

Shropshire Council Response:

Additional Stage 1 Matters, Issues and Questions

Matter 1 – The Duty to Cooperate Appendices



West Midlands Aggregate Working Party

Minutes of Meeting Monday 21st March 2016

11:00 – 13.30 - Birmingham

Attendees:

Adrian Cooper	Shropshire (Chair)	AC
Brian Dore	Birmingham	BD
David Piper	Dudley	DP
Dawn Sherwood	Walsall	DS
Eamon Mythen	CLG	EM
Gavin Ashford	Telford	GA
Hannah Sheldon-Jones	Urban Vision (Secretariat)	HSJ
Jo Davies	Breedon Aggregates	JD
John Martin	Urban Vision	JM
Keith Bird	Hanson	KB
Marianne Joynes	Worcestershire	MJ
Mark North	Mineral Products	MN
Mark Watkins	Sandwell	MW
Matthew Griffin	Staffordshire	MG
Nick Atkins	Tarmac	NA
Paul Wilcox	Warwickshire	PW

Apologies:

Andrew Ambrose	A L P Ambrose
Harjot Rayet	Telford
Jim Davies	Environment Agency
Joanne Mayne	Stoke
Kelvin Hall	Shropshire
Ken Hobden	Mineral Products
Mark Page	Hanson
Maurice Barlow	Solihull
Peter Huxtable	British Aggregates
Rebecca Jenman	Herefordshire
Rob Haigh	Coventry
Sarah Clifton	Telford
Shaun Denny	Cemex
Tim Claxton	Aggregate
Tony Lyons	Warwickshire
Victoria Eaton	Herefordshire

Item 1 - Introduction and Apologies

- 1.1 Adrian Cooper (AC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies for those unable to attend. He invited members to introduce themselves for the benefit of the new secretariat.

Item 2 – Minutes from Last Meeting

- 2.1 AC noted that the minutes from the last meeting in Worcestershire 30th November 2015 were issued, and invited members to raise any points of inaccuracy.
- 2.2 Dawn Sherwood (DS) asked that point 5.3 for Walsall be deleted as it is inaccurate – no survey was completed.
- 2.3 Nick Atkins (NA) asked for his name to be corrected from Mick to Nick.
- 2.4 No other points of inaccuracy were raised.

Item 3 – Annual surveys

- 3.1 AC, Urban Vision and Eamon Mythen (EM) have all tried to contact Ian Thomas (previous Secretary). AC noted that we have now received an update from Ian, thanks to Eamon. We are expecting something in principle by the end of this month in regards to the 2013 report. There have been no reports added to the CLG website since 2012.

2014 (and 2013) Report

- 3.2 AC noted that Hannah Sheldon-Jones (HSJ) distributed the draft report the previous week. This report is for 2014 with reference to 2013. If Ian is successful in producing a 2013 report, these sections will be removed from the 2014 report.
- 3.3 HSJ provided an update on the status of the draft report and asked members of their opinions for the most appropriate way to make comment.
- 3.4 AC suggested that members delay making comments on the 2014 report to see if we receive anything from Ian. AC asked for opinions or any strong objections to this stance. No objections were received to delaying the review until the first week of April.
- 3.5 AC requests if anyone has any immediate comments to make on the report.
- 3.6 DS requests that reference to MASS is removed as this has now been withdrawn (include PPG).
- 3.7 David Piper (DP) asks that correct dates be used i.e. 2014 report for 2014 data. HSJ explained reasoning behind this is we have followed the North West AWP template. Decided to do it differently from the North West

- AWP, and use 2014 report for 2014 data as opposed to 2015 report for 2014 data.
- 3.8 AC mentioned that there are a few data inaccuracies which HSJ has made comment on throughout the report which needs attention from all members (i.e. 132% in Herefordshire).
- 3.9 Mat Griffin (MG) asks why there are no comments on end uses throughout the report. HSJ will ask the UV Project Manager.
- 3.10 AC states that if the data is available then this could be included, but expressed concern that it was now a little late in the day. AC takes MG's point that it would be nice to include if we can, but it may not be feasible to catch up on past reports.
- 3.11 Executive Summary: Telford and Stoke need listing separately, not under the West Midlands Conurbation.

Action: HSJ to ask UV Project Manager about end uses and action other comments in the draft report.

2015 Survey

- 3.12 HSJ provided an update on the status of the survey, and asked members about their response rate. This was deemed to be around 50% for most members. HSJ reminded members of the deadlines and asked everyone to please chase operators for the outstanding information.
- 3.13 DP and DS mentioned some issues with secondary aggregate forms, but they have amended these themselves and sent them out.
- 3.14 It was agreed that it is difficult to obtain accurate data for secondary aggregates. AC uses WDI, but DS expressed caution as it doesn't cover exemptions. This will be poorly represented in the 2015 report.
- 3.15 DP mentioned the issue concerning publication of the data in the survey was resolved. DP asked that we strike Q3 out of the form in future iterations seeing as there is a statement at the top about confidentiality and what the data will be used for.
- 3.16 Paul Wilcox (PW) stated that there are issues with crushed rock and having to combine data with other authorities due to confidentiality. Warwickshire are down to 2 S&G sites. Need to think about the 3 company rule. AC suggested members ask the operators what they wish to do – if the data is not confidential, then it will be fine.
- 3.17 AC reminded members to please chase all outstanding operators to ensure the data is collated in a timely manner.

Item 4 – LAAs

Comments

- 4.1 AC thanked everyone who provided comments on the LAA's for their very constructive comments about various issues. AC collated a list of the main points and issues.
- 4.2 AC stated that members need to arrive at a position on what expectations we have regarding the current draft LAA's, i.e. are the comments going to be incorporated into these documents or future reports? This needs to be decided upon today.
- 4.3 DS has made some amendments based on comments already.
- 4.4 AC stated that some comments were really useful in generating consistency in format and content. But asked if members expect everyone to make changes based on these this time round. AC asked what the consensus was.
- 4.5 Marianne Joynes (MJ) is happy to wait until next time.
- 4.6 AC accepts members won't get LAA's right the first time round. He sees this as an ongoing programme of improvements, striving for greater consistency, but can't do it all at once.
- 4.7 EM understood that UV is going to try and gain some consistency amongst reports.

Action: HSJ to ask UV Project Director about consistency.

- 4.8 AC thanked MJ for developing a consistent front page/executive summary for future LAA's, which can be technically complex, therefore this tool should be helpful.
- 4.9 EM suggested members use tracked changes to see how it evolves, as per guidance.
- 4.10 DS and MJ disagree and as they think it will become untidy within a few years.
- 4.11 EM said that CLG aren't going to specify what members do, it's up to each authority.
- 4.12 AC agreed it's up to the relevant mpa's to draft and manage. AC asked members to share thoughts and comments with AWP, and the expectation is that changes are incorporated unless there are any objections; if the suggestions are not consistent or the suggestions are inappropriate in local context. AC thinks tracked changes could create more work, and with tight timescales this creates challenges.
- 4.13 AC stated that AWP needs to endorse these documents; therefore AWP must be happy with the content in principle. Differences of opinion will

- have to be resolved. Members need to keep a record of which version is signed off by AWP. Need to not make the process bureaucratic.
- 4.14 AC doesn't mind how many drafts exist of each LAA; he is more interested in the outcome. Issues like presentation won't be key issues – it will be data/factual errors that will need to be rectified. AC is going to assume that comments received so far will be reflected in next year's efforts.
- 4.15 DS asked if all the draft LAA's can be endorsed at this meeting.
- 4.16 AC agreed, unless there are objections. No comments have been made by industry members; therefore AC is going to assume that their silence is an endorsement as we need to move forward without hesitation. No objections were received from any AWP members present.
- 4.17 DS said the Walsall LAA has different housing figures in the updated draft which hasn't been sent out. They obtained aggregated housing and employment figures, which has impacted on the figures. It was decided not to use this new draft (draft 5) and instead use draft 4 which can be endorsed and published without hesitation. The comments will be used to inform the next LAA.

Issues

Reference to the Governments' sub-national guidelines for aggregate production and national and sub-national apportionments

- 4.18 AC asked that cross reference to out of date guidance is removed.

The inclusion of cessation dates for existing consented quarries

- 4.19 MG raised the issue of cessation dates, if there is no end date stated on the planning permission then the default end date is 2042 or N/A. Agreed to stick to Cessation dates.

The treatment of reserves at statutorily dormant sites

- 4.20 Reserves needs to be the maximum permitted. But at high demand this could operate at different levels i.e. 3 year average or 10 year average – members need a consistent set of criteria. AC asked members for their thoughts on what this could be: current, 10 yr or 3 yr.
- 4.21 It was decided that members need to use whatever is in the individual planning permissions for confidentiality reasons.

Treatment of sites allocated in adopted development plans as 'potential' and not 'permitted reserves'

- 4.22 AC was asked if members count reserves in dormant facilities. AC replied, no. Reserves at allocated sites only, unless plans are adopted. But if not, then they are not permitted. MJ asked for a clarification: allocated but not permitted? AC replied: yes just an allocation, not certain until consented.

Recording aggregate sales by end use

- 4.23 AC was asked if sales should be by end use. AC agrees in principle. Where possible, members should report sales by end use.

Including an executive summary

- 4.24 AC thanks DS for creating an Executive Summary which all members can use in their LAA's for consistency should they wish to.

Reference to a 10 year rolling average

- 4.25 DS suggests using a rolling 10 year average for production and landbank. This ensures trends are evened out, showing an average trend. AC asks if this is a helpful innovation.
- 4.26 Members agree: not sure it helps inform the current process or for individual LAA's. AC summarises that if members do not find it helpful, then don't use it.
- 4.27 PW asks what the data is used for. A rolling 10 year average distorts the overall picture. It can hide the actual average and hide the future demand. AC concludes that it may not necessarily be useful, he is not convinced it's useful enough yet, although could be useful to prompt a discussion in the commentary. Guidelines are not definitive. Unless someone has a strong opinion – we won't go forward with a rolling 10 year average.

Recording the location of concreting and coating plants etc for safeguarding

- 4.28 PW enquired as to the location of batching plants – we should all be doing this.
- 4.29 DS suggests members need to produce a map, but not everyone has provided grid references.
- 4.30 MG asked industry about obtaining reliable, accurate data. AC asked can members use alternative sources of information. PW suggested BDS, although this is paid for data. AC asked industry (Suggested the Institute of Quarrying Directory) to provide future guidance if they can.
- 4.31 AC stated that the role and value of the national apportionment needs to be picked up in annual reports. This is not done in a LAA.
- 4.32 It was agreed amongst members that secondary and recycled aggregate data has differential levels of effort, with limited value from the EA data (WDI).
- 4.33 AC stated that Shropshire no longer have the capacity to collect secondary and recycled aggregate data, due to limited resources and it not being a priority. Data that is currently available is a poor representation of reality.
- 4.34 AC suggested that if members have the resources to accurately collate this information, then they should, but if not, then don't. Some areas have more of a need for it than others.

- 4.35 DS stated that Walsall have not, and will never collect this data, they can't afford it and it's not a priority. AC suggested that the inspectorate will have to understand member's positions here, and went on to explain that this material doesn't transfer very far – it mainly remains in the metropolitan area. If there are big movements, they are not being captured.
- 4.36 PW asked what is being done with this information in planning terms. AC doesn't have an answer. The data will never be accurate enough to use properly for numerical statistics as secondary aggregates are related to the economy.
- 4.37 MG said there seems to be a change in the methodology in estimating C&D waste used in a recent Defra report. The MPA were asked how they produced estimates and could they be disaggregated to a regional level? AC replied that these are likely to be estimates, difficult to drill down to the detail.
- 4.38 Defra report, page 15:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/487916/UK_Statistics_on_Waste_statistical_notice_15_12_2015_update_f2.pdf

Combined sales data to maintain commercial confidentiality

- 4.39 AC reminded members about combining sales data when there are 3 or less operators within a given area to maintain commercial confidentiality.

Recording future demand and cross references between metropolitan and shire council growth assumptions

- 4.40 AC moved on to another issue raised by members: tracking future demand, and consistent housing figures. Interplay between the metropolitan and shire authorities, and interplay between material demands are key issues. It is good to be tracking demand using the same data but the data changes can be a challenge.
- 4.41 DS states that Walsall is in a state of flux – difficult to forecast. AC states that a planning inspector would be looking for consistency and how representative it is, and yet members can only provide what's been agreed and what is available and in the public domain. This could constrain the next AMR. AC reminded members that they need to keep talking to each other and for there to be clear channels of communication.

Reference to rail capacity

- 4.42 Rail capacity is another issue – AC said that any threat to this should be flagged in a LAA. It's vital to safeguard central infrastructure.

Dealing with prior extraction

- 4.43 DS stated that prior extraction is not an issue as it is not something we can deal with or monitor. Lots of legacy issues/Brownfield issues. Not a priority in Black Country. Too much effort for too little benefit. AC said it has to be a big site to justify. AC asked the industry if this is typical.
- 4.44 Industry agreed they have no real experience. MJ asked is this an issue in the LAA? AC replied no, as it's too small, and not reliable as a supply.
- 4.45 AC asked if there are any other LAA issues/comments or disagreements with others comments?
- 4.46 DS disagrees with Warwickshire's comment regarding data. AC replied that this will depend on quality of data.
- 4.47 No other comments were raised. AC asked for members to please make amendments to the next LAA's based on these comments.
- 4.48 In terms of endorsements of the LAA's, AC asked if there are any objections to endorsing these LAAs. No objections were received.

The following LAA's have been endorsed and can be finalised and published:

- Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin LAA (part of 2014 AMR)
- Staffordshire (LAA June 2015)
- Warwickshire LAA (October 2015)
- West Midlands Metropolitan Area (Draft LAA November 2015)

Timetable

- 4.49 AC created a timetable with the purpose of facilitating the publication of LAA's without being unrealistic. We need to time meetings of AWP around the timetable. AC is looking for agreement. He thanks MJ for providing comment and asked if members had any objections to her redraft.
- 4.50 DS raised the question of availability of data for 2015 (WDI for secondary). Lots of work to be done for secondary data.
- 4.51 AC said AWP are more interested in having the more recent primary data than secondary. We can cope with secondary data being a year behind.
- 4.52 An interim meeting in May was suggested to catch up on progress of LAA's. The following revision was agreed:

Date	Action
January	Send out survey forms
March	Completed forms returned
April	Collation of returned information

May	AWP meets to discuss to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any strategic and cross boundary issues • Issues arising from draft LAA's • Issues arising from draft AWP annual report
July	Draft LAA's circulated by each Mineral Planning Authority (MPA) / Group of authorities
August	AWP circulates draft annual report
September	AWP meeting to discuss / endorse individual LAA's
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAA content published separately or as part of AMR by individual MPA's • Final AWP annual report published

- 4.53 EM provided an update on the 2014 aggregate minerals survey, which has now been completed, and CLG have until 28th March to respond to it. However, CLG and BGS may still have issues to sort out. Once these have been sorted it will go forward for publication. Issues:
- CLG publication – difficult to gain sign off from the government.
 - EM is making sure there are no technical issues, such as formatting, but they have to get clearance from ministers and special advisors.
 - Two purdah periods (May elections and EU referendum) that could cause a delay. Although, the AMS is a technical document, not a political one, so should be able to publish and shouldn't be affected – but can't guarantee this.
- 4.54 AC suggest that if this document is available in time then members should use it, but if not it will have to be the 2009 report and for members not to wait for the 2014 report.

