Date: 11th September 2019

Natural England
Bolsover District Council
Derbyshire County Council
Derbyshire Dales District Council
North East Derbyshire District Council
Peak District National Park Authority
Sheffield City Council

Dear colleague,

Duty to Co-operate (Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011)

I am writing to you about a specific matter which we believe is strategic in its nature and requires joint working beyond the Housing Market Area within which Chesterfield Borough Council sits.

The issue relates to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the North East Derbyshire District Council Local Plan (NEDDC), in relation to the effect of vehicular traffic levels and nitrogen deposition on European Sites. The NEDDC HRA concluded that there would be no ‘likely significant effects’ on any European sites due to changes in nitrogen deposition, either due to the NEDDC plan ‘alone’ or ‘in combination’ with other plans. However, the HRA recommended that a monitoring programme be implemented to ensure that significant effects do not arise ‘unexpectedly’.

Accordingly, NEDDC has informed Chesterfield Borough of the importance of a monitoring ‘programme for the Peak District Dales SAC: South Pennine Moors SAC: and Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA to help ensure that a likely significant effect on these European sites does not arise unexpectedly.’

The monitoring in question would look at changes in annual average daily traffic (AADT) and nitrogen deposition near European Sites.

Within the North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Housing Market Area (HMA) Joint Statement of Common Ground, May 2018, the relevant authorities have committed to identifying and developing a suitable monitoring programme in liaison with Natural England for the Peak District Dales SAC, the South Pennine Moors SAC and the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA to help ensure that any air quality changes remain in line with the modelled predictions and that potentially significant variations that could undermine European site integrity do not arise unexpectedly.

Chesterfield Borough Council are now looking to progress matters and recognise that there is a need to include authorities outside the North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw HMA in any conversation on monitoring.

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With this in mind I would like to set up a meeting of the relevant authorities and Natural England to discuss how to address this issue of monitoring, and would like confirmation that your authorities are willing to meet to work together on this strategic matter.

Yours sincerely

Alan Morey
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