

North East Aggregates Working Party Note of Meeting

Meeting Date:	Tuesday 19 November 2019	Meeting Venue:	County Hall, Morpeth
Meeting Chair:	Claire Teasdale	Note Taker:	Jack Freeman

Attendees:

Chair:
Claire Teasdale (CT)

Technical secretary:
Kevin Tipple (KT) (also representing Northumberland County Council)

Mineral Planning Authority representatives:
 Rachel Cooper – South Tyneside Council
 Laura Craddock – North Tyneside Council
 Jack Freeman – Northumberland County Council
 Lucy Greenfield – Gateshead Council
 Mark Harrison – Northumberland National Park Authority
 Jason Mckewon – Durham County Council
 Helen Smith – Hartlepool Borough Council
 Jamie Simpson – Sunderland City 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), Charlotte Gibben (Middlesbrough Council), Sara Lewis (MHCLG), Rob Marsden (CEMEX), David Nelson (Darlington Borough Council), Jane Palmer (Stockton on Tees Borough Council), Matthew Pixton (Tarmac), Jon Rippon (Newcastle City Council), Roger Tait (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)

- Agenda:**
1. Welcome and introductions
 2. Notes of and actions from meeting held on 30 November 2018
 3. MHCLG and Aggregates Working Party update
 4. Annual Aggregates Monitoring Report 2017
 5. Local Aggregate Assessments
 6. Annual Aggregate Minerals Survey for 2019
 7. Industry update
 8. Mineral Planning Authority updates
 9. Any other business
 10. Date of next meeting

Item	Details	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>The Chair welcomed those attending. Introductions were made and apologies were noted.</p>	
2.	<p>Notes and actions from meeting held on 30 November 2018</p>	

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	<p>The draft minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2018 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 3 – Aggregates Working Party Update The letter was circulated following the meeting. There were no further issues. • Item 4 – Monitoring Report for 2017 The actions were completed and the final report was published in December 2018 and circulated to AWP members and MHCLG. There were no further issues. • Item 5 – Regional perspectives on markets and construction activity NH stated that no comments on these had been received from members. KT stated that the note was very useful and valuable due to the regional focus. NH confirmed that feedback has been positive and that it would be repeated in 2020. • Item 6 – Local Aggregates Assessment County Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear LAA – comments from members were used to inform the final response of the AWP. KT confirmed that nothing formally was submitted by Tees Valley LAA. HS stated that Jane Palmer was waiting for sign off from KT, then starting the next one. • Item 7 – Aggregates Monitoring Survey for 2018 Survey forms were issued as agreed. Survey was completed and findings have fed into monitoring report that is on the agenda for this meeting. KT thanked everyone for participating. • Any other matters arising from notes? No issues arose. <p>The notes of the meeting held on 30 November 2018 were agreed.</p>	<p>KT – Liaise with Jane Palmer on submission of Tees Valley Joint LAA to the North East AWP</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>MHCLG and Aggregates Working Party</p> <p>No representative of MHCLG was in attendance at the meeting but KT provided an updated.</p> <p><u>MHCLG contacts</u> KT stated that Sara Lewis is now managing the Aggregate Working Party contracts at MHCLG. Sara is part of the dedicated staffing resource for minerals and waste planning at MHCLG, which is led by Lonek Wojtulewicz.</p> <p><u>Aggregate Minerals Survey</u> The last Aggregate Minerals Survey was undertaken five years ago and it has been confirmed by MHCLG that it will be undertaken for the 2019 survey year. A steering group has been established consisting of MHCLG, Mineral Products Association, British Aggregates Association, Planning Officers' Society and AWP Secretaries. NH and KT are both participating members of the steering group.</p> <p>It is intended that the data collection element of the survey will move to online</p>	