Item 5 – Progress on Plans

- 5.1 Dudley: Borough strategy has been submitted to PINS. Provisional examination date set for 13th June. Nothing in DM strategy on minerals or waste – all this detail is in the Black Country strategy.
- 5.2 Birmingham: Hoping to get final inspector report for the plan. Looking to adopt soon. Hopefully getting an AMR around the same time.
- 5.3 Warwickshire: Draft minerals plan in October 2015 – January 2016. Lots of community objections. Will be going back to Cabinet in the autumn in response to these objections. 4 of 9 sites being promoted by council.
- 5.4 Staffordshire: Submitted plan in January 2016. Looking to start hearings later this month. 8 days of hearings. When the plan was submitted

- Staffordshire put forward a set of proposed changes based on reps. This will be consulted on in May/June.
- 5.5 Walsall: Started consultation a fortnight ago. Nothing new has come forward. The policies are for existing sites or extensions to existing sites. It will be out for consultation 3rd May. DS welcomed members to make comments on the plan:
(http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/planning_policy/planning_2026.htm)
- 5.6 Worcestershire: Had 2 calls for sites, 13 sites were put forward, which amounted to 20 individual areas as some sites were overlapping. Currently working with new appointed consultants, completing deliverability assessments and developing the rest of the plan with a consultation planned for the end of this year.
- 5.7 Sandwell: No local plans
- 5.8 Telford: Just closed publication period for local plan. Technical issues to address prior to submission, which is anticipated to be late spring/early summer 2016 Looking to adopt the plan early 2017. No allocations for minerals.
- 5.9 Shropshire: Site allocation adopted in December 2015. Plan adopted and in force. 3 allocations. Expecting planning applications on 2 areas/sites shortly. Started an immediate planning review due to housing supply. Growth figures will be published in the summer 2016.

Item 6 – Industry Reports

- 6.1 Mark North (MN) reported on the local plan expert group which reported to government last week. Very housing centric. 47 recommendations in total, 45 and 46 were minerals related.
- 6.2 The MPA has published latest quarterly economic data. All markets remain positive and mainly unchanged but aggregate sales by 2019 will be up compared to 2015. The MPA are having internal discussions about producing an abridged version of its economic quarterly forecasts, currently exclusively for Members, for publication externally to assist LAA work. MN provided documents to accompany this update, please see Annex.
- 6.3 MPA figures show that aggregate sales up 15% in 2015, asphalt sales up 10%, and ready mix concrete up 4%. Latest forecast shows that medium term across all markets is positive. By 2019 it is estimated that aggregate sales are to be up by 19% compared to 2015, asphalt sales up 14% and ready mix concrete up 13%. The construction products association are expecting construction output to grow by 4.1% for 2016/17, with housing growing by 5% for the same period. Infrastructure build (roads, rail, water, energy etc.) is expected to grow by 57% by 2019.

- 6.4 EM provided an update on CLG activities and developments. EM made available an official note to accompany these minutes (Annex), and presented a summary of this note at the meeting.

Item 7 – Date of Next Meeting

- 7.1 AC suggests a meeting in late May to discuss LAA development, and then another in September to discuss the draft 2015 Annual Report. BG kindly offered to host the meetings again.

Action: HSJ to arrange May meeting.

Item 8 – Any other business

- 8.1 None. AC thanked everyone for attending, the Aggregate Working Party ended at ~1.30pm.

Annex Number	Detail	Reference
WMAWP Minutes 21032016 Annex 1	Report to the Communities Secretary and to the Minister of Housing and Planning	Paragraph 6.2
WMAWP Minutes 21032016 Annex 2	LPEG Discussion Papers	Paragraph 6.2
WMAWP Minutes 21032016 Annex 3	LPEG Detailed Recommendations	Paragraph 6.2
WMAWP Minutes 21032016 Annex 4	LPEG Appendices	Paragraph 6.2
WMAWP Minutes 21032016 Annex 5	LPEG Press release	Paragraph 6.2
WMAWP Minutes 21032016 Annex 6	LPEG Launch	Paragraph 6.2
WMAWP Minutes 21032016 Annex 7	DCLG update – for AWP's meetings	Paragraph 6.4
WMAWP Minutes 21032016 Annex 8	Mineral extraction in Great Britain 2014: Business Monitor PA1007	Paragraph 6.4

West Midlands Aggregate Working Party

Minutes of Meeting Monday 23rd May 2016

11:00 – 13.00 - Birmingham

Attendees:

Adrian Cooper	Shropshire (Chair)	AC
Brian Dore	Birmingham	BD
David Piper	Dudley	DP
Dawn Sherwood	Walsall	DS
Gavin Ashford	Telford	GA
Hannah Sheldon-Jones	Urban Vision (Secretariat)	HSJ
Joanne Mayne	Stoke	JD
Jonathan Evans	Urban Vision	JE
Marianne Joynes	Worcestershire	MJ
Mark Watkins	Sandwell	MW
Matthew Griffin	Staffordshire	MG
Rob Haigh	Coventry	RH
Shaun Denny	Cemex	SD
Tony Lyons	Warwickshire	TL
Victoria Eaton	Herefordshire	VE

Apologies:

Harjot Rayet	Telford
Jo Davies	Breedon Aggregates
Keith Bird	Hanson
Kelvin Hall	Shropshire
Mark North	Mineral Products
Mark Page	Hanson
Maurice Barlow	Solihull
Nicholas Hall	Herefordshire
Nick Atkins	Tarmac
Tim Claxton	Aggregate

No response/Tentative Response:

Andrew Ambrose	A L P Ambrose
Eamon Mythen	CLG
Jim Davies	Environment Agency
Paul Wilcox	Warwickshire
Peter Huxtable	British Aggregates

Item 1 - Introduction and Apologies

- 1.1 Adrian Cooper (AC) opened the West Midland's Aggregate Working Party (AWP) Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) meeting. AC welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members to introduce themselves for record keeping.

Item 2 – LAA Development

i. Purpose

- 2.1 AC set out the purpose of this LAA meeting which is specifically referred to in the agreed AWP timetable. The purpose of which is to support the preparation of LAAs and ensure greater consistency among the AWP regions. LAAs are seen as increasingly important and are expressly mentioned within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

ii. Updates from members on their LAA preparation progress

- 2.2 Dawn Sherwood (DS) has taken stock from last year's LAA and has prepared information tables. DS asks if it be helpful for Walsall to circulate these tables for consistency, it is important for all members to use the same data.
- 2.3 AC responds that it would be useful.

Action: DS to circulate tables

- 2.4 AC asked DS if the timetable and collection of information from survey returns are from this year.
- 2.5 DS responded saying they are looking at trends for housing from this year as a way to assess needs going forward. Last year's housing/employment trends were not published, but this year more substantial information has been collected, however, there are still significant gaps.
- 2.6 DS states that Walsall is a consumer of aggregates. Staffordshire has some trends data already, and everyone should be using the same data across the West Midlands to establish demand.
- 2.7 Vicky Eaton (VE) states that Herefordshire only has 3 quarries. As a consequence they are unable to publish information due to commercial confidentiality.
- 2.8 AC asks if operators have been contacted to ask permission to publish.
- 2.9 VE responds, yes, but they do not wish information to be published.
- 2.10 AC asks if data can be combined with Shropshire's returns so they can be anonymised to an extent and published.
- 2.11 Tony Lyons (TL) agreed that Herefordshire can merge their results with Warwickshire if needs be.

- 2.12 Matthew Griffin (MG) asked that Herefordshire should not be merged with Shropshire, as it would be useful to preserve Shropshire's figures. Suggested that Herefordshire merge with Worcestershire.
- 2.13 Marianne Joynes (MJ) suggests merging Herefordshire with Worcestershire. Worcestershire has 4 or 5 quarries so could merge without confidentiality issues. But that means combining Herefordshire's Sand and Gravel (S&G) with one authority and the Crushed rock (CR) with another.
- 2.14 Agreed that Herefordshire investigate merging with Worcestershire and Staffordshire as appropriate.
- 2.15 VE confirms that from the 2015 Herefordshire crushed rock data, there are no significant changes or upturns compared to the previous year's returns. The new proposed bypass could have an effect.
- 2.16 AC agrees that the bypass could equal a couple of hundred thousand tonnes over the lifetime of the project.
- 2.17 MG gave an update on Staffordshire. There is nothing unusual from previous years for primary aggregates. No secondary or recycled returns have been received. MG targeted specific sites for returns, but with no success. The power station will be closing in June 2016.
- 2.18 TL states there has been a poor response received for this year's survey in Warwickshire.
- 2.19 DS suggests that estimates will need to be made where returns are poor. DS has made assumptions with missing figures, and has tried chasing on several occasions. Complications around permitting with some sites.
- 2.20 MG does not have the time or capacity to chase outstanding returns due to the large number of sites.
- 2.21 AC states there is an issue with time and people power available to chase operators and the benefit this actually brings. Assumptions will have to be made to give a broad indicator of the market for now.
- 2.22 David Piper (DP) gave an update for Dudley. 7 forms were sent out, 6 have been received, and DP is chasing the remaining site.
- 2.23 Mark Watkins (MW) gave an update for Sandwell. 1 survey was sent out and the response has been received.
- 2.24 Brian Dore (BD) gave an update for Birmingham. Lots of requests have been sent out, but no returns as of yet.
- 2.25 MJ states that secondary/recycled aggregate producers have no incentive to respond and will have already responded to Environment Agency.
- 2.26 Gavin Ashford (GA) asked if we don't get responses from industry how do Mineral Planning Authorities (MPA) know what to safeguard. Should the MPA be selling the virtues of the survey to industry? Secondary/Recycled (S/R) producers are not members of the MPA. Is there a regulatory body?
- 2.27 DS has tried contacting demolition bodies, but has had no luck.

- 2.28 AC said that some S/R producers are members of EIA but only the large operators. AC agrees that there is not much incentive for them to respond. Suggests using EA data returns as a proxy, this data is not very reliable, but it's the only option if industry is not responding to surveys.
- 2.29 AC's biggest concern is how to meet the demands of the big urban areas. How do we meet local demand without bringing in large amounts of primary aggregates from further afield? No one is expecting self sufficiency in urban areas, but urban areas need to contribute through S/R aggregates.
- 2.30 GA asks that if the operators don't respond, is there a way to find out who the end users are? Or if we already know the end users of S/R aggregates could we contact them for information on S/R aggregates?
- 2.31 AC responds saying no, as this is not registered or tracked in any way. Scale is an issue as there could be a large number of operators. Also, there are often concerns with costs. It is a case of doing the best we can to gather the information.
- 2.32 BS says it would be useful to bring aggregate source into planning permissions.
- 2.33 AC responds that this is not practical, it has already been attempted under waste management plans but it did not work in practice, and they have since been dropped.
- 2.34 DP says returns are often inaccurate.
- 2.35 AC thinks all these points are helpful to understand the issues before creating the LAA's.
- 2.36 MG says Staffordshire has increasing demand of about 5 million tonnes (average), which has come down. Some interest being shown by industry in new permissions and applications but nothing concrete yet. Will maintain a list of secondary aggregate sites, but detailed information is not forthcoming. Demand in sand and gravel sales appear to have increased to more than 4.5Mt in 2015. Note 1.5Mt was permitted in the county during 2015 and there are nearly an additional 10Mt (associated with 3 sites) subject to approval but awaiting completion of legal agreements. We aim to update our list of recycling sites, identifying those sites that are operational.
- 2.37 Joanne Mayne (JM) has made some assumptions, but these are not accurate and is working with MG to sort this out.
- 2.38 TL's Warwickshire 2015 figures are collated and ready to be sent out. Need to liaise with other authorities about CR data. TL plans to complete the LAA within the next month or so. A number of planning permissions are currently in the pipeline, with sites waiting to know about allocations, one site is for over 3 million tonnes. There is more interest from operators in the county. With their S/R surveys, 10 were sent out, and only 1 has returned. However, a number of sites are facing enforcement issues and

- so are unlikely to respond. Warwickshire need to progress their LAA because of plan consultation. More interest in S&G even though the output figures are low. There are 2 S&G sites, operators are allowing publication of the data. With C&D waste sites, TL sent 9/10 requests, and only had 1 response from an operator who currently has a planning application in for review. 2/3 of the sites are taking enforcement action for breach of conditions, therefore a response is not expected. No unusual trends, everything is the same as the past few years.
- 2.39 DS asks if enforcement is due to breach of conditions. TL says it is.
- 2.40 Rob Haigh (RH) gave an update for Coventry, which has no primary production. Secondary production from the 7 sites provided good returns last year. RH chases outstanding operators with a phone call, if there is still no response, a monitoring officer visits the site and asks for data operators, which has a high success rate.
- 2.41 AC asks if Birmingham has a monitoring officer to help up their return rate.
- 2.42 BD says lots of monitoring occurs but there is only 1 officer.
- 2.43 DS has no dedicated monitoring person.
- 2.44 AC says this is a cost/resource issue with some authorities. A good tip if it can be done, but many authorities don't have dedicated monitoring staff.
- 2.45 DP's response from operators has been consistent with past returns. Six out of seven sites returned. Seventh said they will not be responding, last year's figures have been used as an estimate. This is an adequate response for this year, but if this is an ongoing issue then figures will be skewed.
- 2.46 MW says Sandwell's second largest aggregate site on Victoria Street has been left vacant. Network Rail's site has responded, they ship aggregate across the country. Third site has enforcement action ongoing so not expecting a return. No large scale housing sites. Not very much to go on.
- 2.47 GA has nothing to report.
- 2.48 MJ is not sure if S/R form was sent out for Worcestershire. May need to look at EA figures. There is an assumption built into the national apportionment figures, which will be quoted within the LAA.
- 2.49 AC has concerns over whether enough S/R aggregate is produced in the West Midlands to meet the national expectations.
- 2.50 MJ says Worcestershire has one site for fill sand, would this be classed as an aggregate?
- 2.51 Shaun Denny (SD) thinks a fill sand business would struggle unless the product was sold very locally.
- 2.52 AC believes that if it is being sold offsite then you could count it depending on the end use.
- 2.53 MJ suggests perhaps they are selling to keep planning permission for now, there are some enforcement issues.
- 2.54 AC advises that it is best not to include in LAA given uncertainties.

- 2.55 AC provides an update for Shropshire. Almost all primary aggregates data has been returned. Very locally responsive to circumstances. Quantity of aggregate consumption varies. The level of development has increased significantly but this is from being very little following the recession. Level of development varied and rather patchy, with some areas completing 56 houses over 2 years and others 600. For S/R aggregate figures, AC will use EA data but will keep a list of active S/R sites. EA data will put reports a year behind as we have to wait on EA releasing data in September/October. CR figures for Shropshire last year were high, expecting the same this year. Expecting rail movements to start happening in the next year or so. Possibly may get another production site, meaning there will be 4. There is a slight upward trend, but nothing dramatic, wouldn't expect to rise at that level forever. No definitive figures yet.
- 2.56 MG asks if Shropshire are expecting crushed rock to vary.
- 2.57 AC responds no, but there is an issue with High Specification Aggregate (HSA) which will soon be distributed by rail, which will increase the market and will likely increase sales. Sales of aggregates in Shropshire is increasing in line with markets.

iii. Future demand

- 2.58 AC says it has been agreed to take projected housing growth demand as proxy for aggregate demand. Although changes in housing completions can directly impact on this. There has been an upturn in business, so it can be an indirect relationship, but housing demand is probably a reasonable indicator of demand. Are areas working out targets for current plans?
- 2.59 DS says Walsall's next round of plans will determine where growth will go. Next core strategy due in 2026.
- 2.60 VE says Herefordshire's plan runs until 2031.
- 2.61 AC says this should provide good data on growth going forward.
- 2.62 MG is currently monitoring housing numbers. North Yorkshire has looked at adding projected housing growth to 10 year average sales as a way to predict aggregate usage. Staffordshire did not consider this appropriate for their area. Need to regularly review sales and reserve figures and keep an eye on landbank, in order to review plans if needs be. The robustness of landbanks needs a supported approach, inspectors are aware of change to local plans, with many authorities completing partial reviews. Trying to keep things simple and flexible. See paper at Appendix 1 (representation made by the Mineral Products Association in respect of the new MLP for Staffordshire).
- 2.63 At a recent MPA conference attended by AC and other members, the Government proposed a review of plan processes with the aim for plans to

go from preparation to submission (and hopefully adoption) within two and half years. This change would affect the scope of what can be achieved and the nature of a plan due to resource constraints. This is likely to mean fewer site allocations as they are often controversial and require lengthy consultation with the public.

