

North East Aggregates Working Party Note of Meeting

Meeting Date:	Friday 30 November 2018	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:

Gary Baker – Sunderland City Council

Clive Coyne – Northumberland National Park Authority

Chris Carr – Gateshead Council

Rebecca Cockburn – Hartlepool Borough Council

Rachel Cooper – South Tyneside 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

Rob Marsden – CEMEX

Geoff Storey – Aggregate Industries UK

Apologies/not in attendance:

Tom Brown (Hanson Aggregates), Ryan Cowley (Hartlepool Borough Council), Clive Coyne (Northumberland National Park Authority), Laura Craddock (North Tyneside Council), Vicky Engelke (Department for Communities and Local Government), Charlton Gibben (Middlesbrough Borough Council), 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. Welcome and introductions
2. Note and actions from meeting held on 30 November 2017
3. Aggregates Working Party update
4. Annual Aggregates Monitoring Report 2017
5. Regional perspectives on markets and construction activity
6. Local Aggregate Assessments
7. Aggregate minerals survey for 2018
8. Industry update
9. Mineral Planning Authority updates
10. Any other business
11. Date of next meeting

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1.	Welcome and introductions The Chair (CT) welcomed those attending to the meeting and thanked them for	

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	<p>travelling to Morpeth to attend.</p> <p>Introductions were made and apologies were noted.</p>	
2.	<p>Notes and actions from meeting held on 7 November 2017</p> <p>The draft note of the meeting held on 7 November 2017 was 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 4 – National Aggregates Coordinating Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Letter from North East AWP was not sent to DCLG as it was subsequently agreed that the Chair would sign up to a similar letter from all AWP chairs. • Item 5 – Monitoring Report for 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Actions were completed. Final report was circulated and published. • Item 6 – Local Aggregate Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ County Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear LAA - Comments from members were used to inform the final response of the AWP. This was issued on 20 December 2017. • Item 7 – Aggregates Monitoring Survey for 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Survey forms were issued as agreed. Now complete and findings have fed into monitoring report that is on today's agenda. • Item 12 – Date, time and venue of next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting arranged. Papers circulated in advance. <p>No other matters were raised and the notes of the meeting held on 7 November 2017 were agreed.</p>	
3.	<p>Aggregates Working Party Update</p> <p>KT provided the meeting with an update on the North East AWP and the contracts to provide secretariat services to the AWPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current secretariat contracts were extended for 12 months to 31 March 2019 to provide time for MHCLG to review the future of MASS and the AWPs. • A revised NPPF was published in July 2018, which retains references to the managed aggregates supply systems (including the Aggregates Working Parties and the national and sub national guidelines). • Indications are that MHCLG will be undertaking a larger piece of work to address the 'MASS revitalisation' question. • It is anticipated that current secretariat contracts will be extended for a further 12 months while this is done but there has been no direct communication from MHCLG yet on this matter. • A letter was recently sent to MHCLG from the AWP chairs (sent on Monday 26 November 2018) seeking clarification on the continuation of funding for AWPs and the four yearly national aggregate minerals 	<p>KT to circulate letter.</p>

