

COUNTY COUNCIL

13 JANUARY 2021

REGIONAL TECHNICAL STATEMENT FOR AGGREGATES – SOUTH WALES – SECOND REVIEW (RTS2)

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:-

that the Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates – South Wales – Second Review (RTS2) be endorsed.

Reasons:

The RTS2 provides a reasonable approach to setting out the apportionments and allocations required to ensure an adequate supply of minerals in South Wales over a 25-year period.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted No

Exec. Board Decision Required	YES 21 st December 2020
Council Decision Required	YES 13 th January 2021

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. Mair Stephens

Directorate: Environment Name of Head of Service: Llinos Quelch Report Author: Hugh Towns	Designations: Head of Planning Regional Minerals & Waste Planning Manager	Tel: 01267 228918 01558 825373 Email addresses: LQuelch@sirgar.gov.uk AHTowns@sirgar.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY COUNTY COUNCIL

13 JANUARY 2021

REGIONAL TECHNICAL STATEMENT FOR AGGREGATES – SOUTH WALES – SECOND REVIEW

Background

The Regional Technical Statement (RTS) is a requirement of Minerals Technical Advice Note 1: Aggregates (MTAN1). It requires both the South Wales and North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Parties to produce a RTS and for it to be reviewed every 5 years. The initial document was produced in 2008 and was reviewed in 2014. A second review was due in 2019 but its completion has been delayed.

The South Wales Aggregates Working Party, for which this Authority provides the Chair and the Technical Secretary, is a technical group consisting of officers from the 18 constituent Local Planning Authorities in South Wales, Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government, and representatives of the minerals industry.

The Regional Technical Statement: Second Review (RTS2) has been produced by a consultant under contract to Welsh Government. However, the project was managed by a Steering Group containing officers from Welsh Government, Local Planning Authorities, Natural Resources Wales, and representatives of the minerals industry drawn from the South Wales and North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Parties. The Authority was represented on the Steering Group.

The purpose of the RTS2 is to provide a strategy for the future supply of construction aggregates within each region (North and South Wales) taking into account the latest information in relation to the balance of supply and demand and current notions of sustainability as enshrined in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It provides a mechanism for encouraging the sustainable management of natural resources within a region for a 25-year period for crushed rock and 22 years for land-won sand and gravel. The document also considers the impact of the proximity principle, environmental capacity and a number of other supply and demand factors.

A draft RTS2 was issued for consultation between 30th September to 25th November 2019. The Authority responded to the consultation raising a number of concerns. The Steering Group considered all the consultation responses and produced a Consultation Report setting out their response to consultation. The RTS2 has subsequently been finalised and each Authority is being requested to endorse it.

Methodology

The starting point is the calculation of the 3-year and 10-year historical annual sales average for each Local Planning Authority (LPA) area and selecting the highest of the two figures so as to avoid potential under-provision of mineral resources required for economic growth in the future.

The 1st stage of the methodology is based around the high statistical correlation between housing completions and aggregate sales. Both markets have been identified as being very closely aligned even though housing consumes only 30% of supply. As planned housing within adopted Local Development Plans (LDP's) was double the historical average housing completions it is proposed to double the 30% supplied for house construction. A number of LPA's (including Carmarthenshire) queried this on the basis that up to date housing figures produced in the National Development Framework (NDF) consultation draft, and lower than planned actual housing completion figures, suggested that the 30% 'uplift' is not required. The Steering Group considered the position but was unable to identify another set of consistent data to use as a baseline. It was therefore considered by the Steering Group that LDP data was the only dataset the RTS2 could realistically use. The conclusion of the Steering Group is understood and accepted.

Stage 2 of the process splits the national figure into figures for North Wales (38.26%) and South Wales (61.74%) based on the average proportional split over the base line period.

