

# Minutes of London Aggregates Working Party

5 March 2024

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Chair: Margaret Baddeley, GLA

Secretariat: Ngaire Thomson, Capita

Attendee	Abbrev	Organisation
Margaret Baddeley	MB	GLA
Ngaire Thomson	NT	Capita
Mathieu Proctor	MP	Greater London Authority
Linda Beard	LB	LB Havering
Clare Loops	CL	LB Bexley
Duncan Mckane	DM	LB Hounslow
Mark Wrigley	MW	Crown Estate
Simon Treacy	ST	Brett
Emma Lucy Pearman	EP	Cemex
James Trimmer	JT	Ports of London
Phil Aust	PA	Day Group
Jo Baker	JB	Aggregate Industries
David Payne	DP	Mineral Products
Ben Ayres	BA	Heidelberg Materials
Niamh Murphy	NM	DLUHC
Christina Davey	CD	DLUHC

Mark Wrigley left early to attend another meeting.

## 1. Introductions and apologies

1.1 Apologies were recorded in advance of the meeting from

Mike Phillips, Andrew Scott, Sidonie Kenward, Jorn Peters, Michael Clarkson, Marie Canny, Catherine McRory, Lauren Miller, Joe Collinson, Davis Dewar, Ewan Coke, Mark North, Jill Warren, Nick Horsley, Katie Ryde, Mark Russell, Jake Hamilton, Mark Kelly.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

- 2.1 Meeting notes agreed as satisfactory record of last meeting (21 February 2023).

### **Actions in the minutes to follow up on:**

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

**ACTION 2:** KW to set up sub-group to agree scope and then take forward the LAA by the end of March, to include LBs and CD. This is to be discussed during the meeting

**ACTION 3:** JP will continue to discuss with mapping colleagues at GLA. This is to be discussed during the meeting

**ACTION 4:** KW to circulate the mapping paper and take forward some actions in advance of the early summer LAWP meeting. Relates to Action 3

**ACTION 5:** JP and KW will convene a mapping sub-group with relevant LAWP members and to consider the issue further. Relates to Action 3

## **3. Membership of the LAWP**

- 3.1 NT invited the group to discuss membership of the LAWP and if it should be widened to include other London Boroughs (LBs) such as those who have railheads, and those with incinerators (re. recycled aggregate from bottom ash, to usefully obtain more information on the material). It was decided that NT could approach incinerator operators and request their data but they would not be invited to join the LAWP. LBs with aggregate depots/ railheads should be approached and invited to join the LAWP, due to their importance for the delivery of aggregate into London.

**ACTION 1:** NT to request information from incinerator operators.

**ACTION 2:** NT to invite LBs with railheads to join the LAWP.

## **4. Annual Monitoring Reports for 2021 and 2022**

- 4.1 NT has been working on making changes; other than making a minor change to the status of one of the Local Plans in the 2021 report, no further comments have been received. MB and MP will look into having the reports signed off (ratified) by the various levels of management although this will be delayed by the pre-election period until after the Mayoral election on 2 May 2024.
- 4.2 NT suggested that given that during the production of these documents there was a lot of discussion on the capacity of the wharves and railheads to hold aggregate, a separate discussion should be had on how capacity should be expressed in the AMR reports. CD said that this was a matter that was also being discussed at by the National Aggregate Coordinating Group (NACG) and

they are looking at developing a national definition to ensure consistency of approach. CD suggested that NT contact Richard Reed (South East AWP).

4.3 JT would be interested in hearing what Richard Reed had to say relating to wharf capacity and pointed out that there were several factors that need to be taken into account, that complicate developing a standard approach:

- Depth of water at the wharf
- Planning position
- Value added processes occurring on-site processing of the aggregate
- Stockpiling by operator

**ACTION 3:** MB and MP to seek ratification of the AMRs for 2021 and 2022

**ACTION 4:** NT to contact Richard Reed to discuss how he defines wharf capacity

**ACTION 5:** NT to work with the members of the group to agree a way forward for the 2023 AMR (2022 data) ahead of the NACG agreeing a national definition of wharf capacity.

