

Technical Secretary: Richard Read BA. MRTPI.

Address: c/o Strategic Planning, Hampshire County Council, First Floor, Ell Court West, The Castle, Winchester, SO 23 8UD

Tel: 07786977547

Email: readplanning@btinternet.com

Minutes of the LAWP meeting on 28 November 2019 at the Greater London Authority

Present

Jonathan Gibb	Chairman – GLA		
Richard Read	Secretary	Richard Ford (RF)	Brett Group
Julia Thomson (JT)	GLA	Phil Aust (PA)	Day Group
David Payne (DP)	MPA	Mike Pendock (MP)	Tarmac
Tony Cook (TC)	SEEAWP Chair	Tom Uglow (TU)	LAWP Secretariat
Tom Campbell (TCa)	Hillingdon	Joe Collinson (JC)	Bexley
James Sutton (JS)	Ingrebourne Valley Limited	Phil Essex (PE)	Harleyford Aggregates

1 Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received from Lisa Russell (City of London), Andrew Scott (Cemex), and James Trimmer (PLA).

2 Minutes, Actions, Correspondence and Matters Arising from 17 July 2019 meeting

The Secretary explained that the wrong action list had been appended to the Agenda, but all of them had been discharged. He apologised for the missed deadline for revised Annual Report.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Correspondence: It was noted that the 2nd page of the letter on the Heathrow consultation had been missed off the copy appended to the Agenda.

TCa stated that Hillingdon did include minerals in the Borough's response to the Heathrow consultation.

There was discussion about the Leicestershire LAA and potential impact on London of the closure of some of the rail linked quarries. The matter had been discussed at the SEEAWP meeting. It was agreed the matter should be raised with MHCLG

Action 1: The Secretary to correspond with the MHCLG about the Leicestershire LAA and longer-term

supply of crushed rock being referred to the NCG.

Secretary note: Matter discussed at AWP Secretaries meeting with MHCLG on 19 December 2019 – final note of meeting to be circulated

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3 Local Aggregates Assessments (LAAs)

The Secretary explained that the absence Borough prepared LAAs had been a longstanding issue for the LAWP and the current Annual Report has attempted to address by including an outline and limited LAA covering the whole of London.

MP queried whether the London wide LAA prepared in the past could be continued. The Secretary responded that this had been undertaken by the GLA who were not a mineral planning authority and not in a position to continue this. Nevertheless, a full London wide LAA might be a way forward based on the limited assessment within the Monitoring report. *Note – see Item 7 below.*

TC added that the issue with preparing a London wide LAA is that the Boroughs' views on demand is missing. However, DP stated that the London Plan requirements are akin to an 'apportionment' that provides an indication of demand.

DP stated that it is difficult to get a sensible figure for demand from boroughs as the London Plan requirement only represents 5% of supply. The biggest issue in London is communication with the Boroughs about importance of safeguarding infrastructure.

TC added that only four Boroughs actually have a minerals resource.

DP stated that local planning authorities and councillors are not understanding that infrastructure (and safeguarding) is crucial to supply. Local planners also don't understand the importance of concrete batching plants to supply for construction. A London wide LAA that looks at supply on a London wide basis is the only realistic option. Circumstances in London are different to elsewhere, where there is more clarity about local demand and supply of aggregates.

4 London Aggregates Working Party Annual Report 2018

The Chairman explained the revised Report included updated waste figure and additional material.

The Secretary further advised that there was a continuing decline in 2018 quarry sales, but there are survey issues over capacity of infrastructure, especially rail depots.

Recycled aggregates production is based on the Environment Agency's Waste Data Interrogator (WDI) and is estimated at between 2-3mt. It is noted the figures are only from licensed sites. The Secretary remarked it would be helpful if the EA could survey the type of recycled material produced at the sites covered in the WDI.

The Report noted a new permission for extraction at Fairlop Quarry and DB Cargo's permission for a new rail depot at Cricklewood, although this was not operational. TCa stated that Hillingdon had recently granted permission for gravel extraction, but it was explained that it would be covered in next year's report.

There was a discussion on detailed points in the Report, some factual information and reference to the

BDS Report on recycled aggregates. The Secretary undertook to take into account in the final version.

