



**Minutes of Yorkshire and Humber AWP Meeting  
2pm - 4pm – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020  
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams**

**Chair:** Vicky Perkin                      North Yorkshire CC  
**Secretariat:** Vanessa Rowell        Capita

**Attendees:**

Geoff Storey	Aggregate Industries
James Durham	East Riding of Yorkshire
Mark North	MPA
Vicky Perkin	North Yorkshire CC
Joan Jackson	North Yorkshire CC
Ryan Shepherd	Rotherham MBC
Clair Shields	North York Moors
Katie Gowthorpe	East Riding of Yorkshire
Roger Gray	Hull
Mark Wrigley	The Crown Estate
Stephen Cowan	Tarmac
Farzana Tabasum	Kirklees
Hannah Morrison	Kirklees
Johanna Scrutton	Kirklees
Anita Seymour	Calderdale
Steve Littlejohn	Leeds City Council
Louise White	Leeds City Council
Carole Howarth	Bradford
Peter Huxtable	British Aggregates
Michael Eaglestone	Wakefield
Chris Hanson	Sheffield

**Apologies:**

Andy Duncan	Rotherham MBC
Nick Horsley	MPA
Helen McCluskie	Doncaster
Helen Miller	Leeds

Item	Description
1.	Introductions and apologies
2.	Minutes and actions of last meeting
3.	AM 2019 – Update
4.	Aggregate Minerals Survey 2019 Update and Local Aggregate Assessments
5.	MPA's Update - Progress on Development Plans
6.	Industry Update
7.	Crown Estate Update
8.	AOB
9.	Date of next meeting

### 1. Introductions

1.1 Vicky Perkin (VP) Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Minutes and actions of last meeting

2.1 VP went through the minutes from the last meeting asking if there were any comments on the minutes.

2.2 VR went through the actions on page 3, paragraph 3.3 of the minutes, stating that she circulated the draft AMR 2019. VR has circulated 3 drafts of the AMR, the most recent being circulated on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 which included calculations for the secondary aggregates. Now just waiting for any more comments on the latest of draft of the AMR.

2.3 It was confirmed that the minutes are a correct record of the last meeting.

### 3. AM2019 – Update

3.1 VR mentioned that the latest draft was circulated on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020, including figures on the secondary aggregates. VR thanked JD for providing guidance on the methodology to use to calculate the secondary aggregates for each authority. VR explained that unfortunately using this methodology does not produce the same figures that were previously reported for 2017, 2016, 2016 and the years before that. VR and several other colleagues have tried to figure out what methodology was used to produce the figures in previous years, but this has unfortunately not proved fruitful. VR suggested that the methodology sent over by JD is used to calculate secondary aggregate figures, and that

these figures will be reported in the AMR2019 and subsequent reports. Once the comments are received on the latest draft and any alterations are made, VR anticipates finalising and publishing the report.

**Action: All to provide comments on the AMR 2019 and return these to VR by 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**

#### **4. Aggregate Minerals Survey 2019 Update and Progress on Local Aggregate Assessments**

4.1 VR mentioned that the AMS still has not been circulated. VR mentioned that there have been reports that staff at quarries have been furloughed in light of the Covid-19 crisis. VR mentioned that there has been concern from local authority members in the North West AWP over how long they wait for the national survey to be circulated, before they decide to send out their own returns forms to local operators to be able to produce their LAAs. VR asked members of the YHAWP whether local authority members have any concerns over this matter.

4.2 CH stated that the combined West Yorkshire Authorities are probably going to make a decision to not undertake the LAA this year. The authorities are yet to formally decide, but the suggested approach is to delay the LAA until next year to cover 2020 and 2021.

4.3 MN mentioned that the MPA have been in discussions with MHCLG over the survey, and that a lot of the industry have been Furloughed. The industry side of the survey will be reviewed in September. Around February time, the East of England and East Midlands AWP's decided to continue with their own surveys because there was no clarity coming from MHCLG at the time. However, MHCLG have stated that they are confident that the information will be out in time for local authorities to use it for their LAAs.

#### **5. MPA's Update – Progress on Development Plans**

##### **Bradford**

5.1 Have an adopted Core Strategy which has strong policies regarding minerals. Having a core strategy review at the moment, but there is no intention to change the minerals policies. There is an allocations DPD on preferred options consultation, which will be published before Christmas.

**Commented [VR1]:** Carole, please could you provide an update? Unfortunately the sound quality was not very good on the recording when you were giving your update.

##### **North Yorkshire**

5.2 Doing a combined Local Plan with North York Moors and York. The Inspector has had a look through the main modifications to the Minerals and Waste Plan and has indicated that she is largely satisfied with them. Still waiting on some Sustainability

Appraisal work and Habitats Regulations Assessment work from consultants which should be ready by July 2020, before the plan can go out for consultation.

### **Leeds**

5.3 The Leeds Core Strategy Selective Review was adopted in September 2019 with a small number of selective updates primarily focussed on a reduction in the housing target to take account of the Government's new methodology for calculating housing need. The Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan 2013 is to be reviewed as part of the Local Plan Update and the Council welcomes input from the mineral industry into the review. The Site Allocations Plan was adopted in July 2019 but has been the subject of a high court challenge by a Neighbourhood Forum. The claim was allowed on three of seven grounds raised. These three grounds related to three legal errors on the part of the government planning inspectors. None of these three grounds found that Leeds City Council itself had proceeded unlawfully, or took a legally flawed approach to the Site Allocations Plan. The Council are waiting for a remedy to be suggested by the judge.

### **Kirklees**

5.4 Has an adopted Local Plan as of February 2019.

### **East Riding and Hull**

5.5 Adopted the joint Minerals Plan with Hull City Council in November 2019. No plan to review the Minerals Plan as yet. Minerals production troubling at the moment because of Covid-19, so will have to see what effect that has had on the policies in the plan in due course. Reviewing the general Local Plan on housing, economic development and other issues. A consultation on this is scheduled for Autumn 2020. The general Local Plan will include Mineral Safeguarding Areas

### **Rotherham**

5.6 Have an up to date Local Plan. Progressing a partial update to the Local Plan. A consultation on it is anticipated to take place in Autumn 2021.

### **Doncaster**

5.7 Doncaster's Local Plan contains the minerals policies in chapter 15. The document was submitted to the Inspectorate for examination on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020. We are currently dealing with matters and issues and the plan is to hold the hearings in October / November this year at the Doncaster Civic Offices. Due to the current situation the provisional timetable, and how the event can be run, will be kept under review by the Inspector, in liaison with the Council.

### **North Lincolnshire**

5.8 North Lincolnshire Council are producing a new local plan for the district covering the period 2017 to 2036. The Council undertook a Regulation 18 consultation on its preferred options plan in spring 2020. It is anticipated that a publication draft

will be produced for consultation in the Autumn with submission to the Secretary of State at the end of the year. The Council is aiming to adopt the plan following examination in 2021.

### **Calderdale**

5.9 Just received Matters, Issues and Questions from the Inspector, with the aim of starting the EIP hearings in September 2020. Calderdale has not been given any dates as yet. It was delayed because the authority was asked to allocate more housing sites

### **Sheffield**

5.10 We will be finishing the Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation by the end of July 2020, with Regulation 19 consultation scheduled to take place next year, with adoption expected 2022.

### **Wakefield**

5.11 Producing a new Local Plan up until 2036 which has been delayed. Wakefield have conducted a Preferred Option consultation and are currently drafting the proposed submission document. The consultation on the proposed submission consultation has been delayed to take place in October 2020. One of the issues is that it focusses on housing and industrial growth, and the proposed growth is mainly around Nottingly, which is a magnesium limestone resource. There's going to need to be a relationship between working with the magnesium limestone reserve and new development in the area. This is an issue which will effect the reserves of magnesium limestone up until 2036, but the plan is to account for this in relevant LAAs.

## **6 Industry Update (Mark North)**

6.1 MACROECONOMIC UPDATE - The UK economy contracted by 2% in 2020Q1 compared to the previous quarter as social distancing and lockdown measures severely disrupted economic activity. A more significant impact on the UK economy is likely to have fed through in April and May, with business surveys available so far indicating historically low levels of activity, whilst household spending also fell sharply. According to the Bank of England, the pandemic will result in a sharp but largely temporary economic shock, with UK GDP expected to contract by 14% in 2020 as a whole, before recovering in 2021.

6.2 MACROECONOMIC UPDATE - The UK economy contracted by 2% in 2020Q1 compared to the previous quarter as social distancing and lockdown measures severely disrupted economic activity. A more significant impact on the UK economy is likely to have fed through in April and May, with business surveys available so far indicating historically low levels of activity, whilst household spending also fell sharply. According to the Bank of England, the pandemic will result in a sharp but largely temporary economic shock, with UK GDP expected to contract by 14% in 2020 as a whole, before recovering in 2021.