## **5. Progress on Annual Monitoring Report for 2023 (2022 data)**

5.1 Need for data – NT explained the lack of data has delayed the production of the 2023 (2022 data) and requested operators send it to her directly.

- Contacts with minerals and waste operators (including incinerators)
- Contact with railhead and wharf operators.

**ACTION 6 :** NT to contact incinerator operators for 2022 data

**ACTION 7:** NT to send forms out to the industry members of the group requesting 2022 data.

## **6. London Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA)**

6.1 Generally there are separate LAAs for each Mineral Planning Authorities. While it has similar information to the AMR, an LAA has more detail. There is a suggestion that as there needs to be new document written for London Plan purposes, there should a be London-wide LAA. MB and MP will look into how the GLA could support the development of a LAA for London.

**ACTION 8:** MB and MP to follow up and update members at next LAWP meeting.

## **7. DLUHC Update**

7.1 National Aggregate Monitoring Survey (AMS) (2023 data)

CD and NM went through the National Aggregate Survey

The AMS will only collect data on primary resources from quarry sites or wharves. A survey of Secondary and Recycled Aggregates needs to be undertaken separately by the Mineral Planning Authorities.

The AMS is undertaken every 4 years; the last one was completed in 2019. This year Scotland is also participating (previously only England and Wales participated).

## 7.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS) is undertaking the survey on behalf of DLUHC.

Forms have been sent out.

Form A is to be sent to the operators; it is a spreadsheet which gathers data on reserves, and sales destinations from quarries and wharves. This is to be filled in and returned to the Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs) i.e. the London Boroughs by the 1st of May.

The MPAs then collate the data and check it and return it to BGS.

Form B is an online survey platform called Citizen Space and collects data on the number of mineral applications received since 2019; the deadline is also the 1st of May.

The larger companies will be directly surveyed by BGS, rather than receiving multiple forms from MPAs across the country. These are:

- Aggregate Industries
- Breedon Group
- Brett Group
- CEMEX UK
- Hills Quarry Products Group
- Imerys
- Grundon
- Hanson Aggregates
- Marshalls plc
- Raymond Brown
- Tarmac

## 7.3 The data received will fed be into the LAA and AMR.

BGS final Report will be made available in December 2024

MB suggested that DLUHC attend a meeting of All London Borough Planning Officers (ALBPO)– noted too that JT is also happy to speak to ALBPO on wharves.

**ACTION 9:** NT is to request ALBPO to host DLUHC to speak about the importance of minerals and aggregate data collection for London.

## **8. Greater London Authority Update**

- 8.1 MP - There is a Mayoral election on 2 May and London enters the pre-election period on 19 March. 'Business as usual' can still occur but e.g. meeting with/ presenting to external stakeholders such as ALBPO is not possible and that lasts until after the Mayoral election has been held.
- 8.2 London Plan Review. The GLA is obliged to review London Plan every 5 years, this has to be by 2026. The policy team has started to look at the Plan, policy by policy. The Planning for London Programme started in 2022/23; this was an early-stage consultation with the public and stakeholders, looking at what issues a future London Plan should consider. The outcomes of that exercise will be presented to the next administration for their consideration. They will then choose the level of review that is needed i.e. a partial review or a new plan.
- 8.3 The initial consultation focused on high level topics and then just before Christmas there were more targeted workshops, with industry and infrastructure being two of the topics discussed. There will be opportunities for further input into the London Plan review, following the election.
- 8.4 The focus for the LAWP group would be Policy SI 10 Aggregates and the policies on waste and the circular economy, as well as industrial land and safeguarded wharves, and freight transport policies relating to railheads, and policies on spatial strategy and infrastructure.
- 8.5 A discussion was then held on the nature of the involvement that members of the group might have and the methods of engagement.
- 8.6 MB highlighted the need to examine the strengths of the London Plan policy for the transfer of aggregates.
- 8.7 DP and PA did a presentation to ALBPO before the pandemic relating to the movement of aggregate material in London which the planning officers found useful therefore members of the group should use any presentation to raise the profile of aggregates in London.
- 8.8 DP also pointed out that what is needed is comprehensive mapping of safeguarded facilities and the consultation areas around them which the GLA really needs to lead on. MB has had a look into what is mapped and it seems to be only the wharves that have been mapped. The mapping will have to provide definite boundaries, and not areas covering agent of change. MP agreed that the GLA were probably the best-placed to look at the mapping of these facilities. NT pointed out that the operational land needs to be included with any safeguarded land.

