

Draft minutes of the Joint SWRAWP/NWRAWP RTS review
meeting
Monday 30th September, 2013.

Present: -

Martin Hooker (Chairman) – Consultant
Steve Bool (Secretary-SWRAWP/Bridgend CBC)
Mark Frampton (MPA-Hanson UK)
Hugh Towns (Carms County Council)
Ruth Amundson (Caerphilly County Borough Council)
Ruth Henderson (City and County of Swansea)
Stuart Williams (Cardiff CC)
Malcolm Lawer (MPA-Lafarge Tarmac)
Joanne Smith(WAG)
Graham Dorrington(Ceredigion CBC)
Gary Nancarrow(Secretary- NWRAWP/Flintshire CC)
Hannah Parrish(N Wales shared service/Flintshire CC)
Ken Hobden(MPA)
Owen Jones(RCTCBC)
Ceri Morris (NPTCBC)
Lindsay Christian(Newport CC)
Adrian Wilcock(Torfaen CBC)
Lynda Healey (Blaenau Gwent CBC)
Tom Boothroyd (Carms CC)
Andrew Bower (MPA-Hanson UK)
Martina Dunne(Pembs CNPA)
Justin Waite(Merthyr Tydfil CBC)
Chris Allwood(Welsh Slate)
Mike McGee(MPA-Cardigan sand and Gravel)
Andrew Farrow(Flintshire CC)
Alan Thompson(Consultant)
D Gareth Jones(N Wales Shared Mineral service/Gwynedd CC)

1. Apologies

Karen Maddock–Jones (CCW)
Basil Hollington-(WG)
Chris Morgan(BBNP)
Murray Alston (BAA)
Chris O'Brien (Powys CC)

2. Presentation on draft RTS documents and discussion of issues

An introduction was given identifying the role of the RTS review steering group and the work that had been undertaken to-date. The purpose of the RTS review was then described and a presentation given identifying the key issues that need to be addressed.

It was confirmed for the purpose of the review, dormant sites would be excluded from the reserves figures including suspended sites. The main elements of the review were identified as set out in the draft RTS review circulated prior to the meeting (3rd draft).

In assessing the demand for aggregates, it was confirmed sales data over the last 10 years has been used rather than the historical 3 year timespan. The years covered are 2001-2010. Other influences that may effect demand have also been taken into consideration such as GDP, major infrastructure projects, housing completions etc. In comparison the situation in England is that there appears to be a rather inconsistent approach to demand forecasting with no single method adopted.

Overall, it has been concluded the demand in Wales is unlikely to change significantly over the next 10 years.

Attention was drawn to a potential change in what materials are currently considered exempt under the Aggregates Levy. This may result in a change in the market for certain types of aggregates (until now slate waste/shale/slugs have been exempt.) No timescale is known for this EU- driven change in legislation but it may be imminent and operators could face a bill for back-dated payments.

There is still a need to obtain robust data on c and d waste and to a lesser degree secondary aggregates. Without this data it is very difficult to determine the contribution such material make to the aggregates market in Wales. The WG are currently investigating this issue. In terms of the existing supply pattern, the overall location of quarry sites in relation to major settlements appears to satisfy the proximity principle. Maps that highlight the notional 20k travel limit from sites/wharves were referred to, to illustrate this point. It is difficult to determine, however, if the issue of environmental capacity has been satisfied to the maximum acceptable level without more detailed assessment at a local level.

With regard to the safeguarding of aggregate resources it was acknowledged MPA officers needed to make it very clear to their elected members these did not represent allocations. Otherwise unnecessary concerns may be raised which may delay the RTS review process.

A question was raised about the meaning of the term "demand" and it was considered this needed to be made very clear in the RTS document. In a similar vein, it was also considered the term "environmental capacity" needed to be clearly defined to avoid any mis-interpretation.

It was acknowledged the apportionment figures issued to-date were generally the same as in the current RTS, although there are exceptions with some relatively significant changes in one or two authorities which are likely to require adjustments.

In North Wales it may be desirable to change the pattern of supply of land based sand and gravel from the north- west to north- east Wales. However, it was noted this may be due to a difference in the type of sand that was available in each area which may influence any final decision.

In South Wales, there may be merit in reducing reliance on sand and gravel within the Pembrokeshire NPA. Also in relation to hsa (high psv sandstone) an eastward shift may be considered beneficial to reduce rail journey to markets in the south east of England.

In order to achieve a more consistent supply of limestone in the eastern part of the region, additional provision should be accommodated in this area.

After discussion, it was agreed to leave the reserve figures as circulated and wait for the consultation responses.

With reference to allocations, it was acknowledged some of the identified shortfalls have already been satisfied by the grant of new planning permissions and allocations in emerging LDP's.

A question was raised about a site within NPTCBC which didn't appear to sit well with the contents of para 5.1.6. It was agreed this would be considered further.

The definition of the term allocation was discussed and it was acknowledged that ideally allocations should be defined by a specific site and where this could not be achieved it should be defined as a preferred area. Areas of search would only be used as a last resort where there is no information on the quantity/quality of the resource.

It was agreed there would be one RTS review document for the whole of Wales rather than one for the two regions. It was noted the WG would produce a letter confirming the departures (10 year average/dormant sites) from MTAN 1. The letter should make reference to the discussions by the steering group of the RAWP's which have influenced the development of the new document and recognition there will always need to be refinement of existing new policy/guidance to reflect changes in circumstances.

On SEA it was agreed the stance taken in the current RTS would continue to be employed acknowledging it is a technical document basically setting out a strategy with no defined spatial implications. It was agreed this view would be included in the Executive summary to be circulated for consultation purposes.

Consultation process.

The steps to be taken as part of the consultation exercise were discussed and it was agreed a revised schedule/timetable be circulated so that all participants were aware of the process to be followed. In brief, there would be a consultation period of 8 weeks. A consultation report covering and responding to all representations. A consultation presentation to all parties in venues in South and N. Wales. A Member Forum to finally endorse the document (MPA/BAA would be invited to this) at a meeting to be convened in Newtown. If at all possible the end process date should be the end of March, 2014. To achieve this date, a

programme of events/meetings would be circulated asap. It was agreed the executive summary would be translated into Welsh as part of the contract. An officer translation would be used for the RAWP websites. Reps would be invited in Welsh or English.

It was agreed a standard letter be prepared by the RAWP secretaries for circulation to officers to spell out what actions they need to take to ensure the RTS review is circulated to all parties. This would be accompanied by a letter from WG and the revised draft RTS review.

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4. AOB

No AOB.

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