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	<p>submission for this version of the survey. Drafts of the form to collect planning application information from the mineral planning authorities have been passed to the steering group for comment and a wider pilot will take place before the end of the year. It is then hoped that the survey forms can be sent out electronically for completion in early 2020.</p> <p>KT and NH provided some more detail about the process of the survey. The survey will be done online using the Delta system and the aim is to make the survey more user-friendly both for those entering and collating the data.</p> <p>JM asked whether there would be more data validation going on to ensure correct sales destinations information were recorded. KT stated that collating figures at a local and regional level had been discussed, but that the onus would still be on officers at the mineral planning authorities to identify potential and things on the form that had not been completed correctly.</p> <p>GS asked about timescales and stated that industry data returns came in mid January, so any time after that would be suitable. NH stated that it has been suggested that the survey forms are issued in February or March time. It was likely that a draft report with the findings of the survey would be available in Autumn 2020 with a final report following that.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the survey includes materials landed at ports.</p> <p>KT and NH stressed that the understanding was that the Government had recognised that the data void needs to be bridged and that it was important to use this opportunity.</p> <p><u>Aggregates Working Party contracts</u> The current contracts from MHCLG to provide secretariat services to the Aggregates Working Parties in England are due to end on 31 March 2020. The contracts have previously been extended and they cannot now be extended again in this way. A tendering process will take place but the exact timescales for this have not yet been confirmed.</p> <p><u>Guidelines for aggregates provision</u> The National and Sub-National Guidelines for Aggregates Provision were discussed. It was considered that there is a need for work to be undertaken to update these to ensure they are up-to-date and fit for purpose.</p>	
4.	<p>Annual Aggregates Monitoring Report 2018</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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sales increased in 2018 for North East England as a whole and are at their highest level over the ten year period (though still below pre-recession levels) but sales in Northumberland are slightly down compared to the two previous years. - There has been a decrease in reserves from 2017 but not in line with sales. This is due to the reduction in reported permitted reserves in County Durham. JM clarified that some sites had re-assigned reserves for other non-aggregate purposes. - Reserves in both County Durham and Northumberland were both 	

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	<p>the need for the amendments previously discussed. NH raised some issues around confidentiality on marine imported crushed rock. CT agreed to allow some additional time for comments on the report before it is finalised. A deadline of 29 November 2019 was agreed for these comments.</p> <p>KT stated that the aim would be to publish in December 2019.</p>	publish
5.	<p>Local Aggregates Assessments</p> <p><u>Joint LAA for County Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear</u> JM provided an update on the County Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear Joint LAA. Work has been progressing but a draft has not yet been finalised due to the number of the mineral planning authorities, particularly Durham and Northumberland, being in the examination phases for their Local Plan. There is a strong commitment to complete the work but the Local Plan examinations are currently taking priority. It was advised that a draft of the LAA for the AWP to scrutinise would likely be available in Spring 2020.</p> <p><u>Joint LAA for Tees Valley</u> HS provided an update on the Tees Valley Joint LAA. Jane Palmer from Stockton on Tees Borough Council would take the lead for the next few versions. HS understood that a draft LAA was ready and would be circulated soon.</p> <p>KT asked whether in the experience of the industry representatives at meeting whether there was generally good and timely coverage in terms of LAAs for AWP's to consider each year. GS and NH confirmed that yes, generally this was the case.</p> <p>GS added that the most important issue for urban areas was the safeguarding minerals infrastructure and asked whether the 'agent of change' principle for the NPPF was being implemented and enforced in North East England. KT, CT and JM confirmed that it was being incorporated into Local Plans, however, there may be some issues around implementation through the development management process.</p>	
6.	<p>Annual Aggregate Minerals Survey for 2019</p> <p>Due to the 2019 survey being part of the national survey, the survey forms will not be issued by the NE AWP in January as with previous years with the exception of the survey forms to collect information for secondary and recycled aggregates which will be issued separately by the AWP in January 2019.</p> <p>Contact will be made with operators and mineral planning authorities when the approach to the national survey has been finalised.</p>	<p>To Note: Continued cooperation of MPAs and industry requested.</p> <p>KT to identify contacts for the survey for each MPA</p>
7.	<p>Industry update</p> <p><u>Economic and market outlook information</u> - Information was provided to the North East England AWP by the Minerals Products Association and was shared with members when the agenda for the meeting was sent out. This is</p>	

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	<p>provided for information.</p> <p><u>Annual Mineral Planning Survey</u> - NH also shared details off the Annual Mineral Planning Survey undertaken by the Mineral Products Association, which has not yet been published but will be soon. Headlines include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The survey recorded the lowest number of mineral planning applications since 2010. 19 applications involved new tonnage (16 for sand and gravel and 3 for crushed rock) with 1 new crushed rock site. The figure also includes 18 ROMP and Section 73 applications. - The new permissions involved 54 million tonnes of sand and gravel newly permitted (the highest recorded since 2007) and 84 million tonnes of crushed rock. - Replenishment rates are still running below 100%; sand and gravel has risen slightly to 68% whilst crushed rock is at 75%. - Planning application determination period – The average time for determination of sand and gravel applications is 30 months and for crushed rock applications it is 27 months. This includes the time involved in the sign off of legal agreements. <p>CT asked about feedback from MPA members in relation to the timescales for the determination of planning applications. NH stated there was a frustrating acceptance. NH also noted that a lack of experienced minerals planning officers is becoming a noticeable issue nationwide.</p> <p><u>Dewatering consent regime</u> - MH reiterated that de-watering is going to be a very big issue and is likely to have implications for the availability of permitted reserves. Where applications were not submitted by September, the Environment Agency has indicated that this will have implications for dewatering from 1 January 2020. JM stated that Durham County Council will take stock of the situation and its impact during 2020.</p>	
8.	<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>Northumberland National Park Authority</u> The Northumberland National Park Local Plan was submitted at the end of September and is now undergoing examination. The hearing sessions will be only for one day and this will take place at the end of January. The Inspector's matters, issues and questions have now been received.</p> <p><u>Gateshead Council</u> Local Plan hearing sessions for the allocations and policies document have now been completed and the Council are currently working on questions arising from the hearings. A main modification relating to the safeguarding of concrete batching sites has been put forward. There is a planned 'call for sites' next year as part of work to review the Core Strategy.</p> <p><u>North Tyneside Council</u> North Tyneside Local Plan was adopted in July 2017 and North Tyneside are not currently working on any minerals related development plan documents.</p> <p><u>South Tyneside Council</u></p>	

