

North East Aggregates Working Party Note of Meeting

Meeting Date:	Tuesday 7 November 2017	Meeting Venue:	County Hall, Morpeth
Meeting Chair:	Claire Teasdale	Note Taker:	Kevin Tipple

Attendees:

Chair:

Claire Teasdale (CT)

Technical secretary:

Kevin Tipple (KT) (also representing Northumberland County Council)

Mineral Planning Authority representatives:

Chris Carr – Gateshead Council

Rachel Cooper – South Tyneside Council

Charlton Gibben – Middlesbrough Borough Council

Andrea King – Sunderland City Council

Jason Mckewon – Durham County Council

Jane Palmer – Stockton on Tees Borough Council

Aggregates industry representatives:

Michael Hodges – British Aggregates Association (and Breedon Group)

Nick Horsley – Mineral Products Association

Geoff Storey – Aggregate Industries UK

Apologies/not in attendance:

Tom Brown (Hanson Aggregates), Matthew Clifford (Hartlepool Borough Council), Clive Coyne (Northumberland National Park Authority), Laura Craddock (North Tyneside Council), Vicky Engelke (Department for Communities and Local Government), Rob Marsden (CEMEX), Milly Metcalfe (Marine Management Organisation), David Nelson (Darlington Borough Council), Jane Palmer (Stockton on Tees Borough Council), Matthew Pixton (Tarmac), Jon Rippon (Newcastle City Council) and Rebecca Wren (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council).

Agenda:

1. Agreeing a Chair
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Note and actions from meeting held on 1 December 2016
4. National Aggregates Coordinating Group
5. Annual Aggregates Monitoring Report 2016
6. Local Aggregate Assessments
7. Aggregate minerals survey for 2017
8. Industry update
9. Marine planning update
10. Mineral Planning Authority updates
11. Any other business
12. Date of next meeting

Item	Details	Action
1.	Agreeing a Chair KT opened the meeting and outlined that the first item on the agenda is to agree a new Chair of the North East AWP.	

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	<p>There was a need to identify a new Chair after Frances Wilkinson stepped down as the Chair following the last meeting of the North East AWP on 1 December 2016.</p> <p>KT nominated Claire Teasdale (Strategic Planning Team Manager at Durham County Council) as a suitable replacement and agreement was sought from the AWP members in attendance for Claire Teasdale to become the Chair.</p> <p>This was agreed and CT was confirmed as the new Chair.</p>	
2.	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>The new Chair welcomed those attending. Introductions were made and apologies were noted.</p>	
3.	<p>Notes and actions from meeting held on 1 December 2016</p> <p>The draft minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2016 were circulated prior to the meeting. The draft notes were reviewed and an update on the actions identified in the meeting notes was given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 2 – Note of previous meeting No work specifically undertaken in respect to marine planning by the AWP secretariat during 2017. • Item 3 – Update on North East AWP The work priorities were actioned as agreed. • Item 4 – Monitoring Report for 2015 The actions were completed and the annual monitoring report for 2015 was published in December 2016. • Item 5 – Local Aggregate Assessments With regards to the Joint LAA for County Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear, comments from members were used to inform the final response of the AWP. The response was issues to the Mineral Planning Authorities on 20 December 2016. • Item 6 – Aggregates Monitoring Survey for 2016 Survey forms were issued in January 2016 as agreed. • Item 7 – DCLG update Response to LPEG consultation was circulated following meeting • Item 11 – Any Other Business New Chair identified and included as agenda item for this meeting. • Item 12 – Date, time and venue of next meeting Meeting arranged. Papers circulated in advance. <p>The notes of the meeting held on 1 December 2017 were agreed.</p>	

