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## **SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL AGGREGATE WORKING PARTY**

### **2006 ANNUAL REPORT**

**SEERAWP 07/06**

#### **1 SEERAWP Membership and Role**

SEERAWP is a technical group advising government (DCLG), the Regional Assembly (SEERA) and Mineral Planning Authorities on aggregates as set out in Appendix A. Each year it sets a programme on which to focus, which includes both actions to be undertaken each year, such as the Aggregates Monitoring survey and report, and new initiatives on current issues. The programme agreed for 2006 is set out in Appendix C. The following paragraphs summarise how SEERAWP fared in pursuing its 2006 programme.

#### **2 South East Plan**

- 2.1 The draft SE Plan was submitted by SEERA on 31 March 2006. SEERAWP supported the minerals section and policies. These reflected SEERAWP advice, including a sub regional apportionment of provision for recycling as recommended. The EIP debate on minerals took place on 15 December. Three MPAs and a number of industry representatives opposed the sub regional apportionment figures. The EIP continues in 2007 and the Panel report will not be available until early summer.

#### **3 South East Plan: Minerals Review Steering Group**

- 3.1 This SEERA Steering Group, on which SEERAWP are represented, has met a number of times in 2006 and reported to SEERAWP as well as SEERA. It has established the permitted reserves available to supply aggregate to the SE from both within and without the region for 20 years or more. The latter includes hard rock reserves in the SW and E Midlands regions currently supplying the SE by rail, hard rock reserves supplying the SE by sea, including Norway, and marine aggregate reserves in the marine sectors supplying SE wharves. It is intended that the capacity of wharves and rail depots in the region are the subject of a consultants study in 2007.
- 3.2 The focus of the group in 2007 will be to oversee a consultant to SEERA undertake an SA/SEA for a review of the sub regional apportionment of land won aggregates, both sand and gravel, and crushed rock. SEERAWP supports this exercise.

## **4 Inter Regional Dialogue**

- 4.1 The South East is heavily dependent upon crushed rock supplies by rail from the SW and East Midlands regions. These regions have expressed concern at their continuing role of exporting aggregate supplies to the SE. Secretaries of these and other regions have been kept informed of progress of the Review Group with regard to aggregate apportionment. However, no direct meetings have taken place between the RAWPs. Consultation by SEERA on the draft project plan for the SA scoping study in the early part of 2007, and pre-submission consultation at the end of the year may warrant such meetings.

## **5 Aggregate Guidelines Monitoring Report**

- 5.1 The 3<sup>rd</sup> Monitoring Report identified a number of relatively minor changes in the supply pattern from the June 2003 Guidelines. The report concluded that the revised forecasts show an overall decrease in demand for aggregates to 2016 which does not warrant any revision to the Guidelines. SEERAWP concurred with this view, which was endorsed by NCG.

## **6 Marine Aggregates**

- 6.1 SEERAWP welcomed the document by BMAPA/Crown Estate on marine aggregate reserves at 31 March 2006 but was concerned at the level of reserve off the East Coast from which the South East receives supplies, and the time taken for GV applications to be determined, licences to be issued, and marine dredging and delivery begin. This applied particularly to applications in the East Channel Region (ECR) as this resource holds the greatest prospect of long term supplies to the SE region.
- 6.2 Subsequently SEERAWP was informed of favourable GV decisions in the ECR, and the draft Marine Regulations were issued. SEERAWP urged DCLG, Defra, Crown Estate and BMAPA to resolve any outstanding issues such that GV decisions in the ECR are speeded up, and SEERAWP supported the draft Regulations provided they introduced a more effective process for decision making. SEERAWP also gave views on the consultation upon the proposed Marine Bill.
- 6.3 The complexity and problems with the current GV process were acknowledged at the SEERAWP September meeting at which Defra representatives attended. But the key issue raised at that meeting was the apparent policy vacuum for the long term supply of marine aggregates, with both Defra and DCLG officers expressing the view that their Departments did not have the powers over policy delivery. A letter was sent to DCLG on behalf of SEERAWP asking how the apparent policy vacuum might be filled and a policy might be developed to match that for land-won aggregates. A response from DCLG is to be reported to January SEERAWP meeting. The Marine Bill on which a draft is being drawn up has the potential to provide the answer, but realisation through an Act is some years away.

## **7 AM2004, Aggregates Minerals 2005 Survey and AM2005**

- 7.1 AM2004 was finally published in July 2006 – an unsatisfactory 18 months after the relevant data, principally due the delayed start of the survey until confidentiality issues had been resolved. The Aggregates Minerals 2005 survey is one of the 4 yearly National Aggregates Surveys overseen by consultants BGS on behalf of DCLG and has been undertaken on a tighter programme. It is due to report in Spring 2007. The AM2005 Regional Report, drawing on the data collected and sent to BGS, together with a rail depot survey, is to be reported to January SEERAWP. The 2005 surveys for recycling and secondary materials are also due to report in January 2007.

## **8 Work Programme for 2007**

8.1 It is suggested that the SEERAWP work programme for 2007 focuses on:-

- SE Plan Minerals Review: advise SEERA and its consultants on a sustainability appraisal to establish a revised sub regional apportionment for land-won aggregate, and assist in any inter-regional dialogue arising from the review
- AM2005 and AM2006: complete and issue AM2005 report and undertake AM2006 survey such that the draft report is available by the end of 2007.
- Aggregates Minerals 2005 Survey, and 2005 Surveys of CE&DW and Secondary Materials: draw out key features of importance to this region, including inter-regional movement of aggregates and consumption, and whether recycling in SE is increasing
- Aggregate Guidelines 4<sup>th</sup> Monitoring Report: comment on and advise NCG and SEERA whether a revision of the Guidelines is warranted.
- Reserves of Land-won Sand & Gravel: support steps proposed by DCLG to commission research, including a further study to seek to understand why sand and gravel reserves have declined over time, most markedly in this region, including through an assessment of planning permissions made, withdrawn, permitted or refused.
- Marine Aggregates: respond to the Marine Bill, seeking to ensure that it will assist the planning for a long term adequate and steady supply of marine sand and gravel, particularly from the East Channel Area major resource area, to meet national, and particularly SE and London, supply needs.

## **9 Contractual Arrangements and Costs**

9.1 The direct cost in servicing SEERAWP for March-December 2006 were met by DCLG in accord with the terms of a 4 year contract April 2006-March 2010 between the Regional Assembly and DCLG. This is common to all RAWPs in England. It should also be acknowledged that all the main bodies represented on SEERAWP have made a considerable contribution during the year through carrying out studies, responding to surveys, or facilitating or being in attendance at meetings.

## APPENDIX A

### SEERAWP

- 1.1 The South East England Regional Aggregates Working Party (SEERAWP) is a technical group drawn from officers of the minerals planning authorities in the region, the minerals industry through the Quarry Products Association and the British Aggregates Association, and government representatives from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Government Office for the South East (GOSE). The Port of London Authority and an officer from the East of England region and the Greater London Authority are also represented. The membership at 31 December 2006 is set out in Appendix B. SEERAWP met three times last year.
- 1.2 The functions of SEERAWP are to:-
  - assemble regional data and information on aggregates planning and supply
  - undertake and publish an Annual Monitoring report
  - offer technical advice on the issues relating to the future requirements for aggregates; and
  - provide a forum for the discussion of aggregates planning related issues
- 1.3 Technical advice from SEERAWP is made to the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) and to DCLG, as well as to the aggregates industry and mineral planning authorities (MPAs) in the South East. The South East region comprises:

Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey, and West Sussex County Councils; Bracknell Forest, Brighton & Hove, Isle of Wight, Medway, Milton Keynes, Portsmouth, Reading, Slough, Southampton, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, and Wokingham Unitary Authorities.
- 1.4 A number of MPA officers on SEERAWP also take part in two SEERA advisory groups, a Minerals Review Steering Group advising SEERA on a sub regional aggregates re-apportionment, and an 'Other Minerals Group'. This latter group includes CBI minerals representatives and advises SEERA on non aggregate minerals. A note on the activity of OMG in 2006 and its work programme for 2007 is attached as Appendix D.

**APPENDIX B**

**SEERAWP: MEMBERSHIP  
at 31 December 2006**

John Kilford	Chairman	
Chris Waite	Technical Secretary	
David Nkrumah-Boateng	South East England Regional Assembly	
Anthea Hoey	Berkshire Unitary Authorities	
Graham Liddiard	Buckinghamshire CC	
Tony Cook	East Sussex CC & Brighton & Hove Council	
Richard Read	Hampshire CC & Portsmouth & Southampton City Councils	
Chris Mills	Isle of Wight Council	
Bill Murphy	Kent CC	
Bryan Geake	Medway Council	
Rebecca Trowse	Milton Keynes Council	
Peter Day	Oxfordshire CC	
David Lamb	Surrey CC	
Tony Odam	West Sussex CC	
Steve Lamb	QPA	
Nigel Jackson	QPA	
Bob Smith	QPA	
Keith Frost	QPA	
Lillian Harrison	QPA	
Jon Lovett	QPA	
Mark Russell	QPA(BMAPA)	
Duncan Pollock	QPA	
Steve Cole	BAA	
James Trimmer	PLA	<i>Adjoining Regions invited to attend:-</i>
Peter Bide	DCLG	Andrew Brown EoE RAWP
Bill Mackenzie	DCLG	Richard Linton GLA
Andrew Lipinski	DCLG	
John Cheston	GOSE	

## APPENDIX C

### SEERAWP 2006 PROGRAMME

1.1 SEERAWP agreed the following programme for 2006:-

- SE Plan : support the SE Plan policies for minerals and take steps to assist implementation
- SE Plan Minerals Review: advise SEERA and its consultants upon options for the region's aggregate supply, and a sustainability appraisal to establish a revised sub regional apportionment of land-won aggregate.
- Inter Regional dialogue: engage with other regions on SE Plan Minerals Review options which will include sources of crushed rock and marine imports from beyond the SE region.
- Aggregate Guidelines Monitoring Report: comment on and advise TSG and NCG upon the report findings
- Marine Aggregates: continue to press the case for timely licensing of marine sand and gravel resources in the East English Channel in order to secure a long term steady supply of material from this source
- AM2004 & AM2005: complete the delayed AM2004 survey and publish the AM2004 report; assist with the Aggregates Minerals 2005 national and regional survey and publish an AM2005 regional report

1.2 In addition SEERAWP expected reports on a number of other elements:-

- MPS 1 and Aggregates Annex
- Progress of minerals in Development Plan Documents, including updating the key milestones chart
- DCLG research programme
- the operation of the ALSF
- Replenishment of land-won sand and gravel reserves
- Liaison with SERTAB, particularly on C&DW
- OMG for non aggregate minerals in relation to SE Plan Minerals Review (see Appendix C).

**1 Non Aggregate Minerals**

1.1 The remit for SEERAWP is restricted to aggregates. Accordingly, the Regional Assembly has established an 'Other Minerals Group' (OMG) to cover non aggregate minerals. OMG was instrumental in drafting and recommending text and policies for the Alterations to RPG9 for minerals, now included in the SE Plan. Four strategically important non aggregate minerals were identified:

Brick clay - for bricks and tiles

Chalk - for cement

Gypsum

Silica Sand

**2 Monitoring**

2.1 Monitoring for aggregates is well established. The data contributes to the Annual Monitoring reports required to be prepared at both the regional and local authority level. OMG has discussed how monitoring might be undertaken for the four strategically important non aggregate minerals.

2.2 This is comparatively straight forward for chalk, gypsum and silica sand, with active sites in each of no more than two MPAs. Monitoring has established that the reserves for these minerals all extend to 30 or more years, beyond the SE Plan horizon of 2026.

2.3 Brick clay is another matter, with more than 20 active quarries and 20 active brickworks spread between seven MPAs. Moreover the SE Plan policy refers to different levels of reserves appropriate to large or small scale operations. With the assistance of the Brick Clay Confederation (BBC) survey forms were agreed for both clay quarries and brickworks, seeking data for 2005, to match the 4 yearly aggregates cycle. The survey has now been completed, the results collated and a report made to the next OMG on 23 January 2007.

**3 Work Programme for 2007**

3.1 The key task for OMG will be to consider what if any action is needed:

- to bring clarity to the findings of the 2005 brick clay quarries and brickworks survey, and provide support to the brick clay industry
- to support the building stone industry as a consequence of the MPS1 Annex.