

## **Herefordshire Core Strategy**

### **Herefordshire Council response to Inspector Note 2a**

#### *Inspector's note*

Is Herefordshire a member of an Aggregate Working Party?

#### *Council's response*

Yes, Herefordshire is a member of the West Midlands AWP.

#### *Inspector's note*

Who else is a member of the West Midlands AWP?

#### *Council's response*

The following is a list of members as of 2010 (taken from the 2010 West Midlands Annual Report) and although very similar, this may not reflect the exact composition of the AWP in 2014. The 2012 WMAWP Report has not yet been published and is in draft form at this time. It will contain an up to date list when completed.

#### (i) Mineral Planning Authority Representatives from:

- Worcestershire County Council
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
- Shropshire Council
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council
- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- Staffordshire County Council
- Telford & Wrekin Council
- Warwickshire County Council
- Walsall Borough Council
- Birmingham City Council
- Coventry City Council
- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Wolverhampton City Council

#### (ii) Industry Representatives from:

- Mineral Products Association (MPA)
- MPA – Hanson Aggregates
- MPA – Lafarge Tarmac
- MPA – Cemex
- MPA – Breedon Aggregates Ltd
- National Federation of Demolition Contractors (NFDC) – Coleman and Company
- NFDC – Armac D.E.L.
- British Aggregates Association (BAA)
- BAA – Montspur
- MPA – Hanson Aggregates
- MPA – Cemex

(iii) Central Government Representatives from:

- Communities and Local Government
- DEFRA – Food & Rural Affairs
- Environment Agency

*Inspector's note*

When was the WMAWP set up? How often did the WMAWP meet or Herefordshire Council have contact with them during the preparation of the Core Strategy?

*Council's response*

The West Midlands AWP, formerly known as the West Midlands Regional Aggregates Working Party (WMRAWP) was established in the 1970s. Although the Government has abolished the formal regional structure in England, it has opted to retain Aggregate Working Parties relating to the former 'regions' or clusters.

Between March 2011 and March 2013 there was no DCLG contract to provide Technical Secretarial services to the WMRAWP. During this time, Warwickshire County Council officers voluntarily managed the routine activities of the WMAWP, particularly in respect of data collection. During this time there were no formal WMAWP meetings.

A new contract was awarded in May 2013 by the DCLG to the National Stone Centre for the provision of a Technical Secretariat and the first meeting of the WMAWP in its present form took place in October 2013 with a further meeting in June 2014 and it is anticipated that meetings will be held on a biannual basis. Up until 2011 the WMRAWP had established production targets for the previous Government production guidelines for the period 2001 – 2016 based on historic shares of aggregate production, but had failed to reach agreement concerning the contribution of individual MPAs to the delivery of the revised guidelines for the period 2005 – 2020. At the meeting in June 2014 (see item 5 of the attached AWP minutes) the AWP was able to agree a revised approach which is consistent with that now envisaged in NPPF, which involves using the 10

year sales average as the starting point for calculation the need for additional provision.

*Inspector's note*

What were the WMAWP's previous comments on the Core Strategy?

*Council's response*

The AWP have not made comments on the Herefordshire Core Strategy.

*Inspector's note*

What input has the WMAWP had in the preparation of the LAA?

*Council's response*

Once the draft Herefordshire LAA 2013 was completed, it was sent to the WMAWP secretary in January 2014 and comments were sought upon its contents and methodology. Despite requests for comments, nothing was received from the AWP. The Herefordshire LAA was presented to the meeting of the WMAWP in June 2014, along with several other LAAs from member authorities. Members of the WMAWP were given a set time within which to make their comments to the WMAWP secretary (see item 8 of attached minutes of the AWP meeting of June 24<sup>th</sup> 2014). No comments have been received, even after a reminder email was sent out by the secretary. The AWP was expected to produce a report on the submitted draft LAAs during the Autumn of 2014, however this has been delayed. For this reason, the Herefordshire LAA 2013 remains in draft form and the LAA 2014 is also nearing completion in its draft form.

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