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4.	<p>National Aggregates Coordinating Group</p> <p>This item is on the agenda principally to provide an update following the recent National Aggregate Co-ordinating Group (NCG) meeting in London on 11 October 2017. Draft notes of meeting were circulated for information with the disclaimer that these are not the final version of the notes and amendments have been suggested from a number of participants.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference for the NCG (also subject to amendment following the meeting) were also circulated with the agenda to provide a reminder of the role of the NCG.</p> <p>The purpose of the NCG is to monitor the overall provision of aggregates in England and to provide timely advice to government and individual AWP. This is done through monitoring the annual reports produced by each AWP; examining any significant difference between individual Aggregate Working Party reports and the relevant National and Sub-National Guideline figure; and providing guidance to government on future National and Sub-National requirements for aggregates supply.</p> <p>KT provided a summary of the meeting and some of the main areas of debate (with input from Nick Horsley who was also in attendance at the NCG meeting on 11 October 2017):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was first meeting since November 2012. • DCLG were in attendance but did not organise the meeting. DCLG presently only have a limited resource allocated to minerals work as their current focus is on housing and the implementation of the housing white paper. • DCLG posed questions to the meeting regarding whether the MASS is currently fulfilling its purpose and what Government needs to do to help (which included discussion of the role of AWP and the NCG). • Feedback from industry and AWP were supportive of the important role these play in providing a supply of minerals needed to meet the national housing and infrastructure objectives. NCG provides a valuable function in bringing together Central Government, Local Government and industry to address issues related to the minerals contribution to the growth of the country. AWP provide a focal point to guide MASS. • It was considered that strong leadership from Government is required to ensure that future demand is achieved. • It was argued that there was a need for updated sub-national guidelines to understand whether an adequate contribution is being made by each area. • It was considered that the survey work (including the four yearly national survey in particular) is of critical importance in underpinning the guidelines and monitoring how it is operating. • The AWP were considered to be important in guiding the MASS and needed to continue with funded secretariats. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues around the importance of the Duty to Cooperate and Statements of Common Ground were also discussed. The example of Greater Manchester was given. This is an area that is planning for major growth but it is reliant on aggregates from neighbouring areas and the current mechanisms to require other authorities to recognise this when planning for supply are weak. • Implications of there not being a supply of minerals were stressed. Fewer sites could impact on productive capacity and the delivery of minerals to important infrastructure and housing projects, minerals may need to be transported further with impacts on the environment and increased costs and there may also be an increased reliance on imports that would impact on the UK's trade balance. • The feedback from the NCG meeting will inform discussions with Ministers on the approach to MASS and future funding of the secretariat for the AWP's. It was understood that DCLG would make a recommendation to Ministers in December 2017. <p>During the discussion of the meeting it was agreed that the North East AWP should write to DCLG to endorse the need for forward planning and the MASS and to stress the need for a future commitment to the AWP's.</p> <p>It was understood that the other AWP's were also intending to write to DCLG. Nick Horsley reported that the Mineral Products Association had written to DCLG prior to the NCG and had received a holding response. Mike Hodges was going to check if the British Aggregates Association had written to DCLG or were intending to do so.</p>	<p>KT – Draft letter to send to DCLG</p>
5.	<p>Annual Aggregates Monitoring Report 2016</p> <p>A draft of the report was circulated prior to the meeting. KT briefly outlined some of the main points in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Summary: Dashboard added (page vi) in an attempt to start standardising with other AWP's annual reports. • Crushed rock – Chapter 3: Sales – An increase in sales has been observed 2016 (see Table 3.3), continuing the pattern of increasing sales since 2013. The sales in 2016 were still lower than the sales recorded in 2007 but have nonetheless increased significantly from the levels 2008 and 2013. Reserves – A decrease in the permitted reserves of crushed rock at 31 December 2016 was observed despite permissions being granted at Kilmond Wood Quarry in County Durham (5 million tonnes of Carboniferous limestone) and Longhoughton Quarry in Northumberland (0.76 million tonnes of igneous rock). This decrease is considered to be due to sales in 2016 and a re-assessment of reserves at Crime Rigg Quarry in County Durham. Landbanks – The landbanks for Durham, Northumberland and North East as a whole are above the landbank indicators (see Table 3.9). The figures for Tees Valley and Tyne and Wear have not been published in order not to disclose individual site information and this may hide any 	

