

Herefordshire Core Strategy

Herefordshire Council response to Inspector Note 2

Inspector's note

Was a Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA), was prepared prior to submission of the plan?

Council's response

The Council can confirm that a LAA was prepared in January 2014, prior to submission of the Core Strategy. The LAA is incorporated in the latest published AMR (submitted document B21f). The position remains as set out in the Summary of Main Points Raised (submitted document A8) Main Issues statement 7J. Paragraph 15-18 of the statement 7J are set out below:

"Local Aggregate Assessment

15. Comments made on the content and methodology used to produce the Herefordshire Draft LAA 2013 are noted. This first Herefordshire LAA was produced in accordance with all appropriate Government guidance and also in conjunction with Worcestershire County Council (with which much historic minerals data was compiled on a joint basis). The use of the 10 year rolling sales as a benchmark is a requirement in NPPF paragraph 145, so is therefore mandatory. (250/0886)
16. The draft LAA was submitted to the AWP secretary in January 2014 for consideration and endorsement. Subsequently a summary of the main points of the LAA was presented before AWP members at a meeting in June 2014. Formal comments and/or an endorsement of the LAA have not yet been received. Once comments are received these will be acted upon as necessary during the production of a final version of the LAA. It therefore comprises the best available data available at this point in time. In order to provide clarity an amendment is proposed to the end of the text in Policy M2 to read; "...national policy and the Aggregates Working Party or equivalent body." (250/0886)
17. The information provided through the LAA on sand and gravel reserves shows that the landbank reserves remain above the required annual apportionment figures. The recent reduction in landbank figures is due to an adjustment made to take account of permitted sites which may be unlikely to be worked. The LAA is an annual monitoring document and could, in future, potentially trigger the need for a review of the Core Strategy's

mineral policies, or those of the forthcoming Natural Resources DPD. Should future LAAs indicate that a change in policy stance is required in order for sufficient sand and gravel landbanks to be available, then this will be duly investigated and, if it is found to be justified, an appropriate policy will be included in the forthcoming Natural resources DPD. The DPD can itself be subject to review if necessary. At this time such a change in Core Strategy policy stance is not anticipated because planning permissions are in place to extract minerals in excess of apportionment figures. In fact, these permissions extend until at least 2026. However, in order to explain this, a change is proposed to add wording to the end of (amended) policy M2 to read; *“... equivalent body. It is recognised that the current apportionment figures have a very limited life, however, key sites for sand/gravel and crushed rock extraction within the county have planning permissions until at least 2026. The apportionment figures will be revised through the process of forming the Natural Resources DPD, on the advice of the Aggregates Working Party.”* (250/0886)

18. Annual apportionments are based on demand forecasts and the annual LAAs assist in determining these figures, which are subject to the AWP ratification. (164/0205) “

The response of the AWP to the draft 2013 LAA is still awaited. A draft 2014 LAA is currently being finalised for submission to the AWP and for inclusion in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report for 2014.

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