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	survey. CT signed up to this on behalf of North East AWP.	
4.	<p>Annual Aggregates Monitoring Report 2017</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"> • Crushed rock (Chapter 3 of the report): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Sales</u> – Sales have decreased in 2017 compared to 2016 showing a slowdown in the growth seen since 2013. Sales still lower than pre-2008 sales but have increased significantly from the levels 2008 and 2013 (see Table 3.3). ○ <u>Reserves</u> – Decrease in reserves from 2017 (see Table 3.6) but not in line with sales. This is due to a reassessment of reserves at Marsden Quarry following the sale of this site. ○ <u>Landbanks</u> – Above landbank indicator for Durham, Northumberland and North East as a whole (see Table 3.9). Confidentiality issue may hide shortfalls in Tees Valley and Tyne and Wear. ○ <u>Planning applications</u> – No applications granted or refused in 2017. • Sand and gravel (Chapter 4 of the report) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Sales</u> – Sales have decreased in 2017 compared to 2016 showing a slowdown in the growth seen since 2013 (see Table 4.3). ○ <u>Reserves</u> – Decrease in reserves from 2017 broadly as a result of sales. ○ <u>Landbanks</u> – 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. ○ <u>Planning applications</u> - No planning applications granted or refused in 2017. • Marine sand and gravel (Chapter 5 of the report) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Sales</u> – Similar levels of sales in 2017 compared to 2016. Sales 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 2013 (see Table 5.3). Wharves at Billingham, Gateshead and Howdon are inactive and this is considered to be a significant factor influencing overall sales levels. • Crushed rock imports by sea (Chapter 6 of the report) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Sales</u> – There has been a pattern of increasing sales but decreased significantly in 2017. Due to small number of sites, landings at one site can have a significant effect on overall sales. • Recycled and secondary (Chapter 7 of the report) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Sales</u> – 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 to overall supply. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Aggregates Assessment – Chapter 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See statement referring to contribution to meeting local and national needs. <p>The sales and reserves figures in the draft report and the differences with the figures in the Local Aggregates Assessments were discussed and clarified.</p> <p>It was agreed comments on the draft report should be provided to the secretary by 14 December 2018.</p> <p>It was also agreed that, subject to any amendments, the report could be published.</p>	<p>All – Provide comments by Friday 14 December 2018</p> <p>KT – To make any necessary amendment, finalise report and publish</p>
5.	<p>Regional perspectives on markets and construction activity</p> <p>Prior to the meeting some slides and a covering note were circulated. Nick Horsley explained that over the last year or so the Mineral Products Association has been asked at AWP meetings whether regional perspectives on markets and construction could be produced in addition to the national picture that is published quarterly. This has now been and slides for the North East AWP have been circulated.</p> <p>The information presented relates to the situation at the moment and is not a forecast of future demand. It also shows that new house building only represents a small proportion of the overall construction activity and in turn the demand for aggregate minerals.</p> <p>The Mineral Products Association would welcome any comments on whether these are useful to the AWP and to the Mineral Planning Authorities, particularly in the context of LAA preparation.</p>	<p>All – Any comments to be provided to Nick Horsley</p>
6.	<p>Local Aggregates Assessments</p> <p><u>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 and Kevin Tipple from Durham County Council and Northumberland County Council respectively introduced the submitted LAA to the meeting on behalf of the eight authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LAA has been refreshed using sales and reserves data for 2017. • There is no change in the methodology used to calculate demand compared to last year's version of the LAA (which is based on 2016 sales and reserves data). • The methodology uses the three years sales average to calculate demand. This provides a demand figure that is well above the ten year sales average (19% higher for crushed rock and 13% for sand and gravel) and reflects a period where there have been modestly high levels of construction activity in North East England whereas the ten year sales average reflects a period of suppressed activity following the 	<p>All – Provide comments by 5 December 2018</p> <p>KT – coordinate and send response to MPAs</p>

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	<p>economic downturn.</p> <p>No significant issues regarding the approach were raised in relation to the LAA by those attending the meeting.</p> <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 6 December 2018. The final response from the North East AWP will then be prepared and sent to the Mineral Planning Authorities.</p> <p><u>Joint LAA for Tees Valley</u></p> <p>The five Tees Valley authorities have previously prepared a Joint LAA for Tees Valley.</p> <p>Jane Palmer confirmed work is in progress to update this LAA and will be submitted to the North East AWP in early 2019.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Secretary would circulate this by email upon receipt and the response of the AWP would be coordinated by email correspondence.</p>	<p>Tees Valley MPAs – Keep AWP up-to-date on progress</p> <p>KT – Circulate LAA to AWP members on receipt for comment</p>
7.	<p>Aggregates Monitoring Survey for 2018</p> <p>KT provided a short update on this.</p> <p>Work on the survey will commence in January 2019 when the survey forms will be issued to the operators. These will be in a similar format to previous years. There will be an initial deadline for the completion and return of forms in March 2019.</p>	<p>All – to note timings and input required</p>
8.	<p>Industry update</p> <p>The following matters were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MHCLG meeting – A meeting has been arranged with the Mineral Products Association and MHCLG in early December 2018. This will include discussion around the AWP's, the need for funding for the AWP's, the need for the national four yearly aggregate minerals survey and the issue of the national and sub-national guidelines for aggregates provision. • Revised NPPF – A meeting was previously held following the publication of a draft revised NPPF for consultation. Concerns were raised on a number of matters and a number of the comments have been incorporated into the final version. This includes reinstating the definition of minerals of local and national importance, the text on mineral safeguarding as previously worded, and the footnote referring to the landbanks for industrial minerals has been reinstated. • AMPS Report 2018 – The Mineral Products Association has published its seventh Annual Mineral Planning Survey (AMPS) Report which covers the period to the end of 2017. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Replenishment rates – For sand and gravel 24% of sales were replenished through new planning permissions in 2017 (the lowest since MPA started recording this in 2004). The ten year average replenishment rate for crushed rock reserves was 69% in 2017 compared to 116% in 2016 (largely due to Glensanda dropping out of the ten year average). ○ Time taken to obtain planning permission – Over 29 months based on a ten year average. ○ Sales – Demand for land-won aggregates was broadly flat in 2017. ● Planning application validation checklists – There is some concern about these nationally and the level of information that is required. It is considered that some of the information requested is not critical to what is required to determine the application. ● 2042 planning permissions – There is an awareness of the number of planning permissions that expire in 2042 and that these sites currently make an important contribution to the landbank of permitted reserves. There could be issues with the grant of new planning permissions. ● Dewatering regulations – There is on-going concern about the impact of these regulations on minerals extraction and the potential for these to constrain resources. The maximum timescale for abstraction licences is 18 years, which could have implications for sites with planning permission to extract mineral over long time periods. 	
9.	<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 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>Jane Palmer (Stockton on Tees Borough Council) and Rebecca Cockburn (Hartlepool Borough Council) and 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>The Hartlepool Local Plan was adopted in May 2018 and the Inspector’s Report for the Stockton on Tees Local Plan is expected in December 2018 following examination hearings in Summer 2018.</p> <p>A planning application for an extension of time at Stockton Quarry is currently pending determination. There have been no major changes since the last meeting of the AWP.</p>	

