN10. Energy Generation from Renewable and Low Carbon Sources

Policy EN10: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 62: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 62 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 62 - Option 2: Review the policy to ensure it works well for all types of renewable energy schemes [preferred approach]:

Question 63: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy EN11. Minimising the Risk of Flooding

Policy EN11: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 64: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 64 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 64 - Option 2: Add new elements of national policy:

Question 64 - Option 3: Restrict policy to strategic overview and local matters:

Question 65: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EN12. Sustainable Drainage Systems

Policy EN12: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 66: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 66 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 66 - Option 2: Incorporate additional requirements:

Question 67: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy IN1. Melton Mowbray Transport Strategy

Policy IN1: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 68: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 68 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 68 - Option 2: Reflect the latest position in the policy [preferred option]:

Question 69: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy IN2. Transport, Accessibility and Parking

Policy IN2: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 70: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 70 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 70 - Option 2: Amend policy wording to align with national and local guidance [preferred option]:

Question 71: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy IN4. Broadband

Policy IN4: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 72: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 72 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 72 - Option 2: Amend policy [preferred option]:

Question 73: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy D1. Raising the Standard of Design

Policy D1: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 74: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 74 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 74 - Option 2: Review and strengthen policy so it sets out strategic principles for high quality new development [preferred option]:

Question 75: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Question 76: Do you think the current design policy criteria covers all design issues adequately, that the current policy works well? Would you like to suggest any criteria to be added or removed from the policy?

Please, provide further context:

Question 77: How important do you think each of the following design considerations are for a new development?

Question 77 - Attractiveness: creating a pleasant environment to live and work:

Question 77 - Sensitive to context: responds well to its surroundings:

Question 77 - Distinctiveness: builds upon the unique characteristics of its surroundings and creates a sense of place in itself (design features such as scale, massing, materials, landscaping and architectural detailing).:

Question 77 - Neighbour amenity: does not adversely affect neighbours and nearby uses:

Question 77 - Legible places: places that are easily understood by their users, particularly when moving around.:

Question 77 - Connectedness: created new and weaves into existing networks:

Question 77 - Comprehensive: ensuring development is designed and delivered in a coordinated way, and avoiding piecemeal schemes:

Question 77 - Safe and attractive streets and spaces: create spaces and environment that feels safe and secure to be in.:

Question 77 - Environmental sustainability and adapting to climate change:

Question 77 - Mix of uses: the right range of uses and densities:

Question 77 - Protecting and enhancing heritage assets:

Question 77 - Car parking:

Question 77 - Community consultation: opportunities for community to get involved and help shape development proposals:

Question 77 - Other: please state below any other key deign considerations not highlighted above:

Please, provide further context:

Question 78: Do you think there is a need for specific policy guidance about the use of design coding within the local plan?

Not Answered

Question 79: If you responded 'yes' to question 78, please provide reasons?

Please, provide further context:

Equalities Impact

Question 80: Do you have any views on the potential impact of the proposals raised in this consultation on people with protected characteristics as defined in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010?

Not Answered

Question 81: If you responded 'yes'/'unsure' to question 80, please provide your reasons and whether there is anything that you think could be done to mitigate any impacts identified

Please, provide further context:

Appendix A. Summary of the conclusions of the Local Plan Review

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Please use the comment box below to provide any information you would like us to consider in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Please, provide a reference to the section and your comments: