

Minutes of First Yorkshire and Humber AWP Meeting 2023

14 June 2023 2pm – 3.11pm

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Chair: Vicky Perkin		North Yorkshire Council
Secretariat: Frances Summers		Capita
Attendees: Vicky Perkin (Chair), Malcolm Ratcliff MPA, Joan Jackson (North Yorkshire) Frances Summers (Secretariat), Mark North (MPA), Nick Reeves (Kirklees), Geoff Storey, Heather Louise Lealan (Cemex), Christopher CS Cole (East Riding), Mark Wrigley (The Crown Estate), James Durham (North Lincolnshire), Michael Hurtley (North Lincolnshire), Paula Tweed (Barnsley), Louise White (Leeds), Chris Hanson (Sheffield), Kwame Steadman (Leeds), Oliver Howells (Kirklees), Farzana Tabasum (Leeds), Andy Duncan (Rotherham), Niamh Murphy (DLUHC), Helen McCluskie (Doncaster Council), Louisa White (Leeds City Council), Sukaina Devraj (North Yorkshire Council), Tom Bannister (East Riding), Tiffany Cox (Tarmac), Kris Furness (Breedon Group).		
Apologies: Helen Miller (Leeds), Ian Garrett (Wakefield), Roger Gray (Hull City), Carole Howarth (City of Bradford), Rob Smith (North York Moors National Park Authority).		
Agenda item	Description	Action
1.	Introductions and apologies Thank you to all who has attended and welcome to a few new faces attending on behalf of others or joining the meeting for the first time.	
2.	Minutes and actions of last meeting The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and can be found at Appendix A. No outstanding actions but for reference the WYCA LAA is available at - west-yorkshire-local-aggregate-assessment-2021-data-dec-2022.pdf (westyorks-ca.gov.uk) . and royal-haskoningdhv-report-for-the-wyca-marine-aggregates-study-redacted-21dec2022-inc-app.pdf (westyorks-ca.gov.uk) Helen McCluskie is requested to forward the condition to FS for circulation.	HM to forward condition to FS and FS to circulate condition

3.	<p>Yorkshire and Humber Aggregate Working Party Annual Monitoring Report 2021 Ratification</p> <p>The annual monitoring report 2021, which contains the data from 2019 and 2020, was circulated by Vanessa earlier in 2022 and by Frances Summers in 2022/23.</p>	FS to recheck figures add up then recirculate.
4.	<p>Local Aggregate Assessments</p> <p>1. West Yorkshire Five West Yorkshire authorities are working together again and procuring consultants like last year.</p> <p>2. Sheffield City Council As they are small and only need to report on some secondary aggregates and recycling, it was asked if any other areas could provide any advice.</p> <p>3. Humber Humber LAA (Appendix C) was circulated and received 2 responses. This is now considered ratified.</p>	
5.	<p>YHAWP Surveys 2023</p> <p>Authorities discussed how many returns they'd received so far this year, and FS suggested a cut off point was needed after which returns would not be accepted and estimations would need to be made. FS asked when this cut off point should be set.</p> <p>Helen at Doncaster – remarked returns come in as late as August.</p> <p>James at Humber – MPA are best placed to make estimates. 9 operators and received 5 Out of 8 wharf operators – received only 1 return. Chasing regularly.</p> <p>Louise at Leeds – single developer that doesn't respond haven't for many years so can't estimate. Has around 60% of returns so far.</p> <p>Joan at North Yorkshire – still waiting to hear from some.</p> <p>Tarmac and MPA offered assistance chasing any relevant operators with whom they had connections.</p>	<p>Please chase operators and send returns to FS as soon as possible. Thank you for your efforts.</p> <p>FS to ask DLUHC about a cut off point, and it was suggested that late August would be that time. Then in September estimates could be made prior to the draft report being circulated before October's meeting.</p>

	<p>The point was raised about applying pragmatism to responses in that if the majority of responses were returned, it would be sensible to submit and not necessarily wait for a small operator that wouldn't make much of a difference to the figures.</p> <p>Having said that, some authorities remarked that their administrative area was made up of many small operators where a response would make a significant difference.</p>	
6.	<p>MPA update</p> <p>Leeds - Leeds has commenced work on an update to our minerals and waste plan in a local plan review called LLP2040. We are doing an extra long reg 18, split into two phases. The initial screening consultation has concluded and reps are being analysed. After this, another consultation will take place which will include some targeted meetings with the minerals industry.</p> <p>Leeds asked a question about whether planning authorities have used a district target/apportionment, or whether inspectors have accepted a joint county target? Members agreed that a statement of common ground meeting the duty to cooperate should be sufficient to demonstrate the needs of the county is being met.</p>	FS to highlight this answer to Leeds.
7.	<p>Industry Update – MPA</p> <p>UK ECONOMY</p> <p>This year's forecasts for the UK economy have improved with activity so far more resilient than expected. As it stands, though, output is still fractional smaller than it was last July, with ongoing strike disruption, weak business investment and high inflation meaning that the second half of 2023 will remain challenging. The Bank of England raised interest rates again in May and now expects inflation to slow to around 5% by the end of 2023. Further tightening in monetary policy is likely given growing evidence of persistent domestic price pressures.</p> <p>CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>Construction output reached a record level at the end of 2023Q1, supported by pockets of growth in industrial and private RM&I sectors. But risks lie to the downside, with new work starting on site down 41% in the three months to April against the same period in 2022, with a 44% decline in residential starts underlining a sizable loss of</p>	M to provide link to Minerals Product Survey with separate section on all regions – See appendix B.

