



2nd April 2015

Agenda Item: 9

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR POLICY, PLANNING AND
CORPORATE SERVICES**

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN – LOCAL AGGREGATES
ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform committee of the latest 2013 production figures for aggregate minerals and approve the 2014 Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Aggregates Assessment.

Information and Advice

2. As a Minerals and Waste Planning Authority, Nottinghamshire County Council is required to prepare a Minerals Local Plan against which applications for minerals development can be assessed. As part of the preparation of the new Plan, demand forecasts (apportionment figures) for aggregate minerals need to be identified to ensure that a steady and adequate supply of minerals can be provided over the plan period.
3. Previously, the process of determining local apportionments was based on national and regional aggregate demand forecasts published by central Government. The regional demand forecasts were then split between Minerals Planning Authorities, based on advice from the East Midlands Aggregate Working Party before being tested through the East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. The local apportionments were then adopted by the County Council in the Minerals Local Plan (2005). The last draft apportionment figures were published in 2009.

Since the draft apportionment figures were published, the planning system has changed considerably. Firstly The East Midlands Regional Plan was abolished and secondly the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) has introduced new guidance. In particular the NPPF introduced a requirement for Mineral Planning Authorities (MPA) to produce a Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) which identifies locally derived demand forecasts based on an average of 10 years sales data and other relevant local information. A 3 year average figure is also required to identify any upward trends in production at an early stage.

4. The framework also requires MPAs to continue to participate in an Aggregate Working Party (AWP); for Nottinghamshire this is the East Midlands AWP, and take advice from the group when preparing their LAA.
5. Since Committee approved the 2013 LAA the County Council have entered into an agreement with Nottingham City Council to prepare a joint LAA, this will provide a consistent approach in future to aggregate apportionment. As such, the 2014 LAA includes the City Council.

Nottinghamshire and Nottingham LAA

6. The NPPF states that as well as using the 10 year and 3 year average production figures, MPAs should take account of any local considerations when developing their demand forecasts (apportionments). This could for example include significant house or road building, new infrastructure for major projects or issues such as the exploitation of major new resources or resource depletion affecting future output.
7. The first Local Aggregates Assessment produced in 2012 formed the basis of the demand forecast for the new Minerals Local Plan as the 10 year period contained both a period of growth and recession providing a balanced approach to forecasting future demand.

Sand and gravel production

8. Sand and gravel production is very sensitive to economic conditions and since the start of the recession in 2007, production has fallen significantly, both locally and nationally.
9. Production for Nottinghamshire in 2013 fell to 1.39 million tonnes compared to 1.55 million tonnes in 2012. The 10 year production average shows a decline, not only due to the continued fall in sales but also the greater influence of the recession on the 10 year monitoring period. The 3 year average also shows a small drop. Tables 1a and 1b (below) set out the 10 year and 3 year trends.

Sherwood Sandstone

10. 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. As with sand and gravel, production has fallen significantly since 2007 due to the recession. Production in 2014 fell to 0.34 million tonnes compared to 0.36 million tonnes in 2013. The 10 year average continued to fall, although the 3 year average has increased slightly. See tables 1a & 1b below.

Limestone

11. Limestone has been worked from one quarry in Nottinghamshire at Nether Langwith. Production has been very limited as the site has been mothballed for a

number of years due to the abundance of limestone in Derbyshire and Leicestershire. There has been no production in 2014 in line with previous years.

Alternative Aggregates

12. Alternative aggregates comprise of recycled and secondary materials and include construction and demolition waste, asphalt road planings and Desulphogypsum (DSG) from power stations.

13. 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.

14. The 2014 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.

15. Table 1a - 10 year average production figures (million tonnes)

	2011	2012	2013
Sand and gravel	2.58	2.43	2.24
Sherwood Sandstone	0.46	0.44	0.42
Limestone	0.08	0.06	0.05

16. Table 2b - 3 year average production figures (million tonnes)

	2011	2012	2013
Sand and gravel	1.51	1.61	1.55
Sherwood Sandstone	0.33	0.34	0.35
Limestone	0.00	0.00	0.00

Additional demand for aggregates in Nottinghamshire

17. Significant infrastructure projects identified in previous Local Aggregates Assessments included NET line 2 and the dualing of the A453. Both these projects are ongoing and are expected to be completed in 2015. A potential extension to the HS2 rail line has also been identified in the long term but at present it is unclear if this project will get the go ahead. No additional development that is likely to significantly increase demand for aggregates in Nottinghamshire has been identified in the 2014 LAA.

Targeted consultation

18. The 2014 Local Aggregates Assessment was submitted to the East Midlands Aggregate Working Party, other Mineral Planning Authorities and the minerals industry to seek views. This is to ensure that all relevant issues have been addressed when considering future demand. No concerns were raised by the Aggregate Working Party, although the Minerals Products Association (industry body) raised concerns regarding the need to identify further sand and gravel reserves above those already identified to meet future demand. Given the evidence set out above it is not considered necessary to identify additional resources at this time and this was also the view of the AWP. The 2014 Local Aggregates Assessment can be found in Appendix 1.

Conclusion

19. The 10 year average production figures for 2013 have fallen once again for all aggregate minerals, with only the 3 year average for Sherwood Sandstone showing a slight up-turn. Based on the evidence available, it is considered that the previously identified demand forecasts are adequate to meet expected demand as they are based on a 10 year period of growth and recession and as such it is not proposed to increase the previously agreed apportionment.
20. The Local Aggregates Assessment is produced annually and will be used to monitor production. If the average production figures start to show a clear upward trend, demand forecasts for the relevant mineral will be re-assessed as necessary.

Other Options Considered

21. The only other option would be not to approve the Local Aggregates Assessment but the production of this document is a Government requirement as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Managed Aggregate Supply System (MASS) guidance.

Reason for Recommendation

22. To agree the 2014 Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Aggregates Assessment. Production of Minerals Local Plans and associated documents is a statutory requirement.

Financial implications

23. There are no direct financial implications arising from the contents of this report however, the City Council now contribute £750 per annum towards the production of the document.

Statutory and Policy Implications

24. 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/s

25. That Committee note the 2013 aggregate production figures and approve the 2014 Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Aggregates Assessment.

Jayne Francis-Ward

Corporate Director, Planning, Policy and Corporate Services

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Steven Osborne-James,
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Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Constitutional Comments (LJM 13/02/15)

26. The recommendation falls within the remit of the Environment and Sustainability Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SES 25/02/15)

27. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

