

North East Aggregates Working Party Note of Meeting

Meeting Date:	Friday 4 December 2020	Meeting Venue:	Meeting held virtually
Meeting Chair:	Claire Teasdale	Note Taker:	Jack Freeman

Attendees:

Chair:

Claire Teasdale (CT)

Technical secretary:

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

MHCLG representative:

Hannah Henderson

Mineral Planning Authority representatives:

Susannah Buylla – Northumberland National Park Authority

Rachel Cooper – South Tyneside Council

Claire Dobinson-Booth – North Tyneside Council

Jack Freeman – Northumberland County Council

Charlton Gibben – Middlesbrough Council

Lucy Greenfield – Gateshead Council

Jason Mckewon – Durham County Council

Jon Rippon – Newcastle City Council

Jamie Simpson – Sunderland City Council

Roger Tait – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

Aggregates industry representatives:

Michael Hodges – British Aggregates Association (and Breedon Group)

Nick Horsley – Mineral Products Association

Peter Huxtable – British Aggregates Association

Geoff Storey – Aggregate Industries UK

Apologies/not in attendance:

David Nelson (Darlington Borough Council), Helen Smith (Hartlepool Borough Council), Tom Brown (Hanson)

Agenda:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Notes of and actions from meeting held on 19 November 2019
3. MHCLG and Aggregates Working Party update
4. Annual Aggregates Monitoring Report 2019
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 19 November 2019</p> <p>The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2019 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 – Submission of Tees Valley Joint LAA to the North East AWP This was circulated in January with feedback collected. • Item 4 – Annual Aggregates Monitoring Report 2018 All actions were completed. • Item 6 – Annual Aggregates Survey for 2019 It was noted that there had been a good response rate from operators in the North East. • Item 9 – Institute of Quarrying leaflet circulated It was noted that this was useful. <p>No other matters were raised and the notes of the meeting held on 19 November 2019 were agreed.</p>	

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3.	<p>MHCLG and Aggregates Working Party Update</p> <p><u>MHCLG contacts</u> HH stated that MHCLG were in the process of renewing the contracts for the provision of secretariat services to the AWP. The current contracts are due to end on 31 March 2021. The contract will include an annual meeting between MHCLG and all AWP secretaries and the length of the contracts will be four years. A meeting took place in between MHCLG and the AWP secretaries in October 2020 to get feedback on how the contracts have been working and where changes are needed to the contract specifications. The current aim is for the procurement process to go live before Christmas.</p> <p><u>Aggregate Minerals Survey 2019</u> HH also provided an update on progress with the Aggregate Minerals Survey 2019. Roughly 80% of returns have been received and the remaining operators are being chased up. The response from operators in the North East has been good.</p> <p><u>Planning for the Future – White Paper Consultation</u> HH also provided an update regarding the Planning For the Future white paper consultation, which took place between August and October 2020. Around 5,000 responses had been received and these were currently being analysed to inform Government’s response. HH has been tasked with reviewing the responses received by the minerals sector. It was reiterated that minerals planning is being considered although the white paper was housing heavy.</p> <p>NH stressed the need for new national and sub-national guidelines for aggregates provision, as these are now out-of-date and MPAs are going off in different directions in terms of approaches to provision. Some are using the guidelines, some are using 10 years sales data, others are using 10 years sales data and further information. NH added that it was also felt there was a need for a national co-ordinating group meeting as this group has only met once in the last 10 years.</p> <p>PH would like meetings between MHCLG and the AWP to be wider than just AWP secretaries. Asked for a breakdown of the white paper responses by industry but HH stated that this was not available yet.</p>	