- 2.64 SD thinks industry see site allocations as extremely useful. But we can live without them if there is a responsive policy in the plan to provide for industry to respond in good time.

Action: AC to circulate any literature from the MPA conference

- 2.65 AC thinks that looking ahead it's reasonably predictable, and there is currently adequate flexibility to handle short term changes.
- 2.66 MG says that as we have just come out of a heavy recession; the industry is still finding its feet. Industry needs more time to recover and to identify sites. A lot of current activity is looking at existing sites. Site search areas are controversial. Need to find capacity if sites don't come forward or they get dropped. Industry needs time to establish a position. Staffordshire have been looking at a controversial site in plan. How will sites be replaced when they aren't taken forward, secondary won't meet demand?
- 2.67 SD does not think there is a huge amount of appetite for additional production capacity because of cost. Trying to maintain what we have is of importance. Industry does not want to invest in new sites/new capacity due to the high initial costs. Will look to maintain existing capacity. In Cemex's case aggregate is used in concrete plants, therefore production needs to be located in close proximity to plants.
- 2.68 AC says minerals are currently being worked outwards; but sites are more expensive further away from urban areas due to increased transportation costs. Strategic geography must be thought out, the most proximate/easiest to produce aggregate is already in production or has already been worked out. The main markets are in larger urban areas. Over time we are going to work our way out of these areas.
- 2.69 DS says Walsall has S&G, but it's in the area where people want housing and so it may not be worked out.
- 2.70 AC says sites that are currently not cost effective may become more competitive.
- 2.71 SD's experience is that building more railheads rather than new quarries can be quicker and cheaper for sites that are away from urban areas. It is easier to get planning permission and requires less capital investment, depending on where it's located. Derbyshire and Leicestershire are going down this route.
- 2.72 AC agreed that trains can increase market reach of a quarry and allows further transportation of materials cost effectively.

- 2.73 SD thinks rail will be more important in coming years as it becomes more cost effective.
- 2.74 AC says the West Midlands have plenty of S&G reserves but they are not near markets. It is costly to put in infrastructure and lots of environmental designations. This raises interesting questions about hard rock, which is all currently on rail.
- 2.75 SD thinks this will increase preference for hard rock quarries with existing rail access as they are able to meet demand.
- 2.76 TL has found it straight forward to get housing completion figures from boroughs for Warwickshire. Planning Inspectorate did not have great interest in completion figures. Told to talk about 10 year average, this is due to lack of methodology.
- 2.77 SD does not think the Inspector is disinterested, rather there is no other method agreed or tested to date.
- 2.78 AC says that when covering this issue in the LAAs, local circumstances are going to make the LAAs slightly inconsistent. But we should try and aim for a consistent level of *detail*.
- 2.79 DS thinks there will be an issue for Walsall, due to an increasing supply to Birmingham, how will the Birmingham shortfall be met? The M5 & M6 mean material can be transported in very easily. Staffordshire is going to be heavily relied on for supply. CR is mostly from Shropshire and the East Midlands.
- 2.80 AC says this represents a Duty to Cooperate issue between the East and West Midlands. An element of sub-national planning is needed. AC asks TL what kind of engagement is had with Leicestershire?
- 2.81 TL replies that there are limited conversations but there will be a quarry straddling both areas with a planned sizeable extension. More communications planned going forward. Limited communication with Northamptonshire as not a lot of cross border communication during the last survey in 2009. Warwickshire has fairly robust discussions with Gloucestershire.
- 2.82 MG asks when will the BGS 2014 survey data be released.
- 2.83 AC has not heard anything recently, but will chase Eamon and notify the AWP as soon as any information becomes available.

Action: AC to ask Eamon about progress with the BGS 2014 survey

- 2.84 JM thinks housing figures are likely to rise in the future. Figures are a step behind and likely to be influenced by Cheshire East and the development of HS2.
- 2.85 AC agrees that construction of HS2 and increase in housing associated with development of HS2 will impact greatly on aggregate demand.
- 2.86 RH says Coventry's plan was submitted in April, examination is expected this summer with adoption next year. Plan will last until 2031. Massive

- upturn in housing planned for (42,500), with a spike in delivery towards the end of plan. How will Super SEP effect aggregate demand?
- 2.87 AC thinks there will be an effect but can't be sure of the extent of the effect. HS2 will make Crewe a potential commuter territory into London with HS2. It's a case of trying to work out what's going to happen in practice.
- 2.88 MG says there have been discussions at the Planning Officer's Society (POS) group. There will be a need for devolved areas to plan for aggregate demand. All unknown at the moment for Staffordshire. But other areas are having to think about natural resources, it is difficult to know what to do until we know what is expected.
- 2.89 AC suspects that combined authorities will need to act more like a city region, with rural areas meeting demand of urban areas. Until we have structure to engage, we can't make any progress yet.
- 2.90 RH informs the group that devolution looks at transport in part. The focus is on combined authorities and is based on strategic transportation. Strategic planning is not yet on the radar.
- 2.91 GA suggests using housing development as a proxy for aggregates. If you know travel times for sites you know the markets.
- 2.92 AC says that where rail heads come in you need a good sized rail head. To serve a railhead you will need more than one supplier to make it worthwhile. Are you going to get delivery points to where it's needed? Can then build up and use trains. It can give you a broad range of what your demand might be.
- 2.93 SD says trains are complicated as costs are worked out differently to HGV movements. Once on a train aggregates are cheap to move around the country. Infrastructure is expensive, so it only works where existing rail heads exist. Operators prefer to use trucks, which are cheap to source, rather than spending millions to set up new/improved rail infrastructure.
- 2.94 MJ says Worcestershire has chased housing and new business data from all districts, not yet had a full response. MJ has made assumptions of 50 tonnes per house to see what it would be. Over the last 10 years its 9-25%.
- 2.95 AC is concerned with use of 10 year average figures; because if 10 year sales and production falls then landbank requirements shrink meaning new sites aren't needed. At what point do you plan for the future? Are we only responding to commercial trends?
- 2.96 SD agrees that the 10 year average is going to be a problem. Housing completions are on the rise but 10 year averages are down due to the recession. Industry has to keep close eye on LAA's. Review of plans never quite work because resources are never in place for an adequate review. A big concern when authorities continue using 10 year average,

- unless everyone agrees it's a reasonable proxy. Industry becomes reluctant to move forward as we end up planning for decline by default.
- 2.97 AC thinks building rates are a good proxy when planning for demand.
- 2.98 SD says the issue going forward with using the 10 year average is that it is affected by depression, and yet we are having to plan for more housing.
- 2.99 AC asks if anyone picked up on the mineral development as economic growth issue. The MPA conference recently discussed aggregate development as a driver for economic growth with a 16% influence on GDP. No part of British industry is immune from mineral production Strategic plan justified if aggregates are a base for a large section of the economy. There's a just reasoning for intervention because of the scale. Having proactive planning for this sector should be supported in principle. Balance between environmental and economic issues.
- 2.100 MJ says she used this argument in Worcestershire's Draft plan.
- 2.101 AC says this is a facilitation role for economic development.

iv. Formatting of LAA's

- 2.102 AC does not envisage an absolute format. There will be local differences and areas won't focus on the same issues, however we do need to have the same level of detail. AC asks if there are any comments on the draft Executive Summary which has been put together by MJ and DS. Does it need amending? AC thinks it's useful.
- 2.103 MG made a comment on the front page with regards to annual production capacity, it would be useful to indicate plan provisions on the front page with details of demand as it's easier to identify rather than search the document.
- 2.104 AC says that agreeing the formatting of LAAs should make the annual report easier to write as the information will be consistent. Keeping LAAs short will be helpful, need to keep to an agreed formatting. This is a snapshot; the table should be used without adapting. AC asks members to look at the revised format when distributed by MG and provide any comments within a week.

Action: MG to modify and send around to the AWP for comment.

AWP members to make comments by 31st May.

- 2.105 AC asks if there are any other LAA formatting comments.
- 2.106 MG would like to see details of operational capacity, planning applications etc. Possibly format industry returns to highlight possible future changes. Need to highlight future changes to pattern of supply in region. See BGS report, "An evidence based approach to predicting the future supply of aggregate resources in England" (see rundown charts).

- 2.107 AC thinks this is a sensible idea. Members need to flag up changes or upcoming planning permissions which will affect production. We have a couple coming in which will make a difference to the patterns of supply.
- 2.108 MG says market reports look at nationally produced figures, which are skewed by high development in the south east. Need to West Midlands figures. Is this something we can pick up in the regional/annual report?
- 2.109 AC says the 2013 report lacks detail, and it doesn't look forward. The new Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) needs to take more detail from LAA's to detail possible future demand. Needs to tell us where we are going, we need to anticipate future demand and trends in the 2015 report.
- 2.110 MJ had a return that was not used in the LAA.
- 2.111 AC asks MJ to contact him separately to discuss this.

Action: MJ to contact AC about LAA returns.

- 2.112 AC stresses that going forward; all LAAs need to feed into the AMR rather than the other way round. The West Midlands AMR needs to draw together a wider picture from the AWP areas. The links need to be made stronger. All members should try to stick to our timetable, and don't publish until all LAAs are complete.

Action: All members to circulate LAAs for comment in July.

- 2.113 MG says that some members are forced to publish due to Local Plan delivery. MG asks what to do if destination information has not been provided. Assuming that we don't need to answer this if we haven't received anything.
- 2.114 AC responds that this is correct.

Item 3 – Date of next meeting

- 3.1 AC asks Hannah Sheldon-Jones (HSJ) to arrange a meeting for September.
- 3.2 HSJ asks if members are happy to continue meeting in Birmingham and if BD is able to host again.
- 3.3 BD is able to host and asks HSJ to liaise separately with him to make arrangements.
- 3.4 Members are happy to meet in Birmingham again.

Action: HSJ to arrange meeting for September.

Item 4 – AOB

- 4.1 AC invited members to discuss any topics not yet covered for the aggregate portion of the agenda. No other comments were raised.

Item 5 – Non-Aggregate's

- 5.1 MG raises a point about the clay tables distributed by AC in advance of the meeting. We have included monitoring indicators in our plan. Can we do this as a group?
- 5.2 AC says the map has been produced to look at supply across regions and AC is currently engaging with the Clay Federation/British Ceramic Confederation. Hoping they may attend the next AWP meeting planned for September. There are some cross boundary and duty to cooperate issues.
- 5.3 DP asks how the clay map was created.
- 5.4 DS responds saying the map was created from easting and northing data supplied by West Midlands areas.
- 5.5 DP notes that the map includes active and closed sites, need to distinguish between the two.
- 5.6 DS agrees as the original table included all information of operational and closed sites.

Action: AC and DS to update the Clay Map to distinguish between closed and operational sites. Those that have been demolished need removing from the map.

West Midlands Aggregate Working Party

Minutes of Meeting Thursday 9th November 2017

10 am – 1 pm Birmingham

Attendees:

Adrian Cooper	Shropshire (Chair)	AC
Brian Dore	Birmingham	BD
Shaun Denny	Cemex	SD
Jim Davies	EA	JD
Keith Bird	Hanson	KB
Mark Watkins	Sandwell	MW
Mike Halsall	Urban Vision (Secretariat)	MH
Phil Ward	Worcestershire	MW
Maurice Barlow	Solihull	MB
Matthew Griffin	Staffordshire	MG
Ranjit Sagoo	Warwickshire	RS
Dawn Sherwood	Walsall	DS
Victoria Eaton	Herefordshire	VE
Tony Lyons	Warwickshire	TL
Nick Atkins	Tarmac	NA

Apologies:

Vicky Engelke	CLG
Mark North	MPA
Jo Davies	Breedon Aggregates
Rob Haigh	Coventry
Tim Claxton	Aggregate
Peter Huxtable	BAA
Gavin Ashford	APT Group
Mark Watkins	Sandwell
Nick Horsley	MPA
Carolyn Williams	Urban Vision
Davis Piper	Dudley
Harjot Rayet	Telford
Joanne Mayne	Stoke
Marianne Joynes	Worcs
Mark Page	Hanson
Trefor Evans	BAA
Thomas Lewis	Stoke

Item 1 - Introduction and Apologies

- 1.1 Adrian Cooper (AC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members to introduce themselves for record keeping.

Item 2 – Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes were agreed.

Item 3 – NCG Update

- 3.2 AC went through minutes of the NCG meeting which had not yet been finalised and circulated. Comments were as follows:
- NCG had not met for 5 years and there was a good turnout
 - Communication amongst the regions has broken down somewhat
 - A standard template is required or forecast model is required for identifying future trends if a breakaway from the 10 year average method is to be adopted
 - If the NPPF review is going to reflect planned urban growth then the minerals section should also be revisited to reflect this
 - The lead-in times for the release of reserves to meet future development demand need to be taken into consideration
- 3.2 Brian Dore (BD) commented that depleting reserves will slow housing growth and construction costs will increase, resulting in further delays.
- 3.3 Nick Atkins (NA) commented that the market would react and sort the issue but it would mean more expensive minerals in the interim while reserves are released.
- 3.4 AC explained that funding for AWP is unclear going forward, as was whether a national survey would be undertaken.
- 3.5 Ranjit Sagoo (RS) queried whether there would be an AWP response to NPPF changes. AC replied that if any consultation on the minerals section occurs then yes we can collate responses.
- 3.6 Keith Bird (KB) mentioned that at the East Mids AMR they agreed to write a follow-up letter to the NCG expressing the importance of the AWP funding.

Action: AC to liaise with Lonek in relation to the East Midlands response

Item 4 – Annual Survey

- 4.1 Mike Halsall (MH) gave a brief overview of the report and explained there are some outstanding sections. Matthew Griffin (MG) queried one of the landbank figures and also suggested the LAA figure in Table 5 is removed.
- 4.2 KB explained what was discussed at the East Mids AWP meeting with regards to including both imports and exports within the region and identify local supply issues.

This would come from the LAA data and the 2014 national survey. MH agreed to take same approach to West Mids as was agreed with East Mids.

Actions: MH to send an email to each authority for which further information is required and update AMR with LAA data and national survey figures. MG to email MH with details of landbank discrepancy.

Item 5 – LAAs

- 5.1 AC explained that LAAs had been received late and the consensus was that people had not had chance to review them yet. It was agreed that comments would be issued by end of November.
- 5.2 There was some discussion about the West Midlands conurbation LAA due to lack of resources and it was agreed between Dawn Sherwood (DS) and Maurice Barlow (MB) that they would try to produce something between them.
- 5.3 There was some discussion about what is the minimum level of detail to be included in an LAA and it was agreed that the POS guidance would be circulated.

Actions: All to make any comments on LAAs by end of November and any outstanding LAAs be distributed before the end of the year. MH to circulate

Item 6 – Progress on Development Plans

- 6.4 Sandwell – Undertaking a review of the Joint Core Strategy and site allocations document.
- 6.5 Worcestershire – Undertaking a 4th Call for Sites and there will be a full consultation in August 2018 with pre-submission programmed for Spring 2019 and adoption in 2020.
- 6.6 Herefordshire – Consultants provided a presentation. Issues and options has been produced. A draft plan is programmed for spring 2018 with adoption programmed for 2019.
- 6.7 Staffordshire – Minerals Plan Adopted February 2017 now looking at review of the waste plan which was adopted in 2012.
- 6.8 Warwickshire – Due to a large increase in permitted reserves, Cabinet resolved to go back to publication stage with fewer sites allocated (6.5Mt instead of 8Mt).
- 6.9 Birmingham Development Plan - adopted January 2017. The plan includes policies on waste and minerals. Chapter 8 and paragraphs 3.14 – 3.14D of the UDP 2005 remains extant until adoption of the Development Management document policies. It is envisaged that the new DPD which includes Development Control policies will be adopted in 2018.
- 6.10 Shropshire – Reviewing plan based on housing figures only and a Green Belt review. Will replace existing documents with one Local Plan. Do not envisage allocating minerals sites at present due to large reserves.