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	<p><u>Gateshead Council:</u> Gateshead Council and Newcastle City Council adopted a Joint Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan document in March 2015. Gateshead Council is now working on an allocations and development management policies document titled 'Making Spaces for Growing Places'. The document includes minerals policies with a policy to safeguard the wharf on the River Tyne at Gateshead. Representations are currently being sought on the Publication version of this document until 9 December 2018. It is anticipated that the document will be submitted for examination in early 2019.</p> <p><u>Newcastle City Council:</u> Chris Carr from Gateshead Council provided an update on behalf of Newcastle City Council. Consultation on a Pre-Submission Development and Allocation Plan document took place between 5 October 2018 and 16 November 2018. It is anticipated that the document will be submitted for examination in early 2019.</p> <p><u>Sunderland City Council:</u> Sunderland City Council undertook a consultation on a publication draft of the Core Strategy and Development Plan document in Summer 2018. The document will be submitted for examination before the end of December 2018 and the examination hearing sessions are expected to be in May 2019. Work on an allocations document will follow this.</p> <p><u>South Tyneside Council:</u> Work is continuing to prepare a new Local Plan. A draft Local Plan will be published for consultation in Spring 2019.</p> <p><u>Durham County Council:</u> Consultation on a Local Plan Preferred Options document took place in summer 2018. A Pre-Submission Draft of the Local Plan will be published on 25 January 2019 and representations invited over the six week period to 8 March 2019, subject to Member approval at Cabinet on 7 January 2019. Submission for examination is expected to be in June 2019 and the examination hearings are expected to be in autumn 2019.</p> <p>A planning application to extend Heights Quarry is currently pending determination.</p> <p><u>Northumberland County Council:</u> Following the withdrawal of the Core Strategy in July 2018, work has been taken place to prepare a Local Plan. Consultation on a Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan took place in July and August 2018. A Publication version of the Local Plan will be published on 30 January 2019 and representations invited over the six week period to 13 March 2019, subject to Member approval at Cabinet on 19 December 2018 and Full Council on 9 January 2019. Submission for examination is expected to be in May 2019 and the examination hearings are expected to be in September 2019.</p> <p>A planning application to extend Wooperton Quarry to provide 500,000 tonnes of sand and gravel was granted planning permission in August 2018.</p> <p><u>Northumberland National Park Authority:</u> Consultation on a Local Plan Preferred Options document took place between July and September 2018 and 147 comments were received in response to this</p>	

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	consultation. It is anticipated that a Publication version of the Local Plan will be published in March 2019 and submitted for examination in Autumn 2019.	
10.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Nick Horsley raised that work is being undertaken to update the Mineral Planning Factsheets and the Mineral Products Association are involved in updating the aggregates one.</p>	
11.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>It is anticipated that the next meeting will take place in autumn 2019 and will be held at County Hall in Morpeth.</p> <p>The date and time of the meeting will be confirmed in due course.</p> <p>The chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.</p>	<p>KT – Arrange next meeting</p>