

Minutes of London Aggregates Working Party

21 February 2023

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Chair: Jorn Peters, GLA

Secretariat: Kirsten Williamson, Capita

Name	Abbrev	Organisation
Jorn Peters	JP	GLA
Kirsten Williamson	KW	Capita
Phill Aust	PA	Day Group
David Payne	DP	Mineral Products Association
Mike Phillips	MP	British Aggregates
Joe Collinson	JC	Bexley Council
Lauren Miller	LM	Havering Council
Mike Pendock	MP	Tarmac
Mark Wrigley	MW	Crown Estate
Phil Essex	PE	AABC Materials
Jo Baker	JB	Aggregates Industries
Christina Davy	CD	DLHUC
Niamh Murphy	NM	DLHUC

1. Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were recorded in advance of the meeting from Tony Cook (Chair, Seeawp), Tom Campbell (LB Hillingdon), Linda Beard (LB Havering), Andrew Scott (Cemex) and Nick Everington (Crown Estate).

2. Annual Monitoring Report – 2021 update and 2022 draft

- 2.1 KW ran through the draft data for the 2021 draft AM report, on which members had commented previously, and updated on the 2022 report. The group reviewed the dashboard data. It was noted that, as in many previous years, the survey returns were poor and a large amount of data within the reports were estimates. Other sources of information included the reports from the Crown Estate for marine aggregates and the 2019 national survey.
- 2.2 PA asked for clarification on the poor survey returns and suggested use of other data sources, including TfL. The group agreed that the Secretary would

take charge of the survey process from this year and continue to make use of data from other sources, such as the Crown Estate.

- 2.3 DP pointed out that the key measure of aggregate provision for London is in relation to the London Plan requirements i.e. not just in relation to the NPPF landbanks.
- 2.4 JP set out how the GLA's Planning Datahub could be used going forward in relation to the monitoring of aggregate-related planning applications and also wider development trends to inform aggregates demand (see next agenda item).

ACTION 1: KW to circulate the finalised 2021 report and the draft 2022 report.

3. Local Aggregate Assessments

- 3.1 1KW is preparing a factual update to last LAA prepared by the GLA in 2018. This will be circulated to the group shortly. The group agreed at the last meeting to discuss how to approach the LAA in future.
- 3.2 JP suggested that a sub-group should meet in the first instance to discuss a new effective approach to the LAA, which could then be discussed at the LAWP. CD agreed to participate in the sub-group and stated that there was flexibility to reflect local considerations, as long as data could be collated in a standard format at a national level. JP asked for examples from other AWP areas.

ACTION 2: KW to circulate the draft LAA for comments.

ACTION 3: KW to set up sub-group to agree scope for taking forward the LAA in a new format and to gather examples from elsewhere.

4. Mapping

- 4.1 KW shared a discussion paper on screen, which will be circulated to the group for comment. The paper set out how the LBs and the GLA could move towards pulling together a 'mineral map' for London. The LAWP had discussed this at length at previous meetings. The paper proposed that the first stage would be to gather the mapping of existing sites – allocated sites, processing sites, wharves and railheads.
- 4.2 While wharves were safeguarded strategically, DP raised that the GLA should play a more pro-active role in promoting the safeguarding of mineral sites, and railheads in particular, which were often not adequately safeguarded in Local Plans. Industry members highlighted concerns over sites from current Local Plan consultations in Ealing and Kingston.
- 4.3 JP indicated that the mapping would help to highlight their importance, but that it was for LPAs to designate these sites. The hosting arrangements for the mapping would also need to be put in place. KW requested that the LAWP members consider data sources that might be useful for this process, in addition to ideas on the more strategic process for mapping. PA noted TfL mapping work, he had mentioned previously, would be useful to consider.

ACTION 4: KW to circulate the mapping paper and take forward some actions in advance of the early summer LAWP meeting.

ACTION 5: KW to set up a mapping sub-group with relevant LAWP members to consider the issue further.

5. Updates

DLUHC

- 5.1 CD stated that the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB) had reached committee stage within the House of Lords. The intention was still for the Bill to reach Royal Assent by May 2023. The consultation on the revisions to the NPPF would run until early March. Key changes highlighted by CD included changes to the tests of soundness, requirements for carbon assessments, transitional arrangements and national development management policies (NDMP). There would be further consultations on the NDMP.
- 5.2 The NACG met for the second time in January 2023. The main discussion had been an update from a Task and Finish Group on the National Guidelines. A discussion paper would be circulated to the AWP groups. CD emphasised the need for LAA and AM reports to be completed on time.

Industry

- 5.3 DP stated that the MPA had instructed a solicitor to review the mechanisms open to operators in relation to 2042 end dates to provide clarity to members. There were particular concerns around some National Parks in the north, which could impact crushed rock imports to London.
- 5.4 In relation to the planning reforms, DP noted concerns over applying 'past behaviour of applicants'. The MPA's view was that, as planning permission would run with the land, behaviour of applicants should not be a material consideration. Other points raised included implications for minerals planning from increased emphasis on value of agricultural land, and the NDMP, which could be too inflexible for application to minerals.
- 5.5 MPA members reported the continued long-term trend of declining aggregate reserves and an upturn in demand, although there had been a fall in the previous quarter.
- 5.6 Some industry members were also concerned about carbon issues raised within recent environmental reports despite the high level of heavy machinery needed within the minerals industry and the current lack of alternatives to diesel fuels.

London Boroughs

- 5.7 JC stated that LB Bexley was awaiting for Inspector's report following examination. The plan contained policies in relation to aggregates and should be adopted late Spring, early Summer.
- 5.8 LM proposed that lack of capacity and specialised skills across the LBs were main reasons for difficulties in attending and contributing at meetings. LB

Havering was currently also the secretary for the London Waste Planning Forum. The East London Boroughs were taking forward an updated waste plan. There was updated evidence base on the website. KW would attend the London Waste Planning Forum meeting on the following day.

ACTION 6: CD to circulate the discussion paper on National Guidelines.

ACTION 7: JP requested that carbon assessments would be considered as an agenda item at the next meeting, in particular comparing land-won and marine aggregates.

6. Minutes of the previous meeting

6.9 A final version had previously been circulated. Given the time since the last meeting they would be re-circulated before they would be uploaded to the LAWP website. There might be a temporary delay in uploading, as all documents now have to pass Adobe Accessibility tests.

ACTION 8: KW to re-circulate final version of minutes of previous meeting for information.

7. AOB

7.1 Nothing was raised under AOB.