- 6.11 Solihull –Preferred Option consultation complete and currently working through responses.
- 6.12 Walsall – Had a short examination. Main mods will be consulted upon. Adoption is due early next year.
- 6.13 There was some discussion on whether there should be a 7/10 year landbank at the end of the plan period. It was agreed there should be until last day of plan being in force.

Item 7 – Update from Industry

- 7.1 KB explained there had been a second successive quarterly decline in sales against the previous year and other industry representatives agreed that the industry was slow at the moment but this did not necessarily match construction figures.

Item 8 – Date of next meeting

- 8.1 February, so to be prior to AWP contract ending in March.

Action: MH to send invitation request through liaison with Brian Dore.

Item 9 – AOB

- 9.1 Jim Davies (JD) requested that he be contacted with any issues EA related and was interested in restoration schemes requiring large volumes of waste material and water abstraction schemes.
- 9.2 AC noted that following a HS2 meeting, that HS2 representatives may want to contact the AWP in the future for advice on sourcing materials due to lack of expertise at local authorities.

West Midlands Aggregate Working Party

Minutes of Meeting Friday 13th July 2018

10 am – 1 pm Birmingham

Attendees:

Adrian Cooper	Shropshire (Chair)	AC
Jacob Bonehill	Birmingham	BD
Mark North	MPA	MN
Mark Watkins	Sandwell	MW
Mike Halsall	Urban Vision (Secretariat)	MH
Phil Ward	Worcestershire	MW
Matthew Griffin	Staffordshire	MG
Dawn Sherwood	Walsall	DS
Victoria Eaton	Herefordshire	VE
Trefor Evans	BAA	TE
Tim Claxton	Aggregate	TC
Andy Kent	Tarmac	AK
Graeme King	Breedon / MPA	GK
David Bray	Staffordshire	DB
Tom Lewis	Stoke	TL
Harjot Rayet	Telford	HR

Apologies:

Vicky Engelke	CLG
Jo Davies	Breedon Aggregates
Peter Huxtable	BAA
Gavin Ashford	APT Group
David Piper	Dudley
Joanne Mayne	Stoke
Marianne Joynes	Worcs
Mark Page	Hanson
Maurice Barlow	Solihull
Keith Bird	Hanson
Ranjit Sagoo	Warwickshire
Tony Lyons	Warwickshire
Nick Atkins	Tarmac

Item 1 - Introduction and Apologies

- 1.1 Adrian Cooper (AC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members to introduce themselves for record keeping.

Item 2 – Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes were agreed.

Item 3 – NCG Update

- 3.2 AC explained that an MHCLG representative attended the NCG meeting. There is a national AWP Chairs and Secretariats meeting taking place in October and invited input from AWP members for anything they wish to be discussed, e.g. standard format for AWP reports.

Action: Members to feedback with any comments to AC.

Item 4 – MHCLG and 4 yearly surveys

- 4.1 AC - Other AWP's are writing a letter to Simon Gallagher of MHCLG to stress importance of AWP funding and MASS etc. All agreed that West Midlands should do the same.

Actions: MH to draft a letter for AWP review based upon other AWP letters.

Item 5 – 2017 Annual Report

- 5.1 MH thanked everyone for their prompt responses and comments and ran through figures within the report. AC invited comments.
- 5.2 Industry reps, GK, AK and TE, all noted that land prices for agricultural land were making it difficult to convince landowners that minerals development would be profitable, especially compared to housing.
- 5.3 MG raised the issue of having a standard template for reporting across the AWP's.
- 5.4 It was agreed that a short, dashboard approach should be applied to the front of the report, identifying trends and issues across the West Midlands, with the other information within appendices. Also, a national picture should be included.
- 5.5. MH explained that Carolyn, North West AWP Chair is pulling together a national picture which can be fed into the AWP reports.
- 5.6 The discussion diverged onto LAAs and their content, identifying future trends, should this be based upon housing. MN explained that housing figures were used in the North Yorkshire LAA and agreed to circulate.
- 5.7 GK questioned reference to the types of sandstone in Shropshire within the report. AC agreed to check this.

- 5.8 Errors also noted within Page 48 – Separate the representatives for BAA, and remove Lafarge from 'Lafarge Tarmac'. Also page 30, the footnote needs to also apply to Sandwell.
- 5.9 AK questioned whether the average sales figure from previous 3 year figure should be used and compared to the ten year figure. Then explain which one used and why. There seemed to be a consensus that this should be done. AC agreed to check what other AWP's do.
- 5.10 Dewatering concerns were noted by AK and MN due to regulation changes meaning the EA require consent. This could reduce the actual reserves available.
- 5.11 Mark noted that the report should include a 'health warning' that the demand figures within the report do not account for any planned infrastructure projects.
- 5.12 AC noted his title is incorrect in the report, should be Planning Policy and Strategy Manager.

Actions: AC to check reference to sandstone within the report and ask other AWP Chairs whether they use the 3 yr figure. All to send any further comments by end of July. MH to then amend the report accordingly and send final draft. MN to circulate North Yorks LAA.

Item 6 – LAAs

- 6.1 Walsall – Have a draft LAA from 2015 but can update it to 2016.
- 6.2 Shropshire and Telford – Expecting a draft with 2017 figures to be ready for circulation in autumn 2018
- 6.3 Staffordshire and Stoke - Expecting a draft with 2017 figures to be ready for circulation in autumn 2018
- 6.4 Herefordshire - Expecting a draft with 2017 figures to be ready for circulation in autumn 2018
- 6.5 Worcestershire - Expecting a draft with 2017 figures to be ready for circulation in late 2018. AC requested this be prior to next meeting in November.

Item 7 – Progress on Development Plans

- 7.1 See AWP report – Table 2.

Item 8 – Industry Update

- 8.1 MN ran through the key figures, as follows:
 - MPA MARKET SALES VOLUMES. The latest MPA data cover sales volumes up to 2018Q1, seasonally and non-seasonally adjusted. Sales volumes for asphalt and aggregates fell by 4.8% and 4.9% respectively in 2018Q1 compared to the previous quarter, and ready-mixed concrete (RMC) by 7.7%. Mortar sales, which received a significant boost from housebuilding in recent quarters, contracted by 3.8% in

2018Q1. MPA is currently in the process of collecting the sales volume for 2018Q2, which will be published at the end of Jul-18.

- **ECONOMIC OUTLOOK.** Economists expect 2018Q2 to have seen a rebound in the form of a catch-up from the poor first quarter GDP growth. Recent data however have been mixed, indicating that the potential for catch up may be limited. Beyond Q2, the outlook has not changed materially: the CBI expects GDP growth of 1.4% this year and 1.3% in 2019. Growth in exports is meant to provide a boost to UK growth but the risks seem skewed on the downside given current tensions between the US and its major trading partners.
- **CONSTRUCTION.** Construction output continued to decline in the 3 months to Apr-18, down 3.4% (£1.4bn) compared to the previous 3 months, with falls across all sub-sectors of construction, except industrial new work. Data on new contracts from Barbour ABI point to continued but subdued construction activity in the near-term, primarily driven by housing.
- **The Asphalt Industry Alliance (AIA) & ALARM Survey**

Each year the AIA commissions an independent survey of local authority highway departments in England and Wales, the Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance (ALARM) Survey, which takes a snapshot of the general condition of the local road network, based on information provided directly by those responsible for its maintenance, thus providing a means of tracking any improvement or deterioration. March 2018 saw the 23rd annual survey with findings covering the financial year 2017/18. The survey highlights that you could drive almost around the world on the length of roads in England and Wales that could fail in the next 12 months. It would take 14 years to get local roads back into a reasonable steady state, with total funding needed in excess of £9 Billion to deal with potholes.

Item 9 – Next meeting

- 9.1 After the 18th October meeting. MH to circulate provisional dates.

West Midlands Aggregate Working Party

Minutes of Meeting Friday 10th December 2018

10 am – 1 pm Birmingham

Attendees:

Adrian Cooper	Shropshire (Chair)	AC
Martin Dando	Birmingham	MD
Mark North	MPA	MN
Maurice Barlow	Solihull	MB
Carolyn Williams	Urban Vision (Secretariat)	MH
Marianne Pomeroy	Worcestershire	MW
Matthew Griffin	Staffordshire	MG
Paul Wilcox	Warwickshire	PW
Paul Hopkins	Tarmac	PH
Trefor Evans	BAA	TE
Ranjit Sagoo	Warwickshire	RS
Jo Davies	Breedon Southern Ltd	JD

Apologies:

Jim Davies	Environment Agency
Harjot Rayet	Telford
Peter Huxtable	BAA
Dawn Sherwood	Walsall
David Piper	Dudley
Joanne Mayne	Stoke
Rob Haigh	Coventry
Mark Page	Hanson
Shaun Denny	Cemex
Keith Bird	Hanson
Tim Claxton	Aggregate Industries
Tony Lyons	Warwickshire
Nick Atkins	Tarmac
Victoria Eaton	Herefordshire

Item 1 - Introduction and Apologies

- 1.1 Adrian Cooper (AC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members to introduce themselves for record keeping.

Item 2 – Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 Outstanding action noted from the minutes for AC to follow up regarding sandstone. Action repeated below for completeness. The minutes were agreed.
- AC to check reference to sandstone within the report and ask other AWP Chairs whether they use the 3 yr. figure.**

Item 3 – AM2018 – Discussion and approval of final draft

- 3.1 Carolyn Williams (CW) ran through the changes to the report since the last draft and AC welcomed comments.
- 3.2 Mark North (MN) questioned whether the AWP can fulfil its role of contributing to local, regional and national needs; there is concern that this cannot be monitored due to issues over data. The issues have been raised in the letter sent by AWP chairs to MHCLG, and the AMR could benefit from raising these issues within the report.
- 3.3 AC agreed the points raised in the recent letter are important and that MHCLG need to start doing more and recognise the importance of MASS and commit to supporting this.
- 3.4 CW suggested inclusion of text which covers these issues.
- 3.5 Maurice Barlow (MB) commented that the AMR does not take account of future reserves which are now sterilised by HS2. MB agreed to send some suggested text changes to address this.
- 3.6 Paul Hopkins (PH) noted that previous minutes (July 2017) had commented that aggregates for HS2 would be coming from the SE; however this is not the case. In regards to the development of the West Midlands HS2 section, Tarmac are working closely with potential Tier 1 contractors on the detail development work associated with the HS2 scheme and initial indications are that requirements for aggregates and aggregate products within the WM AWP area, are to be predominantly from local quarries and operators within the region, as such the AMR needs to reflect this need. PH agreed to send some text through regarding the future requirements which could then be inserted within the AMR.
- 3.7 MN added that the MPA have also met with HS2 and they have indicated that for period 2019-24 (phase 1 of HS2) they are looking for between 30-40mt of aggregates and they are expecting the WM and EM authorities to contribute to meeting this need. This is likely to meet supply issues.
- 3.8 PH has already noted an increased demand for output from his sites which are now working at capacity.
- 3.9 Paul Wilcox (PW) commented that HS2 does feature in LAAs but has assumed supply would be met elsewhere.
- 3.10 It was agreed that an additional paragraph on HS2 should be included within the AMR and expanded on in due course when more information becomes available.
- 3.11 AC suggested that HS2 team be invited to the next AWP to discuss supply needs and potential issues in meeting this need from the WM area.
- 3.12 CW mentioned the current HS2 consultation. PW stated that Warwickshire are preparing a response and it is clear that there is a lack of consideration of where the minerals needed to deliver HS2 will be sourced. It was agreed that the AWP should respond to HS2 stating more consideration of mineral supply is required in order for both the industry and MPA's to be in a position to assist delivery of this.

- 3.13 Marianne Pomeroy (MP) questioned how do we forecast demand for this in LAA when we don't know what is needed?
- 3.14 PH agreed to send information through on what he had but it was agreed that a meeting with HS2 is needed to better understand what is required. PH also noted that emerging plans will need to take a flexible approach to new sites coming forward to meet this need.
- 3.15 Matthew Griffin (MG) commented that HS2 have not engaged with Staffordshire on the need for material from their area through the recent local plan consultation and they should be encouraged to cooperate through this process to ensure that local plans can seek to address this need.
- 3.16 MG added that the Staffordshire LAA has some text on HS2 which could be used in the AMR.
- 3.17 PW questioned what the reference to planned major infrastructure developments refers to in the new text added to the AMR following the last meeting. Further wording is needed to explain what they are and that major projects need to be supported by a supply audit to state where the material for the development will be sourced.
- 3.18 AC commented that the type of projects would be HS2, but could also include large housing developments where 1000 plus homes are planned.
- 3.19 MG noted that LAAs should also be picking up NSIP within their forecasting.
- 3.20 PW questioned the text in paragraphs 1.3 and 1.4 which reported a large loss of reserves. MG stated this is correct and was reported following a change of ownership of a site. MG agreed to review the text to see if additional wording could be added to explain the change.

ACTION: PH to send information to add into new paragraph on HS2. CW to add new text on HS2 and text from letter to MHCLG on issues with WM AWP being able to monitor if they are making a contribution to meeting local, regional and national needs. MG to review Para 1.3 and 1.4 and suggest new text. MB to send revised text on HS2 impacts on sterilised reserves.

ACTION: MN to provide contact details for HS2 to enable them to be invited to a future AWP.

ACTION: AWP to prepare a short response to HS2 consultation stating does not adequately address mineral requirements.

Item 4 – Progress on Local Aggregate Assessments

- 4.1 CW noted that 3 LAA's based on 2017 data had been circulated for comment.
- 4.2 MN noted that the Shropshire and Staffordshire LAA's were short and succinct. It was noted that Shropshire needed to include a section on forecasting and this was agreed by AC. The same issue was also mentioned in regards to Herefordshire.

- 4.3 PW mentioned that the 2016 LAA had been recirculated in June prior to the last AWP meeting, however it was noted that this was not discussed at that meeting as Warwickshire could not attend, as such this LAA is yet to be agreed by the AWP. It was requested that this be resent. PW noted that this LAA forms the evidence for the Local Plan.
- 4.4 Rajit Sagoo (RS) ran through information from the draft 2017 LAA. RS noted that there are only 3 active sand and gravel sites which are still seeing a decline in sales. Recent sales showed a slight increase, but overall figures still showing decline. There are 6 sites being proposed through the local plan process to meet future needs. PW noted that only one proposed site is supported by an operator.
- 4.5 Trefor Evans (TE) noted that deposits in Warwickshire tend to be small and hard to access, however as better sites are worked, these smaller sites are now being promoted.
- 4.6 PH noted that sites in Warwickshire have been less attractive to work but better sites are not available now and as such interest in such areas is starting to come forward. PH noted the need to not let past sales data influence future need in the LAA.
- 4.7 RS noted that the LAA still needs a section on forecasting. AC added that the plan may benefit from a windfall policy to allow more sites to come forward in an acknowledgement that we are planning in uncertain times. RS also noted that response rate of recycled and secondary aggregate sites have been poor.
- 4.8 MN noted that this is an issue elsewhere and maybe a note to this is needed for MHCLG to recognise the issues with gathering data on this through the AMR.
- 4.9 PW noted that the draft LAA should be available 21st December 2018.
- 4.10 MB to provide an update post meeting on progress on a joint LAA between the met areas.

Actions: LAAs to be circulated once revised. Outstanding LAA's to be prepared ASAP.

Item 5 – MHCLG and the 4 yearly aggregates survey

- 5.1 CW updated the AWP on the letter that had been sent to MHCLG and on correspondence from Richard Greaves (Essex CC) who has been in contact with Simon Gallagher from MHCLG on behalf of the Minerals PAG. It is looking positive for a further 12 month extension but nothing has been confirmed yet.
- 5.2 MN added that the MPA had also recently met with Simon Gallagher and that discussions had been positive and MHCLG are recognising the importance of AWP's and the work they have done and the role of MASS in supporting growth. Simon Gallagher confirmed to the MPA that the AWP contracts would be rolled forward for a year. MN also noted that the PPG on minerals is being reviewed and updated and expected the end of Q1 2019.