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	<p>Consultation on first draft of the Local Plan began in October 2019 and a Publication Draft of the Local Plan is expected to be produced in Summer 2020.</p> <p><u>Sunderland City Council</u> The Examination hearings for the Core Strategy and Development Plan document took place between 21 May 2019 and 13 June 2019. This was followed by a consultation on proposed main modifications between 13 September 2019 and 25 October 2019. It is anticipated that the plan will now be adopted in February 2020.</p> <p><u>Hartlepool Borough Council / Tees Valley authorities</u> The Tees Valley Minerals and Waste DPDs were adopted by the five Tees Valley authorities in 2011. The Tees Valley authorities intend to meet in April 2020 to discuss a review of these DPDs and the likely timeframe to do this.</p> <p><u>Durham County Council</u> The County Durham Plan was submitted for examination in June 2019 and the examination hearings are currently taking place. The hearing session for minerals will take place on 4 December 2019. Adoption of the plan is expected to be Summer 2020.</p> <p>The Minerals and Waste Allocation document is due to start consultation in May 2020.</p> <p>In terms of significant planning applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heights Quarry – Planning permission has been granted for an extension involving 7 million tonnes of Carboniferous limestone. • Hawthorn Quarry – A reactivation of a dormant planning permission is expected to release a further 4 million tonnes of crushed rock into the landbank. A decision is expected in 2020. • Raisby Quarry – There is currently a planning application for an extension of time for this site. A decision has yet to be issued. • Thrislington Quarry – An application for a variation of conditions is currently being determined that would allow a further 4 million tonnes of material being available for aggregate uses rather than for non-aggregate uses. • Periodic reviews – Periodic reviews for Cornforth East and West Quarries have been submitted which involve a very high proportion of Durham’s crushed rock. <p><u>Northumberland County Council</u> The Northumberland Local Plan was submitted for examination on 29 May 2019 and the examination of the plan is currently ongoing. The examination of the plan has been split into a number of phases. Phase 1 of the examination covers the overarching strategic matters such as the spatial and growth strategy and housing numbers. The hearing sessions for this phase of examination commenced on 8 October 2019 and are still ongoing.</p> <p>An assistant inspector, Stephen Normington, has been appointed to assist with the examination of the minerals and waste aspects of the plan. The inspector’s matters, issues and questions for this part of the plan have now been issued and the hearing sessions are scheduled for 5 and 6 February 2020.</p>	

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	<p>In terms of applications, an extension for an eastern extension to Longhoughton Quarry involving an additional 1.75 million tonnes of dolerite for has been granted planning permission on 11 November 2019. The council are expecting a number of applications to be submitted in 2020 following earlier pre-application discussions.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Information/expertise sharing – CT discussed an email received from Jane Palmer from Stockton on Tees Borough Council regarding sharing information during North East England AWP meetings. KT stated that issues would be best raised beforehand so that they can be added to the agenda to provide for a more informed discussion.</p> <p>In terms of increasing awareness of mineral planning issues it was noted that the Institute of Quarrying was advertising a course for minerals planners and the leaflet would be circulated with the meeting notes. In addition details of development management and policy meetings for North East planners would be circulated. It was suggested that a site visit to a quarry might be of interest to the attendees.</p> <p>Mineral Planning Factsheets – The factsheet for aggregate minerals has now been updated and is available on the BGS website. NH stated that silica sand factsheet is currently in the process of being updated.</p>	<p>KT – Circulate Institute of Quarrying leaflet</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The date of the next meeting was agreed to be around this time next year. It was discussed whether another meeting would be required when LAAs were completed or whether email correspondence would be sufficient. It was agreed that the best way forward was for the LAAs to be circulated when finished and a decision to be made based on the comments as to a whether a meeting would be necessary.</p> <p>The chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.</p>	<p>KT – Arrange next meeting</p>