- 8.9 PA mentioned that during the discussion at the ALBPO meeting a 'Minerals Consultation Area' was mooted. Rail depots definitely need better recognition and protection.
- 8.10 PA also mentioned that he had responded to the GLA consultation (along with Greenwich Aggregates) on industrial land that has recently closed.
- 8.11 CL stated the recently adopted Bexley Local Plan has the safeguarded wharves, aggregates sites and facilities and safeguarded minerals area mapped on GIS and this has been sent to the GLA.
- 8.12 JB said mapping and industrial land does have rail identified and supports better protection of railheads.
- 8.13 ST is keen to be engaged with discussion on London Plan review. Also sees it as critical that London contributes to mineral supply.
- 8.14 PA stated the LAWP member authorities are those that have mineral in the ground and suggested expanding the membership to those that have rail depots in them.
- 8.15 CD recognised importance of rail for London and supports the inclusion of London Boroughs with rail depots in the LAWP.
- 8.16 During the discussion on the importance of safeguarding an application for the redevelopment of land in Gravesend (Gravesham Borough Council) that would, if approved, impact on the ability wharf to operate was mentioned several times, the details are: Application Number : [20221064](#)

**ACTION 10:** MB to speak to the GLA mapping team and find out what already exists and what is possible.

## 9. Local Plan Updates

- 9.1 Havering (LB) – Local Plan adopted in 2021. The LPA have started a review, developing the evidence base. Expecting to have a Reg 18 Issues and Options consultation later this year; there has already been a call for sites. Aggregates information has not been collected yet; they need to have an internal discussion about the approach.
- 9.2 Hounslow (DM) – Have withdrawn area-based DPDs from examination and will consolidate the work into one Local Plan. A Reg 18 consultation occurred at the end of 2023 and a Reg 19 consultation will occur later this year. NT requested to be added to the Local Plan consultation list so she can circulate consultation information to the LAWP members.
- 9.3 Bexley (CL) – Adopted Local Plan in 2023; there is a separate policy on minerals in the Local Plan. Have safeguarded operational area of wharves for aggregates industry.

## 10. Industry updates

- 10.1 Mineral Products Association (MPA) (DP)- the economy has been challenging for the construction industry and with high interest rates, 4300 construction firms going out of business in 2023 in the UK. The markets have weakened,

which has impacted on the housebuilding industry. Concrete sales are forecast to go down by 2% nationally and primary aggregate sales are expected to fall by 1% in 2024.

10.2 The MPA are running the Restoration and Biodiversity Awards again this year:

[MPA Restoration Awards & Biodiversity Awards 2024 \(mineralproducts.org\)](https://mineralproducts.org/MPA-Restoration-Awards-Biodiversity-Awards-2024)

10.3 Biodiversity net gain (BNG) has been introduced and there is guidance issued by DEFRA and DLUHC; however, there is nothing specific on quarries. DP is working with the Planning Officers Society to develop guidance for the minerals industry that can provide relevant advice for the long term extraction and restoration programmes.

## **11. AOB**

11.1 MB - Previous papers that were drafted relating to safeguarding land will now be incorporated into work on the review of the London Plan rather than progressed as a separate piece of work.

11.2 At previous meetings, carbon assessments relating to water transport versus road freight for aggregates had been discussed. The GLA is keen that the LAWP progresses this work. JT said he has information from different sources and could collate something for the next meeting.

**ACTION 11:** JT to provide information on carbon emissions for water versus road transportation for the next meeting.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

NT to arrange in the first 2 weeks of July, 2024.