



Planning and Regulatory Committee
17 October 2018

Referral of County Council Motion

Purpose of the report: To debate a County Council Motion which was referred to the Planning and Regulatory Committee for consideration.

Introduction:

1. At the 9 October 2018 County Council meeting it was agreed that an original motion put forward by Cllr Jonathan Essex would be referred to the Planning and Regulatory Committee for consideration under (SO 12.3).
2. The Motion is as follows-

“This Council notes that the government is proposing, via a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) to allow the exploration phase of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) to be allowed under Permitted Development (PD), therefore requiring no planning permission. They also propose to bring the production phase of fracking under Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), to be decided centrally by government and the planning inspectorate, thus taking decisions away from local councils. If approved, this could be extended to include other types of oil and gas exploration such as we have here in Surrey through secondary legislation.

This Council believes that local plans, local planning and local democratic decisions should retain control of all local mineral and fossil fuel development.

Therefore, this Council instructs our planning officers to respond to the government consultation accordingly, by rejecting the changes proposed for PD and NSIP as inappropriate and with the view that local Minerals Planning Authorities retain local control and primacy for all planning decisions at all stages for all types of oil and gas exploration”.

3. It was agreed by the Chairman of the Planning and Regulatory Committee that this motion would be debated at the Committee meeting on 17 October 2018. Cllr Jonathan Essex has been invited to the meeting along with relevant officers from the service. An officer

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report relating to the issues raised in the motion is attached as an annex to this report.

Recommendations:

- a) That the Planning and Regulatory Committee debate the referred County Council Motion from Cllr Jonathan Essex and report back to County Council at its next meeting.

Next steps:

Any outcomes regarding the motion will be reported to the next County Council meeting.

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Sources/background papers:

Annex 1- Officer Report relating to Motion