A further discussion concerned the conclusion and particularly whether London is making 'full contribution' to aggregate needs as required in the PPG. It was thought that the PPG advice is difficult to define, especially as London has limited resources and its needs are dependent on aggregates wharves and rail depots capacities and safeguarding. Accordingly, any concluding assessment needed to be nuanced, particularly as the LAA Rates on which the conclusions are founded are a compromise. It was felt that there should be a definition in more specific terms of what is meant by 'full contribution' in the next Annual Report.

Action 2: The Secretary to revise the Annual Report in the light of points made and circulate a revised Section 5 and Conclusions for comment by 6 December.

Secretary note: LAWP Annual Report submitted to MHCLG on 10 December 2019

5 The London Plan – post EiP

The Chairman noted that the Secretary had attached an abstract from the EiP Panel Report on SI10. In general terms the approach was supported, there were no further recommendations made by the Panel.

The GLA will be published for submission to the Secretary of State in December and it is hoped the final publication will be by May 2020.

6 London Waste Planning Forum

DP reported on the meeting of the Forum he attended in October at which he gave a general discussion on recycled aggregates.

7 MHLG Update and Work Programmes 2020

The Secretary reported that a meeting of the AWP Secretaries with the MHCLG was scheduled for 19th December. It is understood the procurement process for the national AM 2019 survey is underway and a contractor should be appointed early in 2020. However, it is likely the results would not be available until the Autumn and this could affect the normal LAWP work programme. The uncertainty is compounded by the delay in securing the new AWP Contracts – the existing ceases at the end of March. Notwithstanding, the uncertainty it was agreed that the current pattern of two meetings (June/July and November/December) of the LAWP would continue.

The drawback that mineral planning authorities might not be in the information loop on the AM Survey returns will be raised at the AWP Secretaries meeting in December.

The issue of LAA preparations was discussed as it related to the AM survey and the Annual Report.

The general view was that LAA for the whole of London Boroughs made sense given the demand and supply patterns in the Capital and most of the information is from the London AM survey. TCa stated that Hillingdon paid about £5,000 for a consultant to prepare a single Hillingdon LAA so a London version would be cost efficient. It also gets around the issue of different consultants with different styles.

JC remarked that minerals are pretty low on the radar of most of the Boroughs, they would rather it is London wide.

The Secretary advised that it had proved difficult to engage the Boroughs in LAAs and the challenge would be organising a joint LAA with all of them and release the resources to finance it. A possible option is for a London LAA to become part of the LAWP Contract as it overlapped with the London AM and the Annual Report.

TCa remarked that a London LAA would need some sort of 'sign off' by the Boroughs and he could put the matter on the agenda BLPO Policy Group.

DP wondered whether the issue of aggregates depots/wharves and recycled aggregates facilities safeguarding could be brought to the attention of TfL and placed on their agenda while TCa suggested the it could be introduced to the DM Officers Group as well.

Action 3: The Secretary raise the matter of a London LAA as part of the LAWP Contract with MHCLG, as well as raising that mineral planning authorities should be included in the information loop of the AM Survey returns.

Secretary note: Matter raised at AWP Secretaries meeting with MHCLG on 19 December 2019 – final note of meeting to be circulated.

Action 4: Tom Campbell (Hillingdon) to engage the BLPO Policy Group about a London Local Aggregates Assessment

Action 5: Julia Thompson (GLA) to explore the engagement of TfL and BLPO DM Group over safeguarding aggregates facilities.

8 AoB

None

9 Next Meeting

At City Hall (GLA):

10 June 2020 (14:30 – 16:00) in Committee Room CR2

12 November (14:00 – 15:30) in Committee Room CR1

Actions

- 1 The Secretary to correspond with the MHCLG about the Leicestershire LAA and longer-term supply of crushed rock being referred to the NCG.
- 2 The Secretary to revise the Annual Report in the light of points made and circulate a revised Section 5 and Conclusions for comment by 6 December
- 3 The Secretary raise the matter of a London LAA as part of the LAWP Contract with MHCLG

- 4 Tom Campbell (Hillingdon) to engage the BLPO Policy Group about a London Local Aggregates Assessment
- 5 Julia Thompson (GLA) to explore the engagement of TfL and BLPO DM Group over safeguarding aggregates facilities