Item 6 – Duty to Co-operate and Statements of Common Ground

- 6.1 CW raised this item following discussions at the recent NW AWP. Paragraph: 017 ID: 61-017-20180913 of PPG now includes a reference for AWP's as signatories on SoCG for minerals plans. CW questioned had anyone thought what that would be? As AWP's are supported by both local authorities and industry it is not always possible to agree a consensus opinion on local plans and as such it is not clear how AWP's could sign up to minerals plans.
- 6.2 MP commented that this had been discussed at a recent POS M&W google group meeting. It was suggested that when a plan was starting from the outset SoCG would be easier but not for plans that have been progressing for some time.
- 6.3 The AWP agreed that more detail is needed on this and maybe a matter to take to the minerals PAG to address with MHCLG.

Item 7 – Progress on Development Plans

- 7.1 Staffordshire – No change for the minerals plan.
- 7.2 Warwickshire – Minerals plan out for consultation for Reg 19, closes 12th December. Submission expected late 2019.
- 7.3 Solihull –Current Local Plan adopted 2013, containing minerals and waste policies. Local Plan Review commenced July 2015, consultation on Draft Local Plan commenced December 2016 to February 2017 and a summary of representations to the Draft Local Plan Review consultation was reported to Cabinet Members in July 2017. Supplementary Draft consultation to be published January 2019. Submission draft is programmed for summer 2019.
- 7.4 Worcestershire – Reg 18 starts Monday 17th December. Site allocations will be a separate DPD. The consultation on the methodology for sites is out at the same time as the Reg 18 which starts this month.
- 7.5 Shropshire – Still at Reg 18 stage. Plan review started in in 2017. The preferred options is currently out until the end of January 2019 but does not include mineral sites just housing. New consultation on strategic sites expected spring. The reg 19 plan will be the end on 2019. No specific mineral content, just updates to the existing policies as have sufficient sites.

Item 8 – Industry Update

- 8.1 MN noted the MPA had produced specific data for the WM region. This was appreciated by the AWP. MN also provided key figures, as follows:

Economic & Market Outlook

MPA MARKET SALES. Demand for mineral products resulted in a broad-based weakening and increased volatility of markets during 2018. In addition, lower confidence in major infrastructure projects starting in 2019, given the continuous delays in the roads programme and main works on HS2, also resulted in downgrades to the MPA market

outlook in 2019. Outside mortar, mineral products markets are facing another year of flat to marginally negative sales volumes, with growth only expected to resume from 2020.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK. The political debate surrounding the Withdrawal Agreement is adding to a general climate of uncertainty and low business confidence. Business surveys showed UK economic activity slowed in October, and business optimism about the year ahead deteriorated. The OECD forecasts UK growth of 1.4% in 2019 but also indicates that a failure to negotiate a Withdrawal Agreement, including a transitional period, is in their view the greatest risk to the UK Economic outlook in the near term. This adds to a series of economic analyses predicting that closer arrangements between the UK and the EU would limit any economic damage, whilst a 'No Deal' Brexit would result in the worse scenario.

CONSTRUCTION. In the first 9 months of the year, construction activity was 0.7% higher compared to the same period last year, with new work remaining broadly flat. Momentum in house building and some growth in infrastructure and non-housing repair & maintenance were the main drivers in activity, offset by falls in commercial and public non-housing work. Looking forward, the CPA forecasts construction activity to remain flat in 2018. Modest growth in 2019 and 2020 will be underpinned by continued growth in housing, but, increasingly, by major infrastructure projects in the transport and energy sectors. Meanwhile, commercial work is forecast to remain weak until 2020.

- 8.2 PH noted that demand profiles are more important than sales for predicting future need.
- 8.3 JD noted that sales have picked up in the 2nd half of the year mainly due to increased demand from highways applications.
- 8.4 TE noted that BAA had written to MHCLG to which they have received a response and felt that the government is looking more favorably on minerals.

Item 9 – AOB

- 9.1 MG raised that the Minerals PAG are looking at updating the practice guide for minerals safeguarding, a draft is expected fairly soon.
- 9.2 MN noted that the agents of change principle is in NPPF and is a useful tool for minerals site protection.
- 9.3 PW noted that MCAs no longer exist in new NPPF and all covered by MSAs, it was commented that this could be an issue in 2 tier areas.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed the meeting should be early summer May/June 2019. Birmingham noted still happy to host.

Minutes of West Midlands Aggregates Working Party 23 April 2020 Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Chair: Adrian Cooper

Shropshire Council

Secretariat: Maria Cotton

Capita

Attendees:

Maria Cotton	Capita
Adrian Cooper	Shropshire Council
Marian Pomeeroy	Worcestershire Council
Victoria Eaton	Herefordshire Council
Mark North	Mineral Products Association
Matt Griffin	Staffordshire Council
Tony Lyons	Warwickshire Council
Gavin Ashford	Telford council
Aimee Smith	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Lonek Wojtulewicz	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Malcom Law`	Tarmac

Apologies:

Item	Description
1.	Introductions and apologies
2.	Minutes and actions of last meeting
3.	AM2019 – Update
4.	HS2
5.	Trend based forecasting

Item	Description
7.	Local Aggregate Assessments
5.	MPA's Update - Progress on Development Plans
6.	Industry Update
8.	AOB

1. Introductions

1.1 Adrian Cooper (AC) Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes and actions of last meeting

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

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

3. AM2019 – Update

3.1 Lonek Wojtulewicz (LW) provided an update from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MCHLG) and stated that many Whitehall staff have been redeployed to assist with the Covid-19 crisis, including planning staff. Currently the focus is on dealing with the issues caused by the crisis and what planning can do to assist this. Work includes developing planning guidance on issues such as emergency change of use and Permitted development (PD) rights and relaxation of policy regulations for the food industry. There are a number of issues being considered and it is likely that there will some changes to the legislation. The department is keen for all other planning matters to progress, including minerals work which will be an important of the recovery.

3.2 Aimee Smith (AS) provided an update on the aggregate mineral survey. AS confirmed that BGS have been awarded the contract to complete the survey which will be distributed online. BGS were in the process of reviewing the survey and analysing pilot data to make sure they can process and analyse survey results with the previous survey.

3.3 AS stated that there was no confirmed date for the survey to go live but hoped that it would be later in the year. It was thought that Form B would likely be delayed as a lot of people within the industry had been furloughed and they were unlikely to get the response needed within the set timeframe.

3.4 Malcolm Law (ML) circulated comments on interim planning measures prior to the meeting and asked LW for an update on this. The first issue raised was in relation to the dispensation for LAs on timings of planning decisions including

approvals and failure to meet timings. LW noted that the department expected LAs to take a pragmatic approach to this including enforcement. LW noted that a pragmatic approach was also needed for planning consultations.

3.5 Marian Pomeroy (MP) stated that DM colleagues were putting measures in place to carry out planning committees remotely but questioned what the guidance was around site visits. LW stated that the department didn't have a specific update on this, however this was something that was being considered but it was likely that the approach would vary across councils.

3.6 MP asked whether there was any updated guidance on when public hearings would take place. LW noted they were working in liaison with PINS and was aware that PINS were going to be releasing guidance on this issue and would look to try and do this virtually.

3.7 The question was asked what MHCLG experience was on getting responses from statutory consultees in relation to minerals and waste. LW said that the department were aware of some minor issues (e.g. consultees not able to visit the site and therefore this has led to delayed responses) and that some departments were not that well equipped to deal with new homeworking situation

4. HS2

4.1 Mark North (MN) mentioned that HS2 was first raised in response to the Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan and consultees questioned whether the plan had taken sufficient account of this project. In Local Aggregate Assessments (LAAs) carried out previously, Worcestershire has only been able to make reference to this due to limited information but has asked whether there is more information available on this as the project advances.

4.2 AC noted that the issue is not that HS2 will be sucking in aggregate material from further afield but that it will likely require local material along the route that usually supplies local markets. This local demand will need to be met with supplies brought in from elsewhere and may lead to market distortion.

4.3 MN noted the lack of local information on this project and stated that he had attended a regional meeting with HS2 on phase 1. HS2 advised that now there has been extensive groundwork investigations, it has been highlighted that the material they thought would be there isn't available. As a consequence, for phase one, the project will require 20 million tonnes of primary aggregate as fill, 10 million tonnes of dry mixed concrete, 1.4 million tonnes of precast and there will be 32 million tonnes of site excavation for phase 1. To show the scale of this project, HS2 will require 550 lorries and 18 trains with 550 wagons daily. They will also require 110% of UK's current articulated dump trucks. These figures are not broken down for the west Midlands. MN also stated that it was clear that the West Midlands route will be supplied by West Midlands counties

and therefore everyday aggregate demand will need to be supported by East Midlands which will be a challenge.

4.4 ML stated that from an industry perspective, the majority of sand and gravel for the northern section of HS2 will come from the West Midlands. In terms of fills, whilst a significant proportion will come from within west Midlands, the majority is anticipated to come from outside the west midlands region and will likely be brought in by train from surrounding counties. Balfour Betty Vinci (BBV) who have won the contract for the northern section of the HS2 contract are likely to have a clearer picture of aggregate demand and ML will try and establish who the best contact is within BBV so that they can be contacted to obtain further information on this.

ACTION: ML to establish relevant contact within BBV so that they can be contacted for information on aggregate demand in relation to HS2 phase 1.

4.5 Tony Lyons (TL) noted that during the phase 1 planning forum with HS2, the lack of information was raised as an issue. At the time, HS2 advised that Council's should get a group of MPAs together who share the same concerns and take this dedication back to the forum.

4.6 AC questioned whether the AWP could be used as a vehicle to do this and suggested that initial contact is made.

ACTION: AC to follow this up with HS2 and make initial contact. In addition, any specific points and/or queries that should be raised on the AWP's behalf should be fed through MC.

4.7 Mark North (MN) noted that for any major infrastructure or housing projects, there should be a requirement to provide a mineral supply audit at the planning stage. This would enable LAs an understanding of what demand is needed. MN wondered whether there was any possibility that this could be weaved into the forthcoming Planning white paper. AC endorsed this point and felt that it was difficult to plan in waste terms without such figures.

4.8 LW noted that when planning national infrastructure, it does make sense to consider this at a national approach. LW is aware that DEFRA are undertaking some work on waste management plans and how resources are used and whilst it is unlikely that a waste audit will be required as part of development, DEFRA have looked at things like the London Plan policy approach.

4.9 MN responded by saying that you can't assume supply. This has been highlighted by the UK governments initial intention to keep the construction industry open but with mineral supply quarries are closed, construction was closed within days.

- 4.10 AC agreed that HS2 would be on the next meeting agenda in order to provide a further update to the AWP group.

5. Trend based forecasting

- 5.1 AC noted that forecasting future demand has been raised in previous meetings as the approach which has been used in the past is not particularly effective. The main issue is finding a way to moderate the 10-year average approach that would enable LAs to paint a more realistic picture. The current basic approach uses a ten-year average which factors in some unknowns to moderate the average, however, AC felt that major growth opportunities and growth plans should be taken into consideration and forecasts adjusted accordingly. MN stated that LAs make attempts to forecast but all too often, reliance is on the 10-year plan.
- 5.2 AC stated that AWP was in a position to agree a shared approach or at least a list of things that should be considered to modernise or review the standard ten-year approach. MC noted that it was important to be mindful of consistency across the UK and certainly across all AWP's. MC suggested that if the West Midlands AWP was able to come up with a more accurate forecasting model, then this could be put forward to MHCLG to send out to AWP's across the country so that everyone could agree on a shared approach and ensure that they were calculating forecasts in the same way.
- 5.3 LW felt that it is an issue for central government to make sure that the system works but noted that there is already a framework in place through the NPPF which is sometimes ignored. AC stated that more detailed national guidance was needed to support LAs when doing forecasting, particularly for LAs that don't have the resources as this is a resource heavy job. In response to this, LW stated that the government may be reluctant to issue more detailed guidance as they wanted to give more flexibility to LAs but recognised that long term forecasting was difficult. LC noted that national guidelines were important but that if the AWP were to come up with a new approach, this should be simple and effective.
- 5.4 Matt Griffin (MG) noted the difficulties in forecasting but said that they had knowledge in the sites and resources that were available for the future. MG noted a study carried out by BTS which was useful for predicting demand as it looked at rundown analysis and productive capacities.

6. Local Aggregate Assessments

- 6.1 MC stated that queries had been raised in relation to the impact that Covid-19 would have on the production of LAAs and whether LAs would be proceeding with these. The 2019 data should now be available via returns but there has

been a cross over with the four-yearly central government survey. Return requests have not been sent out to West Midlands, which is not the case across all AWP's, and this has caused some confusion. MC was also concerned that with two requests from different areas may be an issue for smaller operators.

6.2 TL pointed out that the forms will need to be confidential as there may be pressure to release information through FOIs. It was agreed that the forms should be confidential and destroyed afterwards.

6.3 AC stated that completing a LAA will be a challenge under normal timescales and ACs preferred approach would be to defer to the next year. MG felt that a shortened report could be provided but until national survey and return data is back, it could be a pointless exercise. The AWP agreed that they would produce a shorter report with the information that was available and setting out the key challenges but would then provide a combined 2019/2020 report.

7. MPAs updates - Progress on Development Plans

Worcestershire Council

7.1 Worcestershire Council have started the examination for the mineral Plan at the beginning of May but this has been postponed and Planning Inspectors have advised that it is unlikely that this will be completed before the summer.

Hertfordshire County Council

7.2 Draft publication documents have all be drawn up but there may be some changes to these. Draft level 2 SFRA was received some time ago but this has not been finalised. Consultants wanted to send to EA for comments. The EA have been delayed coming back with a response due to flooding in Hertfordshire and Covid-19 but hope that comments will be back by the end of the month and consultants will be able to then provide final document. Unconfirmed as to when this will go to full Council. The plan provides for 3 planned extensions and allocations on sand and gravel quarries. There are also planned extension on two crushed rock quarries.

Staffordshire County council

7.3 MG Mindful of the statutory review process for plans. Looking at forward planning programme to see how that fits in with reviewing waste plan at same time.

Warwickshire council

7.4 Tony Lyons (TL) stated that hearings for examination were due to take place on the 3rd and 4th June 2020 but were expecting these to be postponed. Looking

at a potential slot towards the end of July or the autumn time to pick this back up.

Sandwell Council

7.5 Sandwell Council were due to go out to consultation in September, but this has been delayed as a result of Covid-19. A new minerals policy has been drafted and the mineral study is available on the website as part of the evidence base.

Telford Council

7.6 Gavin Ashford (GA) recently started review of local plan but this is in the early stages. The Council are in the process of drafting the Issues and Options document and are still on track with this in line with the Local Development Scheme timeframe. It is hoped that this will go out to consultation in the autumn. Minerals and waste will be considered as part of this work.

Shropshire County Council

7.7 SCC current proposal is to produce pre submission draft plan which is likely to go to Council in July and an eight-week consultation in the autumn, but this depends on the Covid-19 situation. AC stated that he was no longer in charge of the local plan process and deals with climate change most of the time so involvement in the local plan is limited. Shropshire is in a good position in terms of making good quality supply available across the county. No new allocations have been proposed at this point.

8. Industry update

8.1 MN noted that a lot of industry staff has been furloughed but anecdotal evidence suggests that some companies may start limited operations as of next week as the demand is there and there are pressures on supply. XX thanked LAs for their support during this time.

8.2 Cemex have not closed any quarries in the west midlands and furlough has only took place in the last three weeks to peripheral staff. It has been a business as usual approach. Sales have dropped but this is increasing again.

8.3 Tarmac stated that the majority of sites have closed and 70% of staff has been furloughed. Within the west midlands, sites that have remained open are still quite busy which reflects the fact that these are considered as a critical unit for supply. There is optimism within the industry, but sites will remain closed until there are orders again.

9. AOB

- 9.1 The group discussed the efficiency of having meetings via Teams and agreed that it worked well. If meetings were being held virtually, invites would be sent to AS and LW and it would then be up to them as to whether they wished to attend or not.