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	<p>shortfalls in these areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand and gravel (land won) – Chapter 4: Sales – Between 2013 and 2016, sales of sand and gravel have decreased by 22% but are still below pre-2007/2008 levels (see Table 4.3). Reserves – There has been a decrease in reserves from 2015 as a result of sales and re-assessment of reserves at Crime Rigg Quarry in County Durham and Wooperton Quarry in Northumberland following the acquisition of these quarries by new operators. In addition, no new planning permissions were granted during 2016. Landbanks – Above landbank indicator for Durham, Northumberland and North East as a whole (see Table 4.8). Confidentiality issue may hide shortfalls in Tees Valley and Tyne and Wear. • Marine sand and gravel – Chapter 5 Sales – Sales of marine sand and gravel in 2016 are well below pre-2007 levels and have not increased in the same way that sales from the quarries in North East England have increased since 2014 (see Table 5.3). The wharves at Billingham, Gateshead and Howdon are currently inactive, which has temporarily reduced productive capacity and this is considered to be a significant factor in sales not increasing to the same degree as those for the quarries in North East England. • Crushed rock imports by sea – Chapter 6 Sales – There is a pattern of increasing sales for crushed rock imported by sea (see Table 6.3) with 246,000 tonnes of sales recorded in 2016. Capacity is available for this to continue and possibly to grow. • Recycled and secondary – Chapter 7 Estimated 1.3 million tonnes from fixed sites surveyed. Ongoing data issues make it difficult to get a full understanding of the role of these aggregates in terms of their contribution to overall supply. • Local Aggregates Assessment – Chapter 9 See statement referring to contribution to meeting local and national needs. <p>It was agreed comments on the draft report should be provided to the secretary by 24 November 2017.</p> <p>It was also agreed that, subject to any amendments, the report could be published.</p>	<p>All – Provide comments by Friday 24 November 2017</p> <p>KT – To make any necessary amendment, finalise report and publish</p>
6.	<p>Local Aggregates Assessments</p> <p><u>Scrutiny of submitted LAAs – Joint LAA for County Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear</u></p> <p>A Joint LAA for County Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear prepared jointly by the eight mineral planning authorities in this area was submitted to the North East AWP and circulated to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Jason Mckewon from Durham County Council introduced the submitted LAA to the meeting on behalf of the eight authorities and provided a brief overview of</p>	

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	<p>its contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document has been updated using sales and reserve information from 2016 but there have also been some changes in terms of the method used to calculate demand. • The Executive Summary has been revamped and prepared in line with the suggested structure set out in the POS/MPA practice guidance on the preparation of LAAs. This includes the addition of the standardised dashboards. • Table 1.1 provides a summary of the balance between forecast demand and supply. The balance is generally positive with the exception of sand and gravel supply in Northumberland. • Sales in all three sub-regions are at their highest levels since 2008. • Looked at various approaches to forecasting future demand and the selected approach is to use the three year sales average. • In previous years an uplift of the ten year sales average has been used based on a planned growth in housing numbers but given the current positions with the County Durham Local Plan and the Northumberland Local Plan it was not possible to identify a future housing number for these areas. • The findings and recommendations are broadly similar to those in previous versions of this document. • The headline conclusions for crushed rock are that there are good prospects of maintaining sales levels. In County Durham issues in relation to Carboniferous limestone supply and the ongoing supply of magnesian limestone are noted. Supply in Tyne and Wear is currently limited to two quarries. • The headline conclusions for sand and gravel are that there are generally good, but some action is required. In Northumberland additional supply is required to meet demand over the long-term and in Tyne and Wear supply is limited to one quarry. <p>It was agreed that members would be given time following the meeting to review the document and the any comments from members should be forwarded to the secretary for collation by 24 November 2017. The final response from the North East AWP will then be prepared and sent to the Mineral Planning Authorities in December.</p> <p><u>Scrutiny of submitted LAAs – Joint LAA for Tees Valley</u></p> <p>The five Tees Valley authorities have prepared a Joint LAA for Tees Valley, which was submitted and circulated to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Charlton Gibben from Middlesbrough Borough Council provided an overview of the LAA. It was outlined that the LAA was largely a revision of the last LAA submitted to the North East AWP in March 2016 and this version had been updated to incorporate sales and reserve information from 2016. A comparison of imports and consumption derived from the 2009 and 2014 surveys has also been added. The LAA recognises that Tees Valley relies heavily on imports and this is unlikely to change in the future.</p> <p>There was some discussion regarding the importance of safeguarding the infrastructure associated with the importation of minerals into Tees Valley. The proximity of housing development was also mentioned by Mike Hodges with specific reference to development around Hart Quarry.</p>	<p>All – Provide comments by Friday 24 November 2017</p> <p>KT – coordinate and send response to MPAs</p> <p>All – Provide comments by Friday 24 November 2017</p> <p>KT – coordinate and send</p>

