

**ENDORSEMENT OF SECOND REVIEW OF SOUTH WALES
AGGREGATES REGIONAL TECHNICAL STATEMENT**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT (COUNCILLOR CARO
WILD)**

AGENDA ITEM: 15

Reason for this Report

1. To seek Cabinet's endorsement of the recommendations contained in the Second Review of the South Wales Aggregates Regional Technical Statement (RTS) and agree the progression of the Statement of Sub-Regional Collaboration.

Background

2. Minerals Technical Advice Note 1: Aggregates (MTAN1), issued by the Welsh Government in March 2004, has a primary objective of seeking to ensure a sustainably managed supply of aggregates that are essential for construction, by striking the best balance between environmental, economic and social costs. To achieve that objective MTAN1 requires the preparation of Regional Technical Statements (RTS) for the areas covered by both the South Wales and North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Parties (RAWPs). The original RTS documents for both regions were completed in 2008 and are required, by MTAN 1, to be reviewed every five years. The First Review was undertaken in 2013/2014 and this, the Second Review, commenced in 2018.
3. The Second Review of the RTS has been prepared by the South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party (RAWP) and provides a strategic basis for aggregates supply for Local Development Plans (LDPs) in the South Wales region until 2041. As appropriate, local planning authorities will then be expected to include allocations for aggregates provision in their area as part of the LDP process.
4. The RAWP comprises the 18 authorities within South Wales together with representatives of the quarrying industry and the Natural Resources Wales. The RAWP is chaired by Carmarthenshire County Council, who have co-ordinated preparation of the Second Review of the RTS, with funding from the Welsh Government. Formal consultation on the document took place between the 30th September 2019 and 25th November 2019.

5. The RTS is required to be endorsed by each of the consistent authorities within the South Wales region. Once endorsed by the RAWP and the constituent planning authorities, the RTS will be used to inform the minerals sections of LDPs. The RTS is monitored annually by the RAWP.

Implications for Cardiff

6. The methodology used in the previous (First) Review, in 2014, for calculating individual planning authorities apportionments had been based primarily on historical sales averages, combined with an assessment of the various 'drivers' of potential future change. For the Second Review, this has been combined with an attempt to reflect planned future requirements for housing construction activity, and to avoid perpetuating historical supply patterns in areas where there is scope to encourage more sustainable patterns of supply.
7. Cardiff is required, through its Local Development Plan process, to meet the apportionment set out in the RTS. For Cardiff this requirement is set at 34.6 million tonnes of crushed rock for the LDP period. The authority currently has an existing landbank of 27.8 million tonnes of permitted reserves for crushed rock meaning a shortfall of 6.8 million tonnes will need to be identified through new allocations in the proposed Replacement LDP.
8. The RTS requires the apportionment to be met through the allocation of Specific Sites or, failing that, Preferred Areas. If, as a last resort, it is only possible to identify broad Areas of Search, these should be sufficient to offer the potential of much greater quantities of reserves, in order to reflect the uncertainties involved. If it is not possible for Cardiff to meet this requirement then a sub-regional approach is required. For this purpose Cardiff has been grouped with Caerphilly, Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Brecon Beacons National Park.
9. A Statement of Sub-Regional Collaboration (SSRC) is required to be prepared as part of the evidence base needed to support each Local Development Plan (LDP). The purpose of the SSRC is to confirm that all constituent LPAs within a particular RTS sub-region accept the individual apportionments for aggregates for their individual Authority areas, as set out in the latest Review of the RTS, and that (as a minimum) the RTS requirements for that sub-region as a whole will therefore be met.
10. The Replacement LDP process would need to set out the favoured solution and would assess whether to roll forward the existing 'Preferred Areas' of known resources based on existing quarries with permission for mineral working or further explore the other options set out in para 8 above.
11. Cardiff's proposed Replacement LDP will also need to safeguard primary aggregate resources. This will mean that relevant resources of both crushed rock aggregates and land-based sand & gravel should be safeguarded within the proposed Replacement LDP, in accordance with

detailed advice based on the use of British Geological Survey mapping. These resources are already safeguarded in the adopted LDP and this approach could be taken forward into the new plan.

12. Cardiff also plays an important strategic role in the delivery of marine based supplies currently being landed at two wharves within Cardiff Docks. Therefore, as in the adopted LDP, the proposed Replacement LDP will need to safeguard wharves in order to provide a full range of sustainable transport options.
13. As set out above these requirements will need to be considered in the forthcoming preparation of the proposed Replacement LDP. This process will be informed by existing allocations and policies in the current adopted LDP, which include a Preferred Area for crushed rock and existing policies that protect primary aggregate resources and sand wharves within Cardiff docks.

Reason for the Recommendation

14. To comply with Welsh Government guidance on the process for preparing the 2nd Review of the RTS.

Financial Implications

15. Any financial implications arising from the endorsement of the RTS will be funded from existing resources.

Legal Implications

16. Regional Technical Statements (RTS) are required, by Minerals Technical Advice Note 1: Aggregates, to be reviewed every five years. The RTS is required to be endorsed by each of the constituent authorities within the South Wales region. The RTS will be used to inform the minerals sections of Local Development Plans. The RTS has been developed through a series of consultation events and processes. The report provides comprehensive information about the process followed.

Equality Act 2010

17. The decision about these recommendations has to be made in the context of the Council's public sector equality duties. The Council also has to satisfy its public sector duties under the Equality Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties, Councils must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics. The Protected characteristics are: age, gender reassignment, sex, race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality, disability, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, religion or belief – including lack of belief.

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

18. The Act places a 'well-being duty' on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 national well-being goals for Wales - a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, has cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, and is globally responsible. In discharging its duties under the Act, the Council has set and published wellbeing objectives designed to maximise its contribution to achieving the national wellbeing goals. The wellbeing objectives are set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.
19. When exercising its functions, the Council is required to take all reasonable steps to meet its wellbeing objectives. This means that the decision makers should consider how the proposed decision will contribute towards meeting the wellbeing objectives and must be satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to meet those objectives. The wellbeing duty also requires the Council to act in accordance with a 'sustainable development principle'. This principle requires the Council to act in a way which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Put simply, this means that Council decision makers must take account of the impact of their decisions on people living their lives in Wales in the future. In doing so, the Council must:
 - Look to the long term
 - Focus on prevention by understanding the root causes of problems
 - Deliver an integrated approach to achieving the 7 national well-being goals
 - Work in collaboration with others to find shared sustainable solutions
 - Involve people from all sections of the community in the decisions which affect them
20. The decision maker must be satisfied that the proposed decision accords with the principles above; and due regard must be given to the Statutory Guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers, which is accessible using the link below:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/futuregenerations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en>

Human Resources Implications

21. There are no HR implications for this report.

Property Implications

22. There are no specific property implications to the attached report. Where there are any Council land transactions required to deliver any proposals, they should be done so in accordance with the Council's Asset Management process and in consultation with Strategic Estates and relevant service areas.

RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is recommended to endorse the recommendations contained in the Second Review of the South Wales Aggregates Regional Technical Statement (RTS) and agree the progression of the Statement of Sub-Regional Collaboration as part of the evidence base for the proposed Replacement LDP.

SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Andrew Gregory Director of Planning, Transport & Environment
	11 December 2020

The following Appendices are attached:

Appendix 1: Regional Technical Statements for the North Wales and South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Parties - 2nd Review - (Main Document) September 2020

Appendix 2: Regional Technical Statement (2nd Review) Appendix B (South Wales) September 2020: