

**Fracking Motion for Full Council**

Proposed by Councillor Kelly  
Seconded by Councillor Todd

The Council wishes to express its concerns about the likely impact of unconventional gas exploitation (“fracking”) on the High Peak's environment, its communities and economy. These concerns principally relate to the potential impact:

- On the integrity of a National Park and its surrounding areas.
- On local water supplies.
- On local transport networks.
- On the borough's populated areas.
- On the mineral spring water in the Buxton area.
- On local air quality and biodiversity.
- On tourism and recreation.

This Council is aware of its statutory duty under Section 11A(2) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, and Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which require that ‘in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land’ in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, public bodies have a statutory duty to take into account the potential effect on these landscapes of any decision it reaches, or activity it carries out.

This duty is also relevant in considering development proposals that are situated outside National Park, or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty boundaries, but which might have an impact on the setting of, and implementation of, the statutory purposes of these protected areas.

Furthermore, the High Peak has many reservoirs which collect drinking water and, is the source of Buxton Mineral Water. In a comparable area, Bath, a report commissioned from the British Geological Survey by the company B&NES, found that hydraulic fracturing would pose an ‘undefinable risk’ to the hot springs. The same concerns must be considered in relation to Buxton's mineral water.

The Council believes that it should adopt whatever measures are available to control, and if appropriate seek to prevent the use of unconventional gas exploration and extraction within the High Peak and surrounding areas.

This Council would expect that a precautionary principle be applied by bodies considering the use of this gas extraction technique, given the importance of the area's geology on water supply, landscapes and biodiversity. Until the impacts, localised and area wide, including the knock on effects on the local economy are understood, the Council would not

currently be in a position to support this form of development.

The Council would therefore expect appropriately detailed assessments of the environmental effects and risks to be undertaken by independent bodies before further decisions are made to pursue, or authorise this form of development in the High Peak.

This council therefore resolves to:

Request the Leader, and the Chief Executive of the Council to formally register the concerns of the Council regarding the use of unconventional gas exploration and extraction within the High Peak, with the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), and to inform the DECC that this Council would not currently be in a position to support this form of development.

In addition, this council resolves to approach the Environment Agency to lend its support to the development of alternative sources of energy supply more suited to the High Peak and the Peak District National Park. This council recognises that these would generate local employment and business opportunities, and have significantly less negative impact on the integrity of the area. As well as the consideration of large scale alternative energy supplies consideration should be given to the production of small scale hydro power as detailed by Friends of the Peak District.