	<p>momentum in housebuilding. The CPA expects a 6.4% downturn in construction activity this year before a cautious rebound in 2024, although this will be dependent on contracts activity improving after a slow start to the year and the economy rallying after a period of heightened financial volatility.</p> <p>MPA MINERAL PRODUCTS MARKETS FORECAST (2023-25, GB)</p> <p>With total construction output now expected to slow more sharply in 2023, the outlook for mineral products demand has deteriorated compared to our previous forecast published three months ago. Sales volumes of ready-mixed concrete and crushed rock are both expected to fall by 4% this year, sand & gravel by 5% and asphalt by 6%. After a particularly robust performance in 2021 and 2022, mortar sales are set for an 11% reduction in volumes this year on the back of a sharp loss of momentum in new private housing starts. Sales of mineral products are then expected to resume growth next year, with volumes expected to rise between 1% to 2% across all markets monitored, although there is clearly a fair amount of risk around this scenario should the revival in economic and construction growth be pushed further into 2024.</p> <p>FS circulated outcomes from MPA recently. They included the annual survey, construction and minerals products market, with a separate section on all regions (which Mark was asked to provide) and SMART regulation in the minerals product sector.</p> <p>Finally – a reminder that it is the RTPI MPA conference tomorrow (15 June 2023).</p>	
8.	<p>Crown Estate update</p> <p>From the marine aggregate tender that took place in 2021, areas have come through for Humber region. It's going through plan level Habitat Regulations Assessment at the minute, if successful, then looking to sign bidders up to 6 year exploration agreements commencing early September.</p>	

<p>9.</p>	<p>DLUHC update</p> <p>LURB – The Bill is through the committee stage at the House of Lords – many amendments and debates have led to a delay. UK Government are still aiming for royal ascent as soon as possible (possibly Autumn but this is unconfirmed). There have been many government consultations recently:</p> <p>Consultations – The NPPF consultation closed in March and 26,000 responses were received which the team are busy analysing. They will publish a response as soon as possible. Planning fees, Environmental outcome reports and infrastructure levy consultations have also recently closed which hopefully everyone got the opportunity to feed in to.</p> <p>4 yearly Aggregate Minerals Survey - DLUHC will be commencing the 4 yearly Aggregate Minerals Survey soon. They are working on procurement at present, preparing tender documents, undertaking a pre-tender exercise to test their brief etc. A contract is expected to be in place by August/September 2023 and survey work will commence in January 2024. The survey will collect 2023 data.</p> <p>Guidelines- Guidelines are being updated. Draft circulated back in January received many helpful comments that will be reviewed, the final draft will be taken to a task and finish group for review. Following this, the guidelines will be reviewed by the wider national aggregates coordinating group Issues were raised regarding the 4 yearly survey and how it will experience the same issues the LPA does when trying to extract returns from operators.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Letter to DLUHC</p> <p>Members suggested operators should be required to give LPA's their responses to ensure the information being received is sufficient and of enough breadth. Chasing companies takes up a lot of time and this can impact on the production of LAA's.</p>	<p>NM – enquire about the exploration of acquiring data by other means already in use, to avoid the difficulty in obtaining returns from operators.</p>