ACTION: Add AS and LW to future meeting invites

Minutes of West Midlands Aggregates Working Party 16 April 2021 Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Chair: Adrian Cooper /Matthew Shropshire Council /
Griffin Staffordshire Council

Secretariat: Helen Conlon Capita

Attendees:

Helen Conlon	Capita
Adrian Cooper	Shropshire Council
Marian Pomeroy	Worcestershire Council
Victoria Eaton	Herefordshire Council
Maurice Barlow	Staffordshire Council
David Piper	Dudley Council
Scott Moran	Stoke Council
Peter Huxtable	British Aggregates
Vijay Kaul	Wolverhampton Council
Chris Nicoll	Hanson
Thomas Lewis	Stoke Council
Jo Davies	Breedon Group
James Hoskinson	Walsall Council
John Raine	Walsall Council
Mark North	Mineral Products Association
Matthew Griffin	Staffordshire Council
Tony Lyons	Warwickshire Council
Gavin Ashford	Telford council

Hannah Henderson	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Malcom Law	Tarmac
Tim Claxton	Aggregate Industries

Apologies:

Item	Description
1.	Introductions and apologies
2.	Minutes and actions of last meeting
3.	Chair of the West Midlands Aggregate Working Party
4.	Local Aggregate Assessments
5.	AWP Annual Monitoring Report
6.	MPA's Update - Progress on Development Plans
7.	Industry Update
8.	AOB
9.	Date of next meeting

1. Introductions

1.1 Adrian Cooper (AC) Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes and actions of last meeting

2.1 Adrian Cooper (AC) went through the minutes of the last meeting

2.2 In terms of actions from the last meeting, HS2 and the lack of data around this was raised as an issue. Malcolm Law (ML) said that he received high level information from the BBV on aggregate demand relating to phase one of HS2. BBV confirmed that there would be in excess of 10 million tonnes of earth works, selected field, road works and drainage aggregates. 60% of this is resourced via rail supply with the remainder of sources coming direct from quarries where feasible. In addition to this, 3.6 million tonnes of material used in ready mix concrete. This will mainly be from one local sand and gravel

sources. The need is spread across five years. In relation to the 10 million tonnes, AC asked whether any of this proportion was for soil. ML thought that that this proportion was likely to be all aggregate and fill material.

- 2.3 Mark North (MN) stated that through their own investigative work, these figures weren't far off what they had anticipated. AC noted that this high-level data may need to be reflected in the Local Aggregate Assessments (LAAs) i.
- 2.4 MN noted the importance of having a material supply audit upfront for major projects and significant housing projects. This would put Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs) in a better position and ensure an orderly replenishment of materials. Government does not seem to have a regional overview but through attendance at other AWP meetings, it is clear that there is an under provision of materials for the future.
- 2.5 Hannah Henderson (HH) stated that this message has been relayed at other AWP meetings and one that she will feed back to the central team.
- 2.6 ML noted that HS2 will act as a catalyst for wider investment in the West Midlands which will also increase demand, and this should be considered when undertaking LAA. ML also mentioned that Norfolk LAA uses a 20-year average as opposed to a ten-year average as this better reflects the economic cycle.
- 2.7 Matthew Griffin (MG) has had opportunity to consider demand figures for the HS2 project when dealing with a planning application for a new quarry in the Trent Valley north of Lichfield (refer to application ref: L.20/03/867 M) Information and documents relating to this application is available in public domain (<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/scc/cpland/Details.aspx?applicationID=137688>). Information has highlighted that the role of aggregates in northern section of phase 1 will require a lot of material to be imported into the West Midlands via rail but there will also be a need for concrete and drainage materials from local sources (refer to "Need Argument Addendum – March 2021" under document tab using the above link). MG will provide a link to the group to this application
- 2.8 AWP confirmed minutes from the last meeting

ACTION 1: MG to provide link to planning application.

3. Chair of the West Midlands Aggregate Working Party

- 3.1 AC confirmed he was stepping down as chair of the West Midlands Aggregate Working Party (WMAWP) due to a change of roles within Shropshire Council. AC has had a discussion with colleagues offline and has proposed that the role of chair is rotated amongst the shire Councils on a rotating annual basis. It was noted that the metropolitan Councils will continue to support the AWP but will not be expected to chair future meetings. MG is going to take over as chair for now until it's time to change again. MG thanked AG for this time and leadership as Chair of the WMAWP.

4. Aggregate Mineral Survey 2019

- 4.1 MG noted that that the AWP has been sent the latest version of survey data from BGS and all local authority colleagues have been asked to check this. MG asked whether anyone was having any trouble with this or wished to raise any points in relation to this. Victoria Eaton (VE) mentioned that she has some trouble accessing links but has been in direct contact with BGS about this.
- 4.2 Peter Huxtable (PH) said that a big issue with the survey was a lack of AMRI data as there was nothing to compare data with and this has complicated the process. MN also agreed with this and felt that it was very important to get AMRI back. Marian Pomeroy (MP) noted that AMRI was essential from a local authority perspective and not just for industry.
- 4.3 HH stated that MHCLG were expecting a first draft report in April and a final report in May which will need ministerial clearance. Once finalised, the report would be published on gov.uk website but nothing would be published before the 6th May as Wales are in an election period¹.
- 4.4 Tony Lyons (TL) highlighted that they have had some difficulties getting information from operators, so figures provided have largely been based on estimates.
- 4.5 MN noted that the use of Survey Monkey to carry out the monitoring has caused some difficulty amongst industry and Local Authorities.
- 4.6 David Piper (DP) noted that Dudley Council have no producing quarries which resulted in NIL return on form B of the survey, however, it took a lot of effort to come to this conclusion.
- 4.7 MG noted that the 2019 survey was devoid of data for aggregates from alternative sources and asked whether this was a problem elsewhere in the country or particular to West Midlands. In response to this, HH stated that she was not aware of this issue at other AWP's but noted that MHCLG set up the forms and welcome feedback on any issues. MHCLG will do a 'lessons learnt' exercise so this type of feedback is useful and should be included in next agenda.

Action 2: Include 'lessons learnt' discussion on the annual survey on next agenda.

5. Local Aggregate Assessments

- 5.1 MG noted that 2020 surveys have gone out to industry and wondered whether the best approach for the LLA going forward should be to combine 2019 data from AMS survey and 2020 data? VE and AC stated that they would be happy with this approach.
- 5.2 MP mentioned that they were not able to produce a LAA for 2018 so their intention is to combine 2018 and 2019 data. Because of this, MP would prefer not to include 2020 results in this report as the data is unlikely to be back in time to incorporate into final report. MP hoped to share a draft of the LAA with the AWP but was unable to commit to dates as Worcestershire Council does

¹ The final report will be available to view [here](#) once published

not currently have a committee member. TL stated that Warwickshire were intending on following the same approach Worcestershire.

5.3 ML noted that following covid-19, 2020 data may obscure forecasting and should be used with caution in LAAs. Tim Claxton (TC) also agreed with this point and mentioned that Aggregate Industries have compared quarter one 2021 results with 2019.

5.4 MN stated that it was important MPAs make the best effort possible in forecasting demand going forward. Where LAA's are deficient, MN will need to consider the best approach to deal with these. MN also noted that the LAA system was not working and the national guidelines on this needed to be refreshed. ML agreed with this point and stated that the whole purpose of a LAA was to be forward looking and ensure adequate future provision of aggregates. ML also noted it was important that MPAS engage more critically in the process and make sure that there is a robust data set against which future provision can be made.

5.5 MP noted that the subject of LLAs and methodology has been raised at previous AWP meetings, but nothing was finalised on this. MP asked whether this is something that could be picked up again and whether there were any best practice examples / guidance on this? MG suggested holding a separate meeting with mineral producing authorities to discuss this and provide more meaningful feedback on this issue.

5.6 MG noted that LAA drafts are usually ready by the autumn but wondered whether the timescales should be moved. AC felt that the aspiration should be to get up to date as quickly as possible and complete surveys by June, but this would depend on a number of factors.

ACTION 3: HC to add LAA methodology on next WMAWP agenda.

ACTION 4: MG to organise separate meeting with mineral producing authorities to discuss LAA data/methodology.

6. AWP Annual monitoring Survey

6.1 MG noted that the 2018 AMR has not been finalised and was conscious that the work needs to be started on the 2019 report. HC confirmed that the 2018 report is almost complete, but some sections still need to be finalised. This will be sent around the AWP for final comments.

ACTION 5: HC to send around final AMR report for comments.

7. MPAs updates - Progress on Development Plans

Staffordshire Council

7.1 Staffordshire may need to review local plan, but a review programme has not been confirmed.

Black Country

7.2 It is expected that the Black Country Plan will be adopted in 2024. Regulation 18 consultation due to take place in late 2021. Waste and minerals evidence base documents available to view on website.

Telford council

7.3 Currently working on Issues and Options draft of the plan. Reg 18 consultation closed in January 2019 and working through site selection process. It is hoped that Regulation 19 consultation will take place Summer 2021.

Herefordshire council

7.4 Herefordshire published draft plan on 12th April for Regulation 19 consultation. Consultation ends on 24th May 2021.

Worcestershire Council

7.5 Public examination on the Minerals Local Plan took place in November/December 2020. Hoping to consult on main modifications in summer 2021 but this will depend on when a cabinet member is put in place for sign off. Currently working on site allocations and it is likely that consultation on this will take place later next year.

Solihull Council

7.6 Solihull hoping to submit draft plan for Reg19 consultation within the next couple of weeks.

Warwickshire Council

7.7 Warwickshire are still in the middle of examination. Hearings took place in October 2020 and follow up actions from the Inspector were required. Hoping to consult on main modifications in summer 2021.

8. Industry update

8.1 MN circulated latest economic industry update in advance of the meeting and mentioned that economists were expecting a much faster economic recovery than expected due to the roll out of vaccines etc. Jo Davies (JD) and TC noted that this was evident in the number of orders coming through.

8.2 MN also mentioned the Mineral Planning conference due to take place on 15th June 2021. HC to circulate the link to this.

ACTION 6: HC to circulate link to Mineral Planning conference.

9. AOB

9.1 MN noted that updating guidelines was firmly on the agenda at MHCLG and minerals is being considered as a separate item as part of the general planning review. MHCLG are keen to progress the revised guidelines.

10. Date of next meeting

10.1 AWP agreed to have the next meeting in early October 2021 with a two-hour slot.

Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA)

1. Aggregates represent the most significant mineral produced in Shropshire. National policy guidance requires Shropshire to maintain an adequate and steady supply of aggregates during the current Plan period to 2026. The report has taken account of feedback from the review of LAA's completed by the secretariat of the West Midlands Aggregates Working Party in 2016. The West Midlands Aggregates Working Party (WMAWP) has agreed to use a ten-year rolling average as the principal indicator for aggregates production, consistent with national policy guidance. The West Midlands Aggregates Working Party (WMAWP) has considered and endorsed the content of this LAA.
2. The purpose of the LAA is to establish whether there is a shortage or surplus of supply and provides evidence for determining the level of provision of mineral aggregates to be made in the Local Development Plans for Shropshire. For clarity, this Local Aggregate Assessment takes into account the supply and demand of aggregates for Shropshire including the area administered by Telford & Wrekin Council. The majority of aggregate production takes place in the area administered by Shropshire Council. There is currently no sand and gravel working, but crushed rock from a single site in Telford & Wrekin contributes about a quarter of the annual sales. Both areas contain facilities where construction, demolition and excavation waste is recycled to produce aggregates. References to Shropshire in this document relate to the area administered by both Councils. The first section of the report reviews evidence relating to the supply of aggregates in Shropshire and the report then assesses other relevant information to provide a forecast for demand and the need for additional aggregate mineral resources. Headline performance indicators for minerals are illustrated in the Table below.

Table 1: Headline Mineral Monitoring Indicators 2016-17:

		Sand and gravel	Change	Crushed rock	Change
Production	2016 production	0.74 million tonnes	▲	2.69 million tonnes	▼
	3-year average	0.70 million tonnes	▲	2.86 million tonnes	▼
	10-year average	0.69 million tonnes	◀	2.39 million tonnes	◀
	Informatives	Production guideline based on 10-year average. No other relevant local information which indicates deviation from this average is currently required.		Production guideline based on 10-year average. No other relevant local information which indicates deviation from this average is required.	
Landbank	Reserves	11.69 million tonnes	▲	114.44 million tonnes	▲
	Landbank	16.94 years	▲	47.88 years	▲
	Minimum Landbank Required	7.00 years		10.00 years	
	Informatives	Despite having a large landbank, there are potential issues regarding productive capacity due to about 70% of reserves being contained within three sites which have been unworked for over 5 years. The Shropshire Local Plan (2015) allocates additional resources at three sites and the release of further resources is expected through windfall applications or the current Local Plan Review.		N/A	

Assessment of Aggregates Supply

Sand and Gravel

3. In 2016 there were 10 permitted sites for sand and gravel working in Shropshire, 5 of which were operational (see Appendix 1). There is also a further site where a resolution has been made to grant planning permission, but where consent has yet to be issued. The majority of the material produced is used locally within Shropshire to supply the construction industry with building sand, concrete and concrete products;
4. The majority of sand and gravel working in Shropshire is now from glacial or bunter deposits which are of more variable quality than river terrace materials which have now been largely worked out. Sand and gravel deposits in Shropshire frequently contain a high proportion of sand and more limited quantities of gravel and often suffer from clay and lignite contamination. These characteristics mean that deposits often require additional processing to generate a saleable product. In addition, about 70% of sand and gravel reserves, is contained in three site commitments which have remained unworked for over 5 years. In the case of two of these sites, the mineral operators and landowners concerned have confirmed that there is a clear intention to work these sites during the Plan Period;
5. The latest available data indicates that, at 0.74mt, sand and gravel production in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin in 2016 is continuing to recover from lower levels of production in recent years and is now above both the 10 year rolling average for sand gravel sales (0.69mt) and the 3 year average (0.70mt).