Stage 3 splits the Regional requirements down to sub-regions and individual LPA's. The split to sub-regions was supported by the Authority in its consultation response but drilling down another level to individual LPA's was not supported as it is not the option that provides for the most Sustainable Management of Natural Resources. However, the steering group had to accept that a figure for each LPA is a requirement of PPW10. It is accepted that the provision of Sub-regional figures and the requirement to produce a Statement of Sub-regional collaboration (discussed further below) do provide an acceptable framework to plan for minerals at a more strategic level in future.

Stage 4 splits the apportionments between crushed rock and land-won sand and gravel based on the proportion of historic sales. Only Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park have land-won reserves of sand and gravel and together with Pembrokeshire RTS2 requires (as did RTS1) that they work together to identify future resources of 3.626 million tonnes. It is important to note that Carmarthenshire is not required to make any allocations for crushed rock quarries in the LDP review.

Next Steps

A Sub-Regional Statement of Collaboration (SSRC) is required to be produced in each sub-region and Carmarthenshire will be required to work with the West Wales LPA's in relation to land-won sand and gravel and with 'Swansea City' (Swansea and Neath Port Talbot) in relation to crushed rock. This split is due to the differences in the nature and location of resources within Carmarthenshire.

The RTS2 Consultation draft suggested that the SSRC should be approved by the Regional Aggregate Working Party (RAWP) but the Authority pointed out in its consultation response that this is outside the remit of a RAWP. This has now been deleted from RTS2. SSRC's will now only have to be approved by the constituent LPA's following consultation with stakeholders.

The Authority also considered that SSRC's should be provided with a set timeframe so that the whole of Wales is working on them simultaneously and consistently. However, it is accepted that some LPA's are further ahead on LDP Review than others so the requirement that each SSRC is agreed prior to the first LPA within a sub-region attending its LDP Examination is accepted. The SSRCs can be signed off according to the Council's delegation protocols and does not need to go back the Council for endorsement.

The timetable for the Carmarthenshire Replacement LDP is that it will be Reported to the Exec. Board on 21st December 2020 – setting out the focussed changes, report on consultation and the Deposit Plan - and be reported to Full Council on Council 13th January 2021. If the Replacement LDP is agreed by Council in January 2021 it is envisaged that the Plan will be submitted to Welsh Government in May 2021.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The RTS2 has been fully consulted upon and the responses fully considered by the Steering Group.

It is recommended that County Council formally endorse the Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates – South Wales – Second Review (RTS2)

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: L Quelch

Head of Planning

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

- RTS2 is the output of collaborative working between Local Planning Authorities, Welsh Government, and the minerals industry. The document has been consulted upon in order to seek to involve people with an interest. The document considers the strategic importance of minerals and seeks to plan for minerals supply over a 25-year period for crushed rock and 22 years for sand and gravel in order to prevent the under-provision of minerals that the economy needs to underpin growth. It is therefore considered to be a good example of following the 5 ways of working enshrined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.
- RTS2 contributes to the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources as required under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- The RTS2 provides part of the evidence base for the Replacement LDP and the Council will be expected to integrate the strategic objectives into the LDP. The adequate supply of minerals the construction industry needs to support economic growth in Carmarthenshire is a key element which underpins the Councils well-being objective of creating more jobs and growth throughout the county.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: L Quelch

Head of Planning

1. Scrutiny Committee - N/A
2. Local Member(s) - N/A
3. Community / Town Council - N/A
4. Relevant Partners - N/A
5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO
HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED**

**YES
Councillor M. Stephens**

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Regional Technical Statements for the North Wales and South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Parties - 2nd Review - Report on Consultation Responses With Steering Group Recommendations	The South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party Website - http://www.swrawp-wales.org.uk/Html/publications.html
Regional Technical Statement for the North Wales and South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party (1 st Review)	The South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party Website - http://www.swrawp-wales.org.uk/Html/publications.html
Regional Technical Statement for the area covered by the South Wales Aggregates Working Party – October 2008	The South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party Website - http://www.swrawp-wales.org.uk/Html/publications.html