

**Minutes of the South Wales Regional
Aggregates Working Party RTS Sub-Group
9th December 2004
Innovation Centre, Bridgend**

<u>Present: -</u>	<u>Action: -</u>
<p>M Hooker, Bridgend County Borough Council S Bool, Bridgend County Borough Council T Gilman, BAA M Frampton, QPA N Morgan, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council C A Williams, Pembrokeshire County Council / National Park M Lucas, Vale of Glamorgan Council A Bull, Powys County Council R Amundson, Caerphilly County Borough Council S Martin, WAG Planning Division C Morgan, WAG Planning Division</p> <p><u>Apologies: -</u></p> <p>K Maddock-Jones, CCW A Wilkes, EA</p> <p>1. The discussion paper circulated prior to the meeting by SB was used as an agenda for the meeting.</p> <p><u>2. IMAECA</u></p> <p>The revised completion date for the IMAECA environmental capacity project is now March 2006. A review of base data sets such as settlements was identified as one of the reasons for the delay.</p> <p><u>3. RTS Period</u></p> <p>Clarification was sought as to the plan period for the RTS and it was agreed the period was unspecified with a requirement to review every 5 years.</p> <p><u>4. Research/Stats</u></p> <p>MH identified the shortfall in the ODPM budget for mineral research / surveys which is of great concern as it may undermine essential surveys such as AM2005. Such surveys were considered essential to underpin apportionment and mineral forward planning.</p> <p><u>5. Quarry Waste</u></p>	

Following reference to the Smiths Gore research being carried out to investigate construction / demolition / quarry waste it was agreed that the Environment Agency would be contacted to clarify the extent of their ongoing waste survey.

SB

It was acknowledged that information on quarry waste, not previously collected, would be very useful to determine the value of this source of waste. The substitution of the use of quarry waste by secondary aggregates such as slate in North Wales was noted as an impact of the Aggregates Levy. Other sources such as crushed rock sand at sandstone quarries have been identified by recent research reports. The build-up of quarry waste at sandstone quarries in particular was recognised as a current trend which may be sterilising reserves.

The WET research / contract scheduled to commence in January / February 2005 was also identified as another source of base data of the use and marketing of Construction and demolition waste in Wales. This contract will run for 4 years and is funded by the ALSF.

6. SEA / HIA

SEA / HIA were acknowledged as being key elements of the RTS. Funding for these needed to be identified for these assessments as they are currently not covered in the RAWP contract. It was agreed that a scoping exercise needed to be carried out to ascertain the extent and nature of the assessments and how much they might cost.

SB

7. Inter-regional flows

A number of questions were raised about historical patterns of supply i.e. limestone exports to the North West from North Wales and high psv sandstone to the South East. It was agreed that the sustainability of such patterns needed to be reviewed as part of the RTS.

SB confirmed that contact had already been made with RAWP's in the West Midlands and South West for future discussions and to clarify their understanding of the RTS and future patterns of supply across the Wales / England border.

8. Fiscal influences

The influence of the Aggregates Levy on the supply / demand for aggregates was examined and current trends such as the use of levy-free slate were acknowledged. Whilst the predominance of slate in North Wales was noted, other sources in Powys within the South Wales RAWP area were identified.

Reference was made to the correlation between the significant increase in planning applications and the growth in the building / construction industry. It was noted that there had been a 15% increase

in the sales of all rock types in South Wales during 2003. (SWRAWP Annual Report)

It was agreed that the RTS needed to make reference to current trends both in South Wales and the UK and also to take into account other factors such as the GDP.

9. Other influences

Reference was made to the issue of Minerals Policy Statement 1: Planning and Minerals issued in November 2004 by the ODPM. Whilst this is only applicable in England it may have some influence on the planning for the supply of minerals although Regional Spatial Strategies prepared by the RPB's are likely to be of more influence.

It was suggested that the possibility of exports / imports to and from Ireland should be investigated however remote this might seem at the moment.

Reference was made to a public participation directive and it was agreed that this should be examined.

10. Political tier

The political involvement in the RTS process was discussed it was noted there needed to be a chairman appointed to chair the Member forums. Following a suggestion by WAG that Bridgend CBC should take the lead, MH agreed to discuss this with the current Cabinet Member for responsibility for planning Cllr Pat Hacking.

It was agreed that the first Member meeting would be held after and not before the completion of the Enviros IMAECA project. This would allow Members to have the presentation on the research and a comprehensive explanation of the development programme for the RTS.

11. Geological database

The database is in the process of being updated but part of Carmarthenshire will remain unmapped. Some extrapolation will be undertaken by ENVIROS (Geoff Thomas) to fill the gaps. Copies of the schedule of rock types will be made available to the RAWP Sec's.

12. Reserves

It will be necessary to define the interpretation of the current term 'reserves' for the purpose of the RTS. The terms 'active/dormant' will need to be clarified to identify a meaningful and sensible classification given the different interpretation by legislation.

MH

<p>13. <u>Development of strategies</u></p> <p>The development of strategies will be a key stage in the RTS process. Alternative approaches will need to be considered and assessed and these may include a combination of bottom up / top down approaches. One of the issues that will need to be addressed will be mineral extraction in the National Parks.</p> <p>14. <u>Apportionment</u></p> <p>It was agreed this term was somewhat outdated and may not be fully understood. Consequently, the replacement term ‘translation into development plans’ was considered to be more appropriate for use in the RTS.</p> <p>15. <u>SEA / HIA</u></p> <p>The funding for these two items was discussed and questions were raised as to whether or not the RAWP’s or consultants should carry the work out. At present, there is no funding for these work items under the RAWP contract. It was agreed that SB would explore the extent and nature of the work to be carried out to determine how this may be achieved.</p> <p>16. <u>IMAECA Dissemination Seminar</u></p> <p>The 23rd February 2005, has been confirmed as the date on which the SWRAWP will receive the seminar. There was a suggestion that the next RTS sub-group meeting take place on the afternoon of the SWRAWP meeting. It was agreed that SB would discuss this with the Chairman.</p> <p>17. <u>Marine dredging</u></p> <p>Reference was made to the influence of aggregates dredged from marine sources on the South Wales construction industry. This influence was seen as an important element of the RTS work and documents such as MADP would need to be referred to as core documents.</p> <p>Date of next meeting: - To be arranged.</p>	<p>SB</p> <p>SB</p>
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