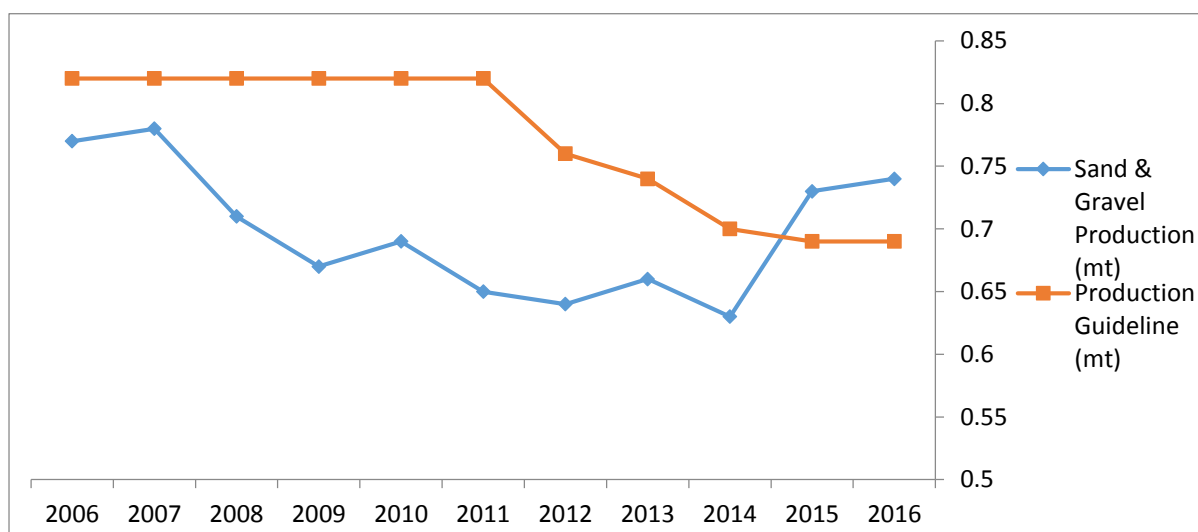
Table 2: Shropshire Sand & Gravel Sales and Production Guideline 2006-2016 (million tonnes [mt])

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Sand & Gravel Production (mt)	0.77	0.78	0.71	0.67	0.69	0.65	0.64	0.66	0.63	0.73	0.74
Production Guideline (mt)	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.74*	0.72	0.70	0.69	0.69

Source: AWP data 2006 - 2016

*Production guideline changes from sub-regional apportionment to 10 year average trend from 2012

Figure 1: Shropshire Sand & Gravel Sales and Production Guideline 2006-2016 (million tonnes [mt])



Sand and Gravel

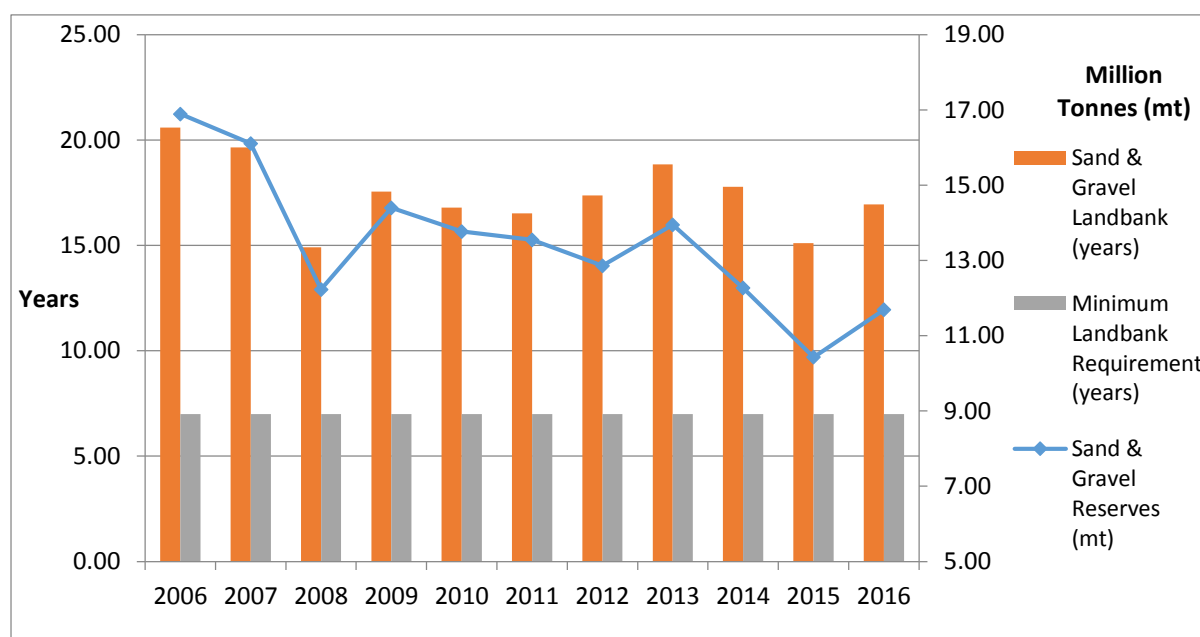
6. Aggregates monitoring data for 2016 indicates that the market area for sand and gravel aggregates produced in Shropshire is generally local and whilst some material is supplied into adjacent areas to the north and west, only a limited amount of sand and gravel produced from Shropshire is currently exported eastwards to the main markets in the West Midlands conurbation due to the availability of more proximate and higher quality materials closer to these markets, although Shropshire continues to supply significant amounts of sand and gravel for construction activity in Telford. These trends are expected to continue;
7. The landbank of permissions for sand and gravel working has remained consistently above the minimum level required by NPPF of 7 years. The permitted landbank was equivalent to almost 17 years' production in 2016. In taking planning decisions, Shropshire Council has responded positively to both planned and windfall applications to release more material to maintain productive capacity to counter balance the impact of the unworked site commitments referred to in paragraph 4 above. This is illustrated in Table 3 and Figure 2 below:

Table 3: Sand & Gravel Reserves and Landbank 2006-2016

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Sand & Gravel Reserves (mt)	16.89	16.11	12.23	14.40	13.77	13.55	12.86	13.95	12.27	10.43	11.69
Sand & Gravel Landbank (years)	20.60	19.65	14.91	17.56	16.79	16.52	17.38	18.85	17.45	15.05	16.94
Minimum Landbank Required (years)	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00

Source: local monitoring data

Figure 2: Sand & Gravel Reserves and Landbank 2006-2016



Crushed Rock

8. The area administered by Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils also produced 2.69 mt of crushed rock in 2016 against a 10 year average of 2.39 mt. The area is currently responsible for producing over half of the regional requirement for crushed rock. Production of crushed rock from a single site in Telford & Wrekin contributes about a quarter of the annual production. Crushed rock is mainly used as engineering fill, roadstone and asphalt in road construction and maintenance. High specification aggregate is exported by both road and rail to a wider regional and national market area. In 2016 there were 8 permitted sites in Shropshire, 4 of which were operational and 1 permitted and operational site in Telford & Wrekin;
9. The latest available data indicates that crushed rock production in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin in 2016 was significantly above the 10 year trend (2.39mt) but below the 3 year trend (2.86mt) see Table 4 below.
10. Aggregates monitoring data for 2016 indicates that 50% of production supplies markets within Shropshire and 29% supplies markets in other parts of the West Midlands region. However, the high polishing resistance of some crushed rock resources in Shropshire supports export to a larger market area, including by rail transport and about 21% of production supplies national markets outside the West Midlands, particularly the north-west (11% of production). These trends are expected to continue.
11. The landbank of permissions for crushed rock working has remained consistently above the minimum required level of 10 years. The permitted landbank of permissions was equivalent to almost 48 years' production in 2016. This is illustrated in Table 5 and Figure 4 below.

**Table 4: Shropshire Crushed Rock Sales and Production Guideline 2006-2016
(million tonnes [mt])**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Crushed Rock Production (mt)	2.6	2.33	2.29	1.80	2.00	1.65	2.41	2.88	3.13	2.76	2.69
Production Guideline (mt)	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.36	2.39	2.39

**Figure 3: Shropshire Crushed Rock Sales and Production Guideline 2006-2016
(million tonnes [mt])**

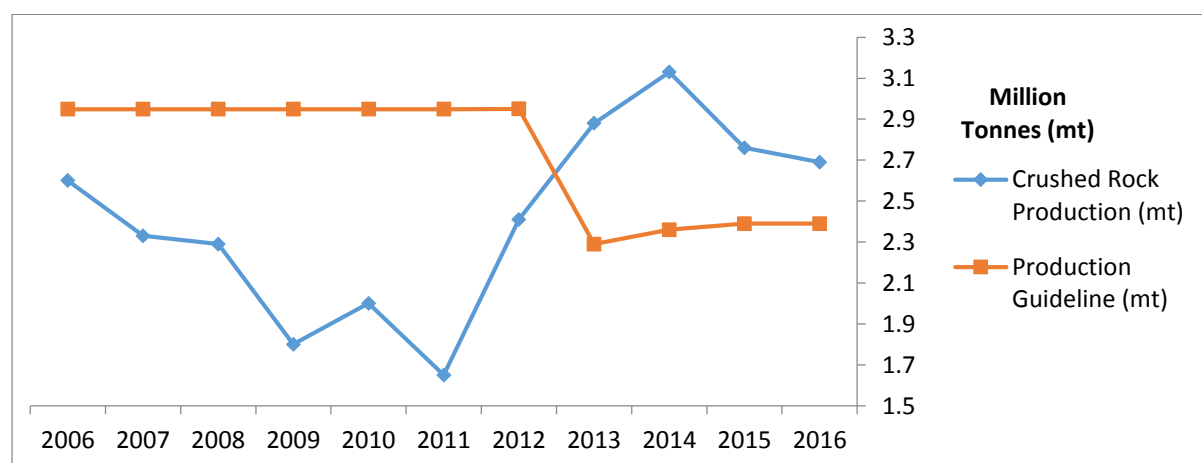
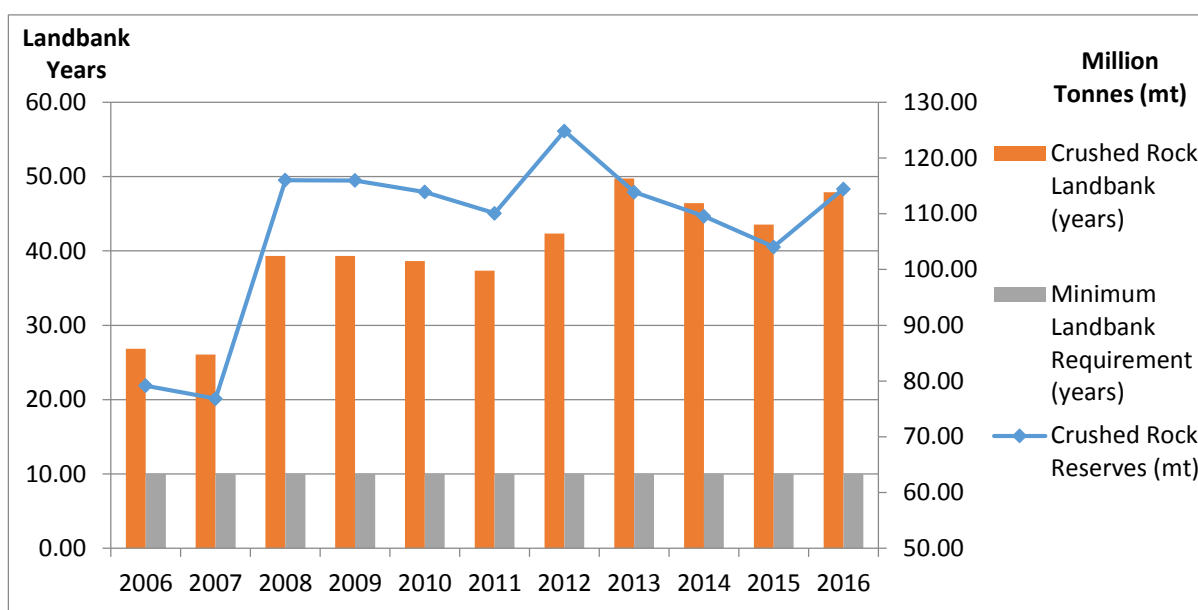


Table 5: Shropshire Crushed Rock Reserves and Landbank 2006-2016

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Crushed Rock Reserves (mt)	79.17	76.84	116.02	115.95	113.90	110.07	124.84	113.86	109.55	104.05	114.44
Crushed Rock Landbank (years)	26.85	26.06	39.34	39.32	38.62	37.32	42.32	38.60	46.42	43.54	47.88
Minimum Landbank Required (years)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

Figure 4: Shropshire Crushed Rock Reserves and Landbank 2006-2016



Secondary Aggregates

12. Figures for secondary and recycled materials used as aggregates are currently only collected nationally and sub-nationally. The most recent information indicates that 4.37 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste was generated in Shropshire, Staffordshire and Telford & Wrekin in 2005 (Survey of Arisings and Use of Alternatives to Primary Aggregates in England [CLG 2007]). Of the material generated, 1.58 million tonnes (36%) was recycled as aggregate and 0.15 million tonnes (3%) was recycled as soil. A further 2.26 million tonnes (53%) was used as engineering material and 0.38 million tonnes (8%) was landfilled as waste. However, it is unclear whether this performance is applicable to Shropshire, since Staffordshire's economy is much larger and may therefore obscure trends in Shropshire. Limited information is available for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin specifically: Environment Agency waste data suggests that about 0.4 million tonnes of inert waste generated in the two areas was handled at licensed waste management facilities in 2016, largely in Shropshire and neighbouring areas. Municipal waste data for 2016 indicates that about 7,000 tonnes of recycled aggregates were recovered from municipal recycling centres and a further 16,500 tonnes of incinerator bottom ash (IBA) was recovered from the energy recovery facility in Shrewsbury.
13. Construction and demolition waste is a high density, low value material which, due to transport costs and distances in a predominantly rural area, cannot be moved more than short distances on a cost effective basis. The latest available data indicates that around 97% of construction waste generated in Shropshire in 2012 was managed within the county. Of the construction and demolition waste which was used as engineering material or landfilled in 2005, it is estimated that a further 0.24 million tonnes could potentially be recycled as aggregate (derived from CLG 2007).

Future Aggregate Demand, Supply Options and Constraints

Forecast Demand for Aggregates: Planned Growth & Infrastructure

14. The Shropshire Local Plan establishes a strategic growth target of around 27,500 new homes and 290 hectares of employment in Shropshire for the period to 2026. Housing and employment land delivery has suffered in recent years and has been below the levels assumed in the Local Plan due to the recession. Development rates have now started to recover and this has increased local demand for construction aggregates. Whilst new development will also require investment in infrastructure, there are no known separate national or strategic infrastructure projects which are likely to significantly increase demand.

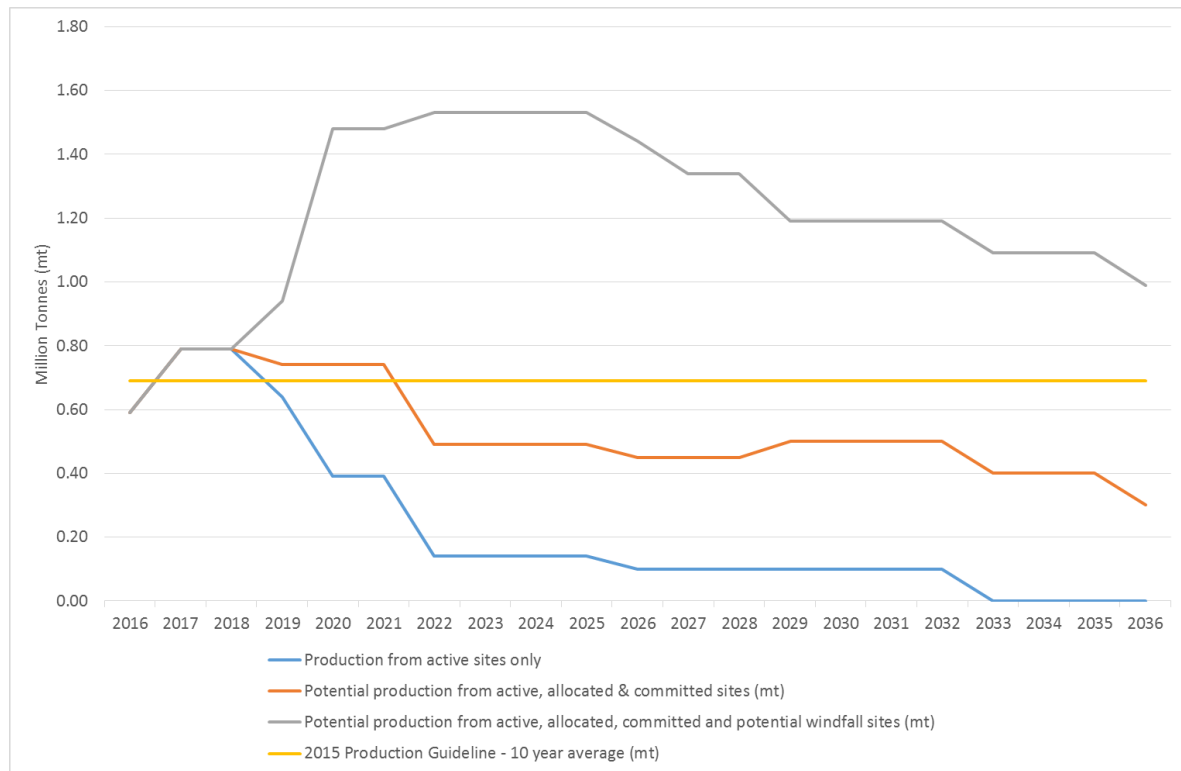
Balance between demand and supply:

15. The life of existing permitted reserves has until recently been prolonged by low levels of demand for aggregates and the size of landbanks for sand and gravel and crushed rock remain well above minimum guidelines. However, there are a number of quality and capacity constraints on the production of sand and gravel resources which are identified above. To reflect this, in Shropshire the recently adopted Local Plan supplements existing permitted reserves with additional allocations and a windfall allowance to ensure an adequate and steady supply for the period to 2026 as set out in the table below. Telford & Wrekin Council have considered future demand for aggregate minerals during the development of their new Local Plan. Since the majority of the aggregates produced are used locally within Shropshire to supply the construction industry with building sand, concrete and concrete products, no separate provision is made for specific market sectors.