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4.	<p>Annual Aggregates Monitoring Report 2019</p> <p>KT informed the meeting that the drafting of this report has been delayed because collated sales and reserves data has not yet been yielded from the national Aggregate Minerals Survey 2019. However progress should be made quite soon, as the data collated to date is due to be shared with AWP Secretaries and MPAs as part of the data validation exercise. Work will begin on drafting the report shortly and it is the intention is to have a draft report prepared and circulated in the new year, with a finalised report published by 31 March 2021. The Report will need to be agreed outside the meeting via email correspondence.</p> <p>NH mentioned that some sales had been unallocated to destinations and the BGS were chasing these up with operators. The MPA had been encouraging members to ensure there were no gaps in the data.</p> <p>KT stated thanks for the good response from MPA and BAA members.</p>	<p>ACTION: KT to progress draft report and circulate for comment</p>
5.	<p>Local Aggregates Assessments</p> <p><u>Joint LAA for County Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear</u> JM provided an overview of the County Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear Joint LAA that has been submitted to the AWP and which was circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>The key areas that are updated each year are the Executive Summary and Chapters 4, 5 and 6. JM went through some key places to focus when reviewing the document. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table 1.1 showing the balance between supply and demand. • Dashboard tables for the three sub-regions providing headline figures; • Key data on land won aggregate reserves, permitted reserves, marine won aggregates and sales data in Chapter 4; • Revised tables including information on reserves and what it was felt these sites would contribute over time; • Forecasted demand in Chapter 5 using historic sales data. It was felt that it was too early to take into account the impact of the pandemic on future sales. • Chapter 6, looking at supply options by sub-regions. <p>JM shared some of the headlines from the assessment. Sales of sand and gravel (955,000 to 1.048 million tonnes) and crushed rock (4.754 to 5.675 million tonnes) both increased, with a particularly notable rise in crushed rock. Reserves in both fell. The annual demand proposed has increased from 4.8 to 5.6 million tonnes for crushed rock, and from 948,000 tonnes to 992,000 tonnes.</p> <p>The merits of using the 3 year sales average to calculate annual demand was discussed, with it noted that this may be problematical when 2020 sales figure will need to be included. KT stated that the issues were noted and that the methodology may need to be re-looked at for future years to ensure its</p>	<p>ACTION: Comments on LAA to be sent to KT by 18 December 2020.</p> <p>ACTION: KT to send AWP's response to MPAs in January 2021.</p>

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	<p>appropriateness.</p> <p>It was agreed that members would have an opportunity to review the document after the meeting and provide any comments to feed into the AWP's response. CT advised that any comments should be sent to KT by Friday 18 December 2020.</p> <p>KT would then prepare the response and send this to the MPAs in January 2021.</p> <p><u>Joint LAA for Tees Valley</u> CG provided an update on the Tees Valley Joint LAA.</p> <p>A draft LAA using 2017 data was prepared and submitted to the North East AWP in late 2019. The feedback from the AWP was received in January 2020. The LAA has not yet been finalised and requires additional information in order to do this. This has taken longer than expected due to the Local Plan commitments of the five authorities. Previously one authority has led on preparing it but likely to be moving to a rota system where one of the authorities leads on the update of the LAA each year.</p> <p>The intention is to undertake the next update of the LAA in early 2021. This will allow the update to take into account findings from the national aggregate minerals survey 2019.</p>	
6.	<p>Aggregate minerals survey for 2020</p> <p>KT stated that it was still the plan to do the survey forms early next year to collect 2020 data. Efforts were being made to ensure there were no issues with overlap of the 2019 survey.</p>	
7.	<p>Industry update</p> <p>NH circulated an update on construction activity and markets for mineral products and slides on construction and mineral products markets in the North East (though these used 2019 data). Clarified that the regional narrative remained the same.</p> <p>Restrictions allowing, there are plans for a RTPI/MPA conference and a 'Living with Minerals' conference next year.</p> <p>CT stated that they had found in Durham that a few sites had closed during the first lockdown but most sites had continued through, and asked if this was the same picture nationally. MH replied that it was very dependent on location; site working had been particularly problematical in Scotland. Other issues had included animosity towards drivers including being stopped by the police. These had been resolved with three ministerial letters.</p> <p>GS added that the Government had confirmed that the minerals sector was critical and during the pandemic the essentiality of minerals had been recognised. This included the sector providing concrete to the Nightingale Hospitals and products to ensure the transport networks are maintained. It was noticeable Highways England were still proceeding with road improvement schemes in the North East. With less traffic on the roads, the lockdown had</p>	