	<p>As the LURB is ongoing, it seems the opportune time to write to DLUHC and ask them to consider making this requirement in the changes. If this was carried out, it would provide a legal basis for LPA's to require information.</p> <p>It was noted that all operators submit a number of compulsory sales returns for business purposes and this knowledge prompted the question of whether exploration of data being collected via different ways had been considered. Members noted that GDPR had made things more difficult but Niamh from DLUHC would enquire further.</p> <p>James reiterated that this letter had been discussed at 4 meetings already and wanted agreement to send. Other members supported James' view (Leeds, Doncaster, Tom). Other members required a relook at the letter to check whether it was still satisfactory to send. FS to circulate for 2 weeks, if no response is received it will be considered that the member had no comments.</p> <p>Niamh confirmed DLUHC were in discussions with other government departments about exploring obtaining data by other means than return. In the mean time, it was remarked that those who do not return information tend not to be part of the BAA and Niamh suggested showing them some slides that may help them to see the bigger picture of the value of their returns.</p>	<p>FS to circulate letter to DLUHC (See appendix D) and require comment within 2 weeks, if no response is received it will be considered that the member had no comments. After this, the letter will be sent to DLUHC with all AWP members copied into the email.</p> <p>NM to send FS powerpoint slides showing value of returns, FS to circulate to AWP group. See Appendix E.</p>
11.	<p>Need for a vice chair</p> <p>It was noted that there may be a need for a Vice Chair to increase the resilience of the group.</p> <p>It was agreed that FS would check the Terms of Reference and if it was possible to appoint a vice chair, an invitation to express interest in the role would be circulated.</p>	<p>FS check Terms of Reference. If possible, to appoint a vice chair, send out an expression of interest email. If not, update the group.</p>

12.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>UDP? As North Yorkshire and others are currently in the process of moving to a unitary authority, it was questioned whether there would be a Unitary Development Plan in progress soon. Vicky confirmed that the council priority is to embark on a Local Plan for the area that did not include Minerals and Waste in the immediate future.</p> <p>New development for Leeds? Louise at Leeds informed the group of a potentially new sand and gravel plant that could contribute a significant amount to the region supply.</p>	
13.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Please make yourself available or send someone else to the final meeting for 2023:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****Tuesday 10 October 2023 at 1000hours*****</p>	
Appendices	<p>Appendix A: Minutes of previous meeting (December 2022) without appendices (see attached)</p> <p>Appendix B: Regional Overview of Construction and Mineral Productions Markets</p> <p>Appendix C: Humber LAA (see attached)</p> <p>Appendix D: Letter to DLUHC</p> <p>Appendix E: Powerpoint presentation showing the value of returns (See attached)</p>	

Appendix B –

https://www.mineralproducts.org/MPA/media/root/Documents/2023/Regional_overview_of_construction_and_mineral_products_markets_in_GB_Spring_2023.pdf

Appendix D –

Dear Christina,

MANDATORY OPERATOR RETURNS TO THE ANNUAL AGGREGATES SURVEY

I am writing to raise our concern that a significant number of primary aggregate producers are not providing information on their annual sales and remaining permitted reserves when requested to do so by ourselves and other Mineral Planning Authorities. This is an issue that has been raised repeatedly at meetings of the Yorkshire and Humber Aggregate Working Party (YHAWP).

Survey information from primary aggregate producers is vital to ensure accurate information is used, enabling the Managed Aggregate Supply System to respond appropriately to any shortages of building material. This is critical to guarantee a continuous and uninterrupted supply of construction material where it is needed and if the Government is to achieve its housebuilding aspirations.

For several years, Mineral Planning Authorities across the country have had no choice but to produce estimates for both sales and reserves for those quarries where returns have not been submitted. Even where returns have been submitted, it can only be after a significant amount of time has been spent sending out reminder emails/phone calls.

Under paragraph 213 of the NPPF, Mineral Planning Authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates by preparing Local Aggregate Assessments and by maintaining at least a 7 year landbank for sand and gravel and a 10 year landbank of crushed rock aggregates. The consequence of inaccurate information means that at both a local and regional level, Mineral Planning Authorities and Aggregate Working Parties are unable to have confidence in the data in their Local Aggregate Assessments and regional Annual Monitoring Reports. At present, accurate data to be able to forecast the demand for aggregates or understand what the current supply is to fulfil growth ambitions is limited.

It is requested that the Department of Levelling Up, Homes and Communities intervenes to make it mandatory that primary aggregate producing operators return information relating to sales and remaining permitted reserves on an annual basis upon the request of Mineral Planning Authorities. The AWP group views this as the only solution to the on-going problem of some operators not returning this vital information.

It is noted the Levelling Up Bill currently progressing proposes that new commencement notices would be required from developers of certain applications prior to starting work, giving the intended commencement date of works on the application. They are also likely to have to provide



other information, such as the expected delivery rate of the scheme and the anticipated completion date. There is similarly the potential for mineral operators to be required to provide information on aggregate reserves and sales to help ease the work involved in getting information from operators due to it not currently being a mandatory legal requirement.

The Levelling Up Bill will also enable local authorities to require the assistance of infrastructure providers and other bodies in devising infrastructure delivery strategies and their development plans. Mineral operators could be included within this provision in regulations so as to compel them to submit monitoring information (such as annual sales and reserve tonnages) into the Managed Aggregate Supply System.

Another potential solution raised at the YHAWP is to reinstate the Annual Mineral Raised Inquiry (AMRI).

We look forward to discussing this with you in the near future. We are happy to provide additional information in relation to this that you may require.

Yours sincerely,

Yorkshire and Humber Aggregate Working Party