Table 6: Shropshire Local Plan Assessment of Production Potential (million tonnes)

	Production Potential 2012 – 2026
Production Requirement	11.48
Existing Reserves at Operational & Committed Sites	8.96
Preferred Allocations	4.40
Windfall allowance	1.0
TOTAL Production Potential	14.36
Production surplus	2.88

Figure 5: Assessment of Potential Future Sand & Gravel Productive Capacity in Shropshire 2016 - 2036



Mineral Transport and Handling Facilities

16. Mineral aggregates produced in Shropshire are moved almost exclusively by road. However, the Shropshire Local Plan identifies and safeguards a number of railfreight facilities, including rail sidings at Bayston Hill near Shrewsbury and the Oswestry mineral railway (Cambrian Line). The railfreight terminal in north Telford is not currently used to move mineral aggregates but could potentially be used for this purpose in future.

LAA Conclusion

17. The rates of housing and employment development in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin have started to recover following the recession, and this has increased demand for construction aggregates.
18. Whilst there are no known national or strategic infrastructure projects which are likely to increase demand, development rates are expected to continue to recover. Active and on-going engagement with neighbouring Mineral Planning Authorities suggests that the current general pattern of aggregate imports and exports can be expected to continue, although the progressive exhaustion of permitted reserves in south-west Staffordshire may start to result in additional demand from sites in eastern Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.
19. There are a number of quality, capacity and transport constraints on the production of sand and gravel resources which mean that the market for

aggregates produced in Shropshire is generally local. In addition, there are a number of unworked site commitments which require significant capital investment and it is therefore assumed that these will not make any contribution in the short term.

20. Local information about secondary and recycled aggregates is generally dated and of poor quality. Whilst there are some existing and potential sources of secondary aggregates and a large number of local recycling facilities, low values and high transport costs and distances are likely to limit the contribution which these materials can make to supply.
21. Sufficient crushed rock aggregate resources are already available from permitted sites, but although the landbank remains well above the minimum guideline, additional sand and gravel resources are required to provide for flexibility and local competition. The Shropshire Local Plan (2015) therefore supplements existing permitted reserves for sand and gravel with additional allocations to ensure an adequate and steady supply. A number of planning applications for 'windfall' sites or site extensions are expected to be determined during the next year in Shropshire. These resources, if consented, would provide a significant boost to the local supply of sand and gravel. No additional allocations are currently proposed in Telford & Wrekin.

Minutes of the meeting of the West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body,
Monday 30th October 2017
at Walsall Council House

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Attendance:

Adrian Cooper	Chair, Shropshire Council
Dawn Sherwood	Walsall MBC
Ian Humphreys	International Synergies
Julie Castree-Denton	Staffordshire CC
Mark Watkins	Sandwell MBC
Marianne Joynes	Worcestershire CC
Martin Everett	Environment Agency
Michelle Ross	Wolverhampton CCK
Phil Ward	Worcestershire CC
Thomas Lewis	Stoke on Trent CC
Tony Lyons	Warwickshire CC
Vicki Eaton	Herefordshire Council
Kirsten Berry	Hendeca, on behalf of Herefordshire Council
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

2. Minutes of meeting on 21st March 2017

3.6 Questions focused on issues regarding the methodological approach, equivalent self-sufficiency, capacity for AD, and implications for landfill capacity within and beyond Herefordshire's boundaries.

3.7 The group felt that the methodology adopted in the Needs Assessment was appropriate to the Herefordshire context, and was a good exemplar; the assessment of arisings and existing capacity used available data to best effect; and forecasts of future arisings were based on an appropriate range of assumptions, including household, economic and GVA projections, across the relevant waste streams.

3.8 Regarding equivalent self-sufficiency, the EnviRecover energy from waste plant in Hartlebury, Worcestershire provides contractually agreed capacity to meet Herefordshire needs for municipal waste up to 2031, and the position beyond 2031 can be assessed in future reviews. There was general agreement that adopting a quid-pro-quo approach by increasing provision for C&I waste in Herefordshire might be theoretically possible, but may also be an unlikely scenario in terms of market feasibility.

3.9 It was agreed that the rapid increase in AD facilities over recent years is unlikely to be sustained in the longer term as needs are met and subsidies decline.

3.10 The possibility of adopting more demanding targets for recycling and recovery in order to reduce the demands on landfill to an absolute minimum over the plan period was explored. Julie Castree-Denton argued that plans in general should adopt aspirational targets for landfill diversion and providing for new recycling and recovery infrastructure higher up the hierarchy, so that landfill sites are only used for specialist waste and non-recoverable and non-recyclable waste. Kirsten argued that the EU targets were more stringent than current national ones, and it would be a stretch to meet these, but agreed that the implications of adopting further increases in recycling could be explored.

4. Waste Data Issues

5. Environment Agency update

7. Progress on Plans and Developments

8. Future Meetings

To be confirmed.

Minutes of the meeting of the West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body,
Friday 11th May 2018
Environment Agency Offices, Solihull

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Attendance:

Adrian Cooper	Chair, Shropshire Council
Andrew Charleton	Staffordshire County Council
Bruce Braithwaite	MVV Environment Ltd
Chris Lowe	(check)
Dawn Sherwood	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Harjot Rayet	Telford & Wrekin Council
Julie Castree-Denton	Staffordshire County Council
Mark Watkins	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Marianne Pomeroy	Worcestershire County Council
Martin Everett	Environment Agency
Maurice Barlow	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Ranjit Sagoo	Warwickshire County Council
Tom Lewis	Stoke on Trent City Council
Vic Eaton	Herefordshire Council
Vijay Kaul	Wolverhampton City Council
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

2. Minutes of meeting on 30th October 2017

3. Duty to Co-operate

3.2 It was agreed that the thresholds which have been adopted to trigger consultations between authorities might be too low, should be pitched at a genuinely strategic level, and could usefully be reviewed and incorporated into the Protocol. It was also felt that the Protocol could be developed to identify strategic waste facilities in the West Midlands, particularly landfill sites but also EfW and

hazardous waste sites. It was agreed that a small group (Adrian Cooper, Dawn Sherwood, Julie Castree-Denton, Peter Field) should meet to identify the criteria (eg scale, nature of process, specialist facilities, location of origin of waste) against which strategic sites will be determined; and that subsequently all members should be asked to identify strategic facilities in their areas for inclusion in the Protocol.

4. Draft Revised National Planning Policy Framework

5. Draft Guidance on Assessing Existing Capacity and Future Needs

6. Environment Agency update

7. Progress on Plans and Developments

Shropshire – housing issues have caused deadlines to be put back by 12 month; a waste needs assessment is planned for summer/ autumn 2018; preferred options October 2019, submission end 2019.

8. Future Meetings

Minutes of the Meeting of the West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body,
Tuesday 10th September 2019
West Midlands Combined Authority, Birmingham

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Attendance:

Adrian Cooper	Outgoing Chair, Shropshire Council
Becky Schofield	Incoming Chair, Worcestershire County Council
Andrew Chistleton	Staffordshire County Council
Bruce Braithwaite	MVV Environment Ltd
Bryn Walters	Derbyshire County Council – East Midlands RTAB
Chris Crean	West Midlands Friends of the Earth
David Elphick	Environment Agency
Dawn Sherwood	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Ian Humphreys	International Synergies Ltd
John Woodhall	Veolia
Layla Shannon	Coventry City Council
Mark Watkins	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Martin Everett	Environment Agency
Maurice Barlow	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Mike Tregent	Environment Agency
Richard Forbes	Warwickshire County Council
Tom Lewis	Stoke on Trent City Council
Tony Lyons	Warwickshire County Council
Victoria Eaton	Herefordshire Council
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

2. Minutes of meeting on 11th May 2018

3. Resignation of Chair

4. Presentation by David Elphick, Environment Agency on Waste Data

5. Duty to Co-operate – Revised Protocol

6. Developing Guidance on Preparing Waste Needs Assessments

7. Environment Agency Update

8. Progress on Plans and Developments

8.3 A copy of John's Powerpoint presentation is annexed. During discussion, there was general support for the approach adopted in the Study. Comments related to the continuing perceived tensions between waste activity and neighbouring uses; and the question of diminishing landfill capacity. Regarding the former, it was felt that plans should seek to correct the misapprehension that waste activity is always a 'bad neighbour', but that continued public concern cannot be ignored. Plans should include 'enclosure' policies for new facilities (as in the London Plan, and the current Black Country Core Strategy) and should make clear the requirements and responsibilities for mitigation of impact. It was noted that one implication of the Circular Economy is that waste should be regarded as a resource opportunity. Regarding the latter, it was felt that landfill capacity will become an increasingly significant and difficult strategic issue. It was noted that waste is travelling increasingly long distances to landfill as sites become scarcer. Plans should do everything to bring forward and safeguard landfill capacity for essential purposes and should ensure that facilities are available to enable maximum diversion of waste from landfill.

9 Future Meetings

Draft Notes of WMRTAB Meeting, Thursday 10th June 2021

Time:	10:00 to 12:00	
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	
Present:	Maurice Barlow (MB) (Solihull Council) Ian Blake (IB) (Cool Planet Resources) (Chair) Jared Boyle (Telford and Wrekin Council) Mark Clinton (Dudley Council) Adrian Cooper (AC) (Shropshire Council) (left early) Andy Christelow (Staffordshire County Council) (part) Chris Crean (CC) (Friends of the Earth) (left early) Victoria Eaton (VE) (Herefordshire Council) Martin Everett (ME) (Environment Agency) (left early) Richard Forbes (Warwickshire County Council)	James Hoskinson (Walsall Council) Vijay Kaul (Wolverhampton Council) Thomas Lewis (Stoke on Trent City Council) Scott Moran (Stoke on Trent City Council) Jon Woodhall (Veolia) David Piper (DP) (Dudley Council) John Raine (Walsall Council) Jeff Rhodes (JR) (Biffa) Becky Schofield (RS) (Worcestershire) Mike Tregent (Environment Agency) Mark Watkins (Sandwell Council)
Apologies:		

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**2. Last meeting (8 December 2020) – notes and matters arising**

3. Matters Arising from WMRTAB Members' Update

4. Updated WMRTAB Terms of Reference

5. WMRTAB Report on Landfill Capacity

While the original intention had been to update data prepared by Peter Field IB had prepared more of a report on landfill capacity in the West Midlands that estimated when capacity would be depleted based on existing void and fill rates. An earlier draft of this report had been circulated for comments and the latest version had taken account of comments received.

IB noted the report gives an initial picture based on EA data and it should be noted that fill rates may change. In his comments JR had suggested that fill rates may not decrease as other recovery capacity comes on stream because waste may be attracted from a wider catchment instead.

MT noted that some larger landfills may become more strategic affecting Duty to Cooperate. Also large DCO projects e.g. HS2 may have an impact on fill rates if they have large landfill requirements. IB noted that the concern about how DCOs can undermine local waste planning had been discussed at the National Chairs meetings but also that some DCOs were being proposed with material management plans which looked to manage material within the boundary of the development.

Headlines from the report:

- Non-hazardous LF depleted by 2032
- Non-hazardous LF with SNRHW cell depleted by 2027
- Hazardous LF depleted by 2030
- Inert LF depleted by 2031

JR noted that West Midlands has good supply of landfill whereas other regions didn't, hence likelihood that landfill in West Midlands will become more strategic. Biffa are transporting waste to landfill greater distances by rail. National report suggested England as a whole had 5 years capacity left.

6. Duty to Cooperate on Waste – Practice Guide for Waste Planning Authorities in England

7. Feedback from National Waste TAB Chairs Meeting on 19 May 2021

8. Government Announcements/consultation

9. Next WMRTAB meetings

Minutes of the Meeting of the West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body,
Thursday 5th March 2020
West Midlands Combined Authority, Birmingham

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Attendance:

Becky Schofield	Chair – Worcestershire County Council
Adrian Cooper	Shropshire County Council (by conference call)
Andrew Christelow	Staffordshire County Council
Ben Horovitz	Worcestershire County Council
Bruce Braithwaite	MVV Environment Ltd
David Bridgwood	Veolia
David Piper	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Dawn Sherwood	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Mark Watkins	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Martin Everett	Environment Agency
Richard Forbes	Warwickshire County Council
Thomas Lewis	Stoke on Trent City Council
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

2. Minutes of meeting on 10th September 2019

3. Review of RTAB role and terms of reference

4. Duty to Co-operate – Revised Protocol

5. Developing Guidance on Preparing Waste Needs Assessments

6. Review of Landfill Capacity

6.1 The Chair explained that the meeting of National Chairs had addressed issues in the south of England regarding the declining availability of inert and non-inert landfill capacity. Some RTABs are doing a Study of sites, permissions and capacities. This is likely to inform decisions on strategic safeguarding of sites.

6.2 There was general agreement that this was an increasingly important strategic issue in the West Midlands, and that there was value in pooling information. Examples were shared where planning decisions on adjacent sites had prejudiced available or potential capacity, reinforcing the importance of effective safeguarding policies.

6.3 It was agreed

- a) The Technical Secretary to compile available site-specific information from public sources including the Environment Agency, and circulate this to WPAs for comment and additional information on status - active/ inactive, with/ without planning permission, lifespan and capacity.
- b) To report back to the next meeting.

7. Feedback from PINS Training Event

8. Environment Agency Update

9. Progress on Plans and Developments

Shropshire –Delays as a result of housing and other controversial issues. Consultation on the pre-submission plan now scheduled for June/ July with formal submission in September. Regarding waste, there is adequate capacity for both municipal and other wastes in terms of equivalent self-sufficiency, though issues regarding hazardous waste in relation to Telford and Wrekin and landfill are identified. Policies will address climate change and the significant role that waste management has to play in responding to it.

10. Any Other Business

11 Future Meetings

Draft Notes of WMRTAB Meeting, Tuesday 8th December 2020

Reissued 08.01.21

Time:	10:00 to 12:00	
Location:	Microsoft Teams Meeting	
Present:	Maurice Barlow (MB) (Solihull Council) (left early) Ian Blake (IB) (Cool Planet Resources) (Chair) Jared Boyle (Telford and Wrekin Council) Mark Clinton (Dudley Council) Adrian Cooper (AC) (Shropshire Council) (left early) Andy Christelow (Staffordshire County Council) Chris Crean (CC) (Friends of the Earth) Brian Dore (BD) (Birmingham City Council) Victoria Eaton (VE) (Herefordshire Council)	Martin Everett (Environment Agency) James Hoskinson (Walsall Council) Vijay Kaul (Wolverhampton Council) Thomas Lewis (Stoke on Trent City Council) Tony Lyons (TL) (Warwickshire County Council) Scott Moran (Stoke on Trent City Council) David Ridgewood (Veolia) David Piper (Dudley Council) John Raine (Walsall Council) Becky Schofield (RS) (Worcestershire) (left early) Mark Watkins (Sandwell Council)
Apologies:		

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Attendees introduced themselves and apologies were noted.

2. Last meeting (20 March 2020) – minutes and matters arising

3. Matters Arising from WMRTAB Members' Update

Shropshire CC Local Plan has just been agreed for Reg 19 publication for 7 weeks. RTAB has previously considered the draft plan at an earlier stage, but AS welcomed further written comments in the context of DTC in the new year if appropriate. The draft plan is available on the Council's webpages here:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/local-plan-review/>

Action: As appropriate, all to make comments on the Shropshire Local Plan

- 4. Draft WMRTAB Terms of Reference (circulated with agenda with associated questionnaire)**
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5. Draft 'waste planning Duty to Cooperate national practice guide'

6. **WMRTAB Report on Landfill Capacity (original data request and capacity spreadsheet circulated with agenda)**

7. **Waste Needs Assessment – Best Practice Note**

8. **Feedback from National Waste TAB Chairs Meeting on 4 November 2020**

9. **Government Announcements/consultation**

10. Next WMRTAB meetings

11. Any other business