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	It was agreed that detailed comments on the Joint Tees Valley LAA from members should be forwarded to the secretary for collation by 24 November 2017. The final response from the North East AWP will then be prepared and sent to the Tees Valley authorities in December.	response to MPAs
7.	<p>Aggregates Monitoring Survey for 2017</p> <p>KT provided a short update on this and to forewarn the Mineral Planning Authorities and operators about this.</p> <p>Work on the survey will commence in January 2017 when the survey forms will be issued to the operators. These will be in a similar format to previous years. Initial deadline for the completion and return of forms will be 2 March 2017.</p>	All – to note timings and input required
8.	<p>Industry update</p> <p>Nick Horsley (Mineral Products Association) raised the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationally the Mineral Products Association (MPA) are noting a levelling in sales across all areas, with the exception of asphalt and mortar. This reflects slower economic growth following the outcome of the EU referendum in the UK. • Economic report – MPA are now looking at whether this work can be done at a regional level to provide a more useful spatial context. The MPA's economist is currently working on this but it is not straightforward to do this at a regional level. The 2014 data is being used for this. • Currently have a watching brief in terms of DCLG workstreams and actions. • The Annual Mineral Planning Survey produced by the Mineral Products Association is due for publication shortly. Some key headlines from the report include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time taken from a planning application being received to a decision being issued is now an average of 31 months. • Replenishment rates of sand and gravel reserves are 60% and the replenishment rates of crushed rock is 117% (but this is based on a ten year average and a large planning permission at Glensanda Quarry in Scotland contributes massively to this replenishment rate) <p>No matters were raised by Mike Hodges on behalf the British Aggregates Association under this Item.</p>	
9.	<p>Marine planning update</p> <p>No representative of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) was in attendance at the meeting to provide an update.</p>	
10.	<p>Mineral Planning Authority updates</p> <p>An update on progress with local minerals planning policy documents and relevant planning applications was given by the Mineral Planning Authority</p>	

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	<p>representatives present at the meeting.</p> <p><u>Tees Valley authorities (Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton on Tees borough councils):</u></p> <p>Charlton Gibben (Middlesbrough Borough Council) and Jane Palmer (Stockton on Tees Borough Council) provided an update on behalf of the five authorities in the Tees Valley. The authorities have prepared joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents (DPDs). This consists of a Core Strategy DPD and a Policies and Sites DPD. These documents were adopted in September 2011. It is recognised that there is a need to review these documents but there are no plans to commence a review at the present time as the resources of the authorities are focused on their Local Plans.</p> <p>A planning application for an extension of time at Stockton Quarry is currently pending determination. It is understood that further information is required.</p> <p><u>Gateshead Council:</u> Gateshead Council and Newcastle City Council adopted a Joint Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan document in March 2015.</p> <p>Gateshead Council is now working on an allocations and development management policies document titled 'Making Spaces for Growing Places'. Consultation on a draft document is currently taking place and ends on 10 December 2017. The document includes minerals policies with a policy to safeguard the wharf on the River Tyne at Gateshead.</p> <p><u>Sunderland City Council:</u> Sunderland City Council recently consulted on a revised draft Core Strategy and Development Plan document, which ended on 2 October 2017. Responses are currently being analysed and it is expected that consultation on a publication draft will now take place in 2018 rather than at the end of 2017.</p> <p>Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside are also preparing an Area Action Plan relating to the proposed International Advanced Manufacturing Park and this was submitted for examination in 2017 with hearing sessions taking place in April 2017. Consultation on proposed main modifications subsequently took place from 18 September 2017 to 30 October 2017. It is anticipated that this document will be adopted by the end of 2017.</p> <p><u>South Tyneside Council:</u> Work is continuing to prepare a new Local Plan. Consultation on a Strategic Land Review is expected by the end of 2017 and the timetable is to have a consult on a draft of the Local Plan document in Spring/Summer 2018.</p> <p><u>Durham County Council:</u> The Local Plan for County Durham was withdrawn from examination in March 2016. Consultation on Issues and Options for the Local Plan took place in June and July 2016 but work was paused to review the Housing White Paper and the DCLG consultation on a standard method for calculating housing need.</p> <p>A revised Local Development Scheme, to be agreed by Durham County Council in November 2017, identifies that two development plan documents shall be prepared – A Local Plan document and a minerals and waste policies and allocations document. Consultation on a Local Plan preferred options is</p>	

