

Meeting: **JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT**

Date: **22 March 2013**

agenda item number: **6**

From: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

## **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN AND LOCAL AGGREGATES ASSESSMENT**

### **Purpose of report**

1. To update the Committee on the progress of the Nottinghamshire Local Aggregates Assessment and Minerals Local Plan.

### **Information and Advice**

#### Nottinghamshire Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA)

2. As part of the preparation of the new Minerals Local Plan, apportionment figures for aggregate minerals need to be set to ensure that a steady and adequate supply of minerals can be provided over the plan period. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and new Government guidance: 'Guidance on the Managed Aggregate Supply System' (DCLG, 2012) set out the requirements for calculating future aggregate provision.
3. The new guidance requires each Minerals Planning Authority to calculate their own apportionments on the basis of average aggregate sales over a ten year rolling period and other relevant local information. These new guidelines have marked a shift away from the previous 'historic shares' sub-regional approach to apportionment creation where a nationally prescribed regional apportionment figure was sub-divided proportionality within the region.
4. By far the greatest planning issue for Nottinghamshire is the long term provision of sand and gravel over the plan period. Nottinghamshire is a nationally and regionally important source of high quality mineral, exporting just over half of all extracted. Sherwood Sandstone and limestone is also worked.
5. Draft apportionment figures for all aggregates were agreed in 2009 through the East Midlands Aggregate Working Party and it was intended to include these in the revised Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). However the RSS was never progressed. The figures used to calculate those apportionments

were based on a period of economic growth which produced high future apportionment figures.

6. Since the beginning of the recession in 2007, sand and gravel production has fallen sharply, both nationally and locally. In Nottinghamshire sand and gravel production fell to 1.59 million tonnes in 2010, its lowest level since records began in 1973. This has resulted in the LAA apportionment figure (2.58 million tonnes) being much lower than the previous Draft RSS figure (3.25 million tonnes).
7. Sherwood Sandstone production is much lower than sand and gravel as it is used in more specialist markets. Production has slowly declined since the mid 1990s and is below the 2009 apportionment of 0.57 million tonnes. As with sand and gravel, production fell significantly from 2007 due to the recession. The new apportionment is proposed to be 0.46 million tonnes. Given the declining output of Sherwood Sandstone, adopting the lower LAA figure would mean that the apportionment is figure is much better matched to actual production levels. The shortfall over the plan period would fall from 4.56 million tonnes (2009 apportionment) to 2.36 million tonnes (LAA apportionment).
8. Limestone is only worked from one quarry in Nottinghamshire at Nether Langwith. Production has been very low partly due to the seasonal working of the site and the abundance of limestone in Derbyshire and Leicestershire. The LAA figure of 0.08 million tonnes is lower than the 2009 figure of 0.1 million tonnes and would result in there being no shortfall over the plan period.
9. Alternative aggregates comprise of recycled and secondary materials and include construction and demolition waste, asphalt road planings and Desulphogypsum (DSG) from power stations. Since 1980 there has been a significant national increase in alternative aggregate production rising from 20 million tonnes to 71 million tonnes by 2007. It is estimated that alternative aggregates make up around 25% of total aggregate use – three times higher than the European average. The LAA includes data on national and regional figures although comprehensive local figures are very limited. National guidance promotes the use of alternative aggregates however there are no requirements to set a local apportionment figure.
10. To ensure that the figures contained in the LAA adequately reflect local circumstances, consideration also needs to be made to future growth, population forecasts and major infrastructure projects in the area.
11. Targeted consultation has taken place with other Minerals Planning Authorities, the Industry and the East Midlands Aggregates Working Party.

The draft LAA has been updated in line with comments received and it is anticipated that approval for the document will be sought in June 2013.

#### Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan

12. The preparation of the revised Minerals Local Plan to 2030 is underway and is being prepared in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). An Issues & Options consultation took place between 27th January and 30th March 2012.
13. A timetable for the production of the Minerals Local Plan was previously agreed by the County Council in September 2012. The agreed approach would set out the vision and objectives, development management policies and would only identify non-sand and gravel site allocations, with the sand and gravel sites being identified in a separate site allocations document at a later stage, in line with previous Government guidance.
14. However, to ensure consistency with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), in particular the requirement to produce one Local Plan unless additional development plan documents can be clearly justified (paragraph 153), agreement has been reached to produce a combined Plan with all sites identified, rather than the production of two Plans, this will mean that amendments to the previously agreed timetable were required to allow for additional work to assess the sand and gravel sites but the time to take the Minerals Local Plan through to examination would be shorter overall.
15. The next stage of the process will be the Preferred Approach which will identify the Council's spatial vision and objectives for Minerals extraction to 2030, the Development Management policies on which all future planning applications for minerals development will be determined and the preferred future extraction sites. It is anticipated that this will take place in September 2013.
16. The revised timetable for the production of the Minerals Local Plan is as follows:
  - Preferred Approach Consultation – September 2013;
  - Submission Draft Consultation – April 2014;
  - Submission – August 2014;
  - Examination – December 2014;
  - Adoption – March 2015.

#### Minerals planning in Nottingham City

17. The Nottingham City Aligned Core Strategy states that minerals matters within the City Council area will be dealt with in its Land and Planning

Policies Development Plan Document, which will include site allocations and development management policies. The Preferred Option version of the Land and Planning Policies Development Plan Document is expected to be published for consultation in May 2013. It will include policies addressing Minerals Safeguarding Areas, prior extraction of minerals, applications for new minerals workings, reclamation of minerals workings and former mining legacy.

18. The timetable for preparing the Land and Planning Policies Development Plan Document is as follows:

- Preferred Option consultation – May 2013
- Submission Draft consultation – April 2014
- Submission – December 2014
- Examination – April 2015
- Adoption – August 2015

19. As noted above, the NPPF requires each Minerals Planning Authority to prepare a Local Aggregates Assessment which includes apportionments on the basis of average aggregate sales over a ten year rolling period and other relevant local information. Although Nottingham City Council is tightly bounded, with limited opportunities for minerals development, a LAA covering its area will still need to be prepared.

### **Other Options Considered**

20. None, the NPPF requires Mineral Planning Authorities to produce a Local Aggregates Assessment and Minerals Local Plan.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

21. To ensure that members are aware of the progress of the Nottinghamshire Local Aggregates Assessment and Minerals Local Plan.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

22. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) It is recommended that Members of the Committee discuss and note the above report

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