- 6.3 MPA MARKET FORECAST UPDATE - Mineral products markets have been severely disrupted as a result of the pandemic. Measures introduced by Government to reduce the spread of the virus resulted in a reduction in operations and a closure of construction sites across the UK. As a result, mineral products markets including aggregates, asphalt, ready-mixed concrete (RMC) and mortar in 2020 are expected to be markedly weaker due to the disruption to the UK economy and construction caused by COVID-19. Growth is expected to return from 2021 as the industry adjusts to updated working guidelines, while work on major infrastructure projects accelerate.
- 6.4 The MPA have submitted a planning policy document to MHCLG in advance of the planning white paper. There are various suggestions on how the mineral planning system could be improved. The paper was circulated by VR a couple of weeks prior to the YHAWP Meeting.
- 6.5 PH mentioned that in term of BAA Members, most have kept operating in a fairly normal way. Some operators did shut down at the beginning of lockdown, but most BAA Members have restarted mainly within England and Wales, but Scotland has been different. Very few sites have been operating in Scotland. Breedon has continued to keep operating at a reasonable level and it has been increasing. Cemex have reported at other AWP meetings that they have managed to keep operating at fairly normal levels. However for some of the other major operators it has been different. BAA members have continued to do well, particularly if they are into the agricultural sector or close to construction sites. By and large construction has come back up to 90% of their sites operating, at about 75 – 80% capacity which his encouraging.
- 6.6 MN mentioned that one of the issues as production increases is social distancing. Social distancing measures will slow down production.
- 6.7 SC mentioned that Tarmac in Scotland is just getting to crushing this week. Managed to fulfil their business for Scotland from two small teams. In England, in the north of England, Yorkshire paints a particular picture because Tarmac has the benefit of two major quarries being rail linked which has made a real difference. Dry Rigg quarry has continued production at 100% and Swinden Quarry has continued production at approximately 30%. The other quarries did go to the level of production being 0%, but they are slowly coming back on stream between 20 – 50% production. Wensley Quarry remains shut, and really Tarmac needs a justification to re-open that quarry. Abiding by social distancing measures whilst working can be done, but that depends on customers and suppliers taking part. As far as outlook is concerned, it is uncertain at the moment, but SC would be surprised if operators make it up to 80% produce by the end of this year.
- 6.8 VP mentioned that there is a call from authorities to find minerals sites that are ready to go. VP asked MN if there is any update on the position.

- 6.9 MN stated that he did not have an update on that specific issue, however MPA have been involved in weekly conversations with MHCLG. There is a lot of pressure from the MHCLG Treasury to ensure that the planning system helps with economic recovery post-Covid-19. Likely that the NPPF will be reviewed, albeit on the back of housing. The MPA keep pressing the point that it is not just about housing. There has been some traction in that major infrastructure projects need to have a minerals supply audit. Civil Servants are keen to try and get the guidelines reviewed.
- 6.10 VP mentioned how authorities are starting to get used to video meetings, and North Yorkshire recently had their first virtual Planning Committee. It is hoped that going forwards, there will be more regular meetings via video calls to get business moving quicker.
- 6.11 CH – in terms of the West Yorkshire authorities, on board with getting the economy moving again.
- 6.12 JD – just in terms of the MPAs paper that was circulated regarding the Planning White Paper, a complaint from the MPA is that the landbank has not kept up or the amount of permitted reserves has not kept up at the rate at which it is being depleted. However, the latest draft of the AMR shows that reserves have never been higher. Just as point to ask MN, is planning really the blockage in the supply of aggregates (in particular sand and gravel) nationally? If the planning system was all the things the MPA wanted it to be, would there actually be the sites? Would there actually be the resource to cover what you need, taking into consideration the environmental constraints as well?
- 6.13 MN – Over the past 3-4 years we have raised that it is not just the planning system, there is also a reluctance by industry to submit planning applications. This partly comes down to major operators being internationally owned. Companies are also holding back until Mineral Plans are in place. In terms of resource, geologically there is plenty of mineral resource around. It is that planning applications are not being made. But we think there can be improvements to the planning system.
- 6.14 GS mentioned that in terms of sand and gravel resource, across Yorkshire and Humber, the only area with a decent quality of sand and gravel is North Yorkshire. Outside of North Yorkshire, there is either coal or chalk amongst the sand and gravel deposits.

## **7 Crown Estate Update (Mark Wrigley)**

- 7.1 The 2018 Aggregate Tender Round is close to concluding as the final exploration agreements are signed off.
- 7.2 Revised dredge area charts will be issued once the tender round concludes.

7.3 The summary statistics of Regional, National and County landings for 2019 have been published and are available from the website (<https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/en-gb/what-we-do/on-the-seabed/minerals-dredging/>).

7.4 The 2020 versions (using 2019 data) of the Capability & Portfolio, Area Involved and the Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) reports will follow over the coming months.

## **8 AOB**

8.1 VR mentioned that Helen McCluskie from Doncaster (who sent her apologies for the meeting) raised the issue of the Duty to Co-operate and the role and responsibility of the AWP in relation to that. There has still not been any official guidance from MHCLG on how they would like AWP's to deal with Statements of Common Ground. VR mentioned that this has recently come up at the North West AWP regarding a Statement of Common Ground with Warrington Borough Council. The way the NWAWP dealt with that was to hold a meeting to discuss the statement, and then minutes were taken of the meeting. These minutes were then sent to Warrington Borough Council to acknowledge that the Statement of Common Ground had been discussed. The NWAWP has therefore not formally signed the Statement of Common Ground, and will not be able to do so until there is formal governance guidance released by MHCLG.

8.2 MN – From an industry point of view we will not be party to signing a Statement of Common Ground through the AWP. Other AWP's such as the South East, East of England and East Midlands operate on the basis that it is discussed in the AWP meeting and is minuted as having been discussed and then it is appended to the Statement of Common Ground. There is also the question of whether local authority AWP members have the delegated powers to be able to sign the Statement of Common Ground.

## **9 Date of next meeting**

9.1 VR mentioned that usually the second meeting of the year happens in October/November. Discussion took place regarding what would be the best platform to use for the next virtual meeting.

**Action: VR to circulate an email asking what would be the best virtual meeting platform to use for the next meeting.**