



CABINET REPORT

Date Written	10 th November 2020
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Service Area	Planning and Countryside
Committee Division	Strategic
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	25 th November 2020

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Endorsement of Regional Technical Statement (RTS) - 2020

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Minerals Technical Advice Note 1: Aggregates (2004) (MTAN 1) requires the preparation of Regional Technical Statements (RTS) for the areas covered by both the South Wales and North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Parties (RAWPs). The principal objective of the RTS is to provide adequate reserves of aggregate for construction and other industries in the most sustainable manner reasonably achievable.
- 1.2 The second review of the RTS for Wales has taken place, and the methodology has been amended since the first review to include the consumption of aggregate as well as the historic pattern of supply. A new sub-regional approach has been introduced to reflect the fact that aggregates only occur in certain locations which may not reflect the highest level of consumption, but attempts are made to ensure the most sustainable approach. Merthyr Tydfil's annual apportionment for the future provision of crushed rock aggregates is 0.199 million tonnes (MT), resulting in a 25 year apportionment of 4.975MT.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

- 2.1 Cabinet endorsement of the Regional Technical Statement (RTS) 2nd Review (September 2020) be approved.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Minerals Technical Advice Note 1: Aggregates (2004) (MTAN 1) requires the preparation of Regional Technical Statements (RTS) for the areas covered by both the South Wales and North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Parties (RAWPs). The original RTS documents for both regions were completed in 2008 and are required, by MTAN 1, to be reviewed every five years. The First Review was undertaken in 2013/2014 and this, the Second Review, which commenced in 2018.
- 3.2 The methodology used in the previous (First) Review, in 2014, had been based primarily on historical sales averages, combined with an assessment of the various 'drivers' of potential future change. For the Second Review, this has been combined with an attempt to reflect planned future requirements for housing construction activity, and to avoid perpetuating historical supply patterns in areas where there is scope to encourage more sustainable patterns of supply.
- 3.3 Local Development Plans (LDPs) have benefitted from the clear direction that the RTS has provided on the sustainable approach to mineral development in Wales. The Replacement Merthyr Tydfil LDP was adopted in January 2020, prior to completion of this latest RTS review, however the work that was ongoing as part of the RTS review was closely considered as part of preparation of the Replacement LDP in order to ensure that there was no conflict between the two documents.

4.0 CALCULATION OF MERTHYR TYDFIL'S APPORTIONMENT

- 4.1 The calculation of the apportionments set out in the RTS followed a four-stage process. Each stage and its relevance to Merthyr Tydfil is set out below.
- 4.2 Stage 1- Setting the National Level for future aggregates provision.
According to Welsh statistics there is a high degree of correlation between housing completions and aggregate sales