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	<p>programmed for summer 2018 with adoption in summer 2020. An issues and options consultation for the minerals and waste sites and allocations document is programmed for early 2019 with adoption in 2020.</p> <p>The following update was also given in respect to major planning applications in County Durham:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilmond Wood Quarry – An extension to extract 5 million tonnes of Carboniferous limestone was granted in December 2016. • Thrislington Quarry (West) – On 3 October 2017 Planning Committee resolved to grant a proposal to extend the time limit for extraction at this site to 2030 (remaining reserves of 3.5 million tonnes of magnesian limestone and 1.9 million tonnes of basal Permian sand (figures updated from original submission of the application) subject to conditions and completion of a legal agreement. • Coxhoe (Raisby) Quarry – An application for a proposed vertical extension involving 1.4 million tonnes of basal Permian sand was withdrawn by the applicant in 2017 but a new application was subsequently submitted in April 2017 seeking an extension of time for quarrying operations until 2042 with restoration by 2044. The application has not yet been determined. • Tuthill Quarry – An application to reopen this magnesian limestone quarry for the extraction of 2.77 million cubic metres of limestone and magnesian limestone and the restoration of existing and proposed void including importing 1.6 million cubic metres of clay and soils is currently pending determination. There is some now some uncertainty regarding this application after the applicant, Owen Pugh Aggregates, went into administration in October 2017. • Cornforth East and West Quarries – Applications to allow the re-opening of these quarries are to be submitted to Durham County Council under the provisions of The Environment Act 1995. An application to vary the existing consent at Thrislington East Quarry is also to be made. A public information exhibition will take place on 9 November 2017. <p><u>Northumberland County Council:</u> Northumberland County Council submitted a Core Strategy document to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in April 2017 but the document was subsequently withdrawn in July 2017. The withdrawal followed a change in political control of Northumberland County Council and concerns of the new administration relating to the housing numbers and proposals to allocate sites for development in what is currently designated Green Belt.</p> <p>It is anticipated that a revised Local Development Scheme will be approved by the council's Cabinet on 23 November 2017 and that a single Local Plan document will be prepared, containing strategic policies as well as more detailed land allocations and policies to assess planning application. An initial consultation is expected in Spring 2018 with adoption of the plan in 2020.</p>	
11.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>KT identified that the work priorities for the coming year would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregate Minerals Survey for 2017 • Production of an annual monitoring report 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="309 253 1286 315">Scrutiny of the Local Aggregate Assessments prepared by the MPAs in North East England <p data-bbox="260 353 1267 488">There is, however, some uncertainty with continuity of work streams because the current contracts with DCLG to provide the secretariat to the AWP's in England end on 31 March 2017. At current time there is no confirmation that contracts would be put in place for 2018/19 and beyond.</p>	
12.	<p data-bbox="260 528 552 555">Date of next meeting</p> <p data-bbox="260 595 1294 723">It is anticipated that the next meeting will take place in autumn 2018 and will be held at County Hall in Morpeth. It was agreed that an earlier meeting could be held in March 2018 if funding for the AWP's is not likely to continue in 2018/09 and beyond.</p> <p data-bbox="260 763 1114 790">The date and time of the meeting will be confirmed in due course.</p> <p data-bbox="260 831 1118 857">The chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.</p>	<p data-bbox="1326 595 1437 723">KT – Arrange next meeting</p>