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	<p>provided a good opportunity to undertake works.</p> <p>PH stated that members had generally fared pretty well, with those that had shut down normally only remaining so for a few weeks. The picture was very variable. There had been some difficulties in Scotland but some sites have recorded record sales. As a sector, the picture is quite optimistic.</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. A form has been circulated for MPAs to complete with this information and this will be provided with the meeting notes in order to provide a full update.</p> <p><u>Durham County Council</u> The County Durham Local Plan was adopted in October 2020. JM thanked those present for their comments and contributions.</p> <p>Durham County Council is commencing work to prepare a minerals and waste policies and allocations document, which will be a daughter document to the Local Plan. Durham will be releasing a notice of intent to prepare this document and a call for sites in January 2021.</p> <p>JM informed that Durham County Council had also been carrying out their own survey of operators to gather sales and reserves information and this was very useful for informing the LAA. MH queried the purpose of the survey forms and whether they were still required after conversations at the Local Plan examination hearings. It was clarified that the forms were voluntary and not covered by condition. The industry co-operation is appreciated but it is not a requirement.</p> <p><u>Northumberland County Council</u> KT stated the examination of the Northumberland Local Plan is progressing following the submission of the plan in May 2019. Specific examination hearing sessions for the minerals topic were held in February 2020. It is anticipated that a consultation on the main modifications to the plan will take place in early 2021.</p> <p>Currently have two significant planning applications that have recently been submitted and are pending determination. These are for a new site at Shiel Dykes to the south of Alnwick, which would involve the extraction of 5 million tonnes of whinstone, and an extension to Divet Hill Quarry near Capheaton, which would involve the extraction of a further 2.7 million tonnes of whinstone extension (both of which are proposed allocations in the emerging Local Plan). Full details are provided on the circulated update.</p> <p><u>Northumberland National Park Authority</u> The Local Plan was adopted in July 2020.</p> <p><u>Gateshead Council</u> A main modifications consultation on the site allocations and development management policies document ('Making Spaces for Growing Places') took place in Summer 2020 following the examination hearings in 2019. It is anticipated that this document will be adopted in January 2021. The process of</p>	<p>ACTION: KT to circulate update with the meeting notes.</p>

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	<p>reviewing the Joint Core Strategy with Newcastle City Council has commenced. There have been no applications to report.</p> <p><u>Tees Valley Authorities / Middlesbrough Council</u></p> <p>The Tees Valley Minerals and Waste DPDs were adopted by the five Tees Valley authorities in 2011.</p> <p>The Middlesbrough Local Plan publication draft has been withdrawn following a change in administration at the Council. As a result, work has gone back to the Regulation 18 stage and the Council now intends to consult on preferred options in late spring/early summer next year. There have been no new relevant planning applications in Middlesbrough.</p> <p><u>South Tyneside Council</u></p> <p>Consultation on the draft Local Plan took place last year. Now working towards the Publication Draft going out to consultation in late spring 2021. Following comments received, the one policy covering minerals is now being split up to deal with safeguarding matters separately. Whitburn Neighbourhood Plan is going out to consultation in December, and this covers the area where Marsden Quarry is located.</p> <p><u>Sunderland City Council</u></p> <p>The Regulation 18 draft allocations plan goes out to consultation from the 18 December 2020. The plan will include provision for the safeguarding of Eppleton Quarry. There have been no relevant planning applications.</p>	
9.	<p>Any other business</p> <p><u>Environment Agency consultation</u></p> <p>NH discussed a consultation that had taken place by the Environment Agency, titled 'Non-Hazardous and Inert Waste'. This proposed all processing of inert waste to take place inside a building, which could be very challenging. It was flagged up as could become a consideration in site allocations. CT stated that Durham had commented on the consultation and raised similar concerns.</p> <p><u>Marine aggregates</u></p> <p>KT stated that he will share updated information on marine aggregates from the Crown Estates.</p> <p><u>Upcoming work priorities for the North East AWP</u></p> <p>KT outlined that the anticipated work priorities for the North East AWP in the coming months and year would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish annual aggregates monitoring report for 2019 • Undertake survey of sales and reserves for 2020 • Production of annual monitoring report for 2020 • Scrutiny of the Local Aggregate Assessments prepared by the MPAs in North East England • Responses to relevant consultations <p>There may be a need to review these work streams if there are changes to the contract specifications from April 2021 and if there are changes to the secretariat.</p>	<p>ACTION: KT to circulate marine aggregates information</p>

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10.	<p>Date of next meeting MH queried whether NEAWP should have two meetings a year. NH and PH both stated that other AWP's meet more regularly and that there are benefits in that approach. It was generally agreed that a second meeting might be beneficial. CT stated that the NEAWP would aim for a meeting around June and another around November/December. No dates were set at this time.</p> <p>CT thanked KT for his work throughout the year as secretary. CT thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.</p>	<p>ACTION: Arrange meeting for summer 2021</p>