

<b>Report to</b>	Lead Member Delegated Decision
<b>Date of Report</b>	1st December 2020
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Cllr M Young, Lead Member for Planning, Public Protection and Safer Communities
<b>Report author</b>	Karsten Brußk, Planning Officer
<b>Title</b>	Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates, Second Review – Document Endorsement

## **1. What is the report about?**

The North Wales and South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Parties have carried out the second review of the Regional Technical Statement (RTS) for Wales. The RTS projects future demand for aggregates so that mineral development can be planned for in a managed and proportionate way by Local Planning Authorities (LPAs).

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

The second review of the RTS (see Appendix 1) has been published but must be endorsed by all local authorities before it is approved by the Welsh Government.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

The Council endorses the Regional Technical Statement (2<sup>nd</sup> Review).

## **4. Report details**

4.1 The North Wales and South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Parties (RAWPS) are tasked to provide a 5-yearly reviewed Regional Technical Statement (RTS) for their respective region. This is a requirement of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and Mineral Technical Advice Note (MTAN) 1: Aggregates. The original RTSs were published in 2008,

and subsequently reviewed in 2014 (first review) and 2019/20 (second review). Their purpose is to set out apportionments of how much construction aggregate is required to be planned for in individual Local Development Plans (LDPs) in order to ensure that a reliable and steady supply of aggregate can be maintained to meet the needs of the construction sector.

4.2 The RTS (2<sup>nd</sup> Review) provides strategic recommendations to each Local Planning Authority (LPA) regarding their apportionments and any allocations which may need to be made in the LDP to meet the predicted future demand throughout the relevant Plan period. Being strategic in nature, the RTS does not prescribe local policy or site-specific allocations. It is for the LPA to determine how to implement the recommendations in its land use plan.

4.3 Denbighshire's replacement Local Development Plan covers the period from 2018 to 2033 which means it coincides with the second review of the RTS at the beginning of the Plan-period but will still be in place when the third and fourth RTS review are carried out by the RAWPS. That means that the strategic recommendations of the second review will be considered during the preparation process prior to LDP adoption but any changes emanating from the third and fourth review are dealt with by means of future LDP Reviews.

4.4 Construction aggregate minerals (crushed rock and sand & gravel) are essential raw materials for the construction industry and infrastructure projects. It is essential that an adequate, and steady supply of such minerals is able to be maintained to ensure that these materials are sourced in a sustainable manner. Where required, the planning system must make provision to ensure supply in the form of allocations, which can be site specific allocations, preferred areas, or areas of search within LPDs to enable applications for new permitted reserves of aggregates to come forward where demand requires this.

4.5 It is a requirement, where possible, for LDPs to make provision to ensure that, for the duration of the plan period, there is a minimum landbank of seven years for sand & gravel and ten years for crushed rock aggregates. This means that on the final date of a given LDP, there must still be this minimum requirement and when this is added to the 15 years duration of a LDP. Therefore, the LDP should make provision for 22 years with respects to sand & gravel, and 25 years with respects to crushed rock aggregate.

4.6 Within Denbighshire, the RTS (2<sup>nd</sup> Review) is recommending that no site specific allocation is required in the LDP on account of the level of existing permitted reserves and

a large landbank of crushed rock in the County. Furthermore, with regards to sand and gravel, the RTS (2<sup>nd</sup> Review) does not require Denbighshire to make future provision for land won sand and gravel.

4.6 There has not been any significant increase in new permitted reserves granted planning permission across North Wales since the first review RTS was published, and the overall level of permitted aggregates reserves in North Wales is diminishing. Minerals are a depleting asset and can only be worked where they occur, so in some local authority areas shortfalls of permitted reserves may arise, and where they are unable to make sufficient provision in their LDPs, this needs to be addressed sub-regionally within the respective LDP processes via the preparation of Sub-Regional Statements of Collaboration (SSRC). RTS (2<sup>nd</sup> Review) has identified sub-regions based on broad characterisation of market area, distribution and mineral types, and Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham are grouped as the North East Wales sub-region.

4.7 In summary, the second review of the RTS sets out the following recommendations for Denbighshire County Council to consider in its forthcoming Local Development Plan:

- There is no requirement to make any site allocations in the LDP 2018 – 2033 for crushed rock, and sand and gravel.
- The recommended apportionment for crushed rock has decreased from 0.89 million tonnes per annum to 0.86 million tonnes per annum over the next 25 years (LDP Plan period plus 10 years).
- There are sufficient permitted reserves of crushed rock, i.e. 21.7 million tonnes and a 21.5 year landbank, to meet the apportionment for the entire LDP Plan period.
- The apportionment for sand and gravel is set at zero which has decreased from the RTS first review which identified a need to allocate 2.2 million tonnes sand and gravel. Hence, there is also no need to make any sand and gravel allocations.
- Where a local authority is unable to meet its apportionment, local authorities within the sub-region should collaborate to ensure the steady supply of aggregates is provided for the construction industry. This would result in the production of a 'Statement of Sub-Regional Collaboration'.

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

The Welsh Government approved RTS (2<sup>nd</sup> Review) will be crucial evidence in producing local policy on minerals development in the next Local Development Plan, which is a Corporate Strategy and contributes to several Corporate Priorities; such as Housing, and Environment.

## **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

There are no costs arising from endorsing the Regional Technical Statement (2<sup>nd</sup> Review).

## **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

This report relates to the endorsement of a technical statement on minerals, which was subject to public consultation in Winter 2019/2020. It does not seek changes to the content of the RTS (2<sup>nd</sup> Review), or any Council policy and procedure. Council decisions that could emanate from the RTS, for example local policy formulation, are implemented through the Local Development Plan that will be subject to several Well-being Impact Assessments prior to Adoption. Hence, a Well-being Impact Assessment has not been carried out in support of this report.

## **8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

The second review of the RTS, including individual recommendations, was discussed with Members of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and interested, observing Members at two meetings on the 28<sup>th</sup> October and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Both discussions focussed primarily on the sub-regional approach to mineral supply and the likely consequences for a prospective planning application at Denbigh Quarry. It was concluded that Members recommend document endorsement to the Lead Member in principal but any form of 'inter-authority collaboration' with a neighbouring authority must be reported back to Members and is subject to a separate decision.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

There are no financial implications contained in the report.

## **10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

If the Council does not endorse the second review of the RTS, the Welsh Government will consider its default powers to intervene in the planning process as a last resort. (See Mineral Technical Advice Note 1: Aggregates, paragraph A3)

## **11. Power to make the decision**

Appendix 2(b) to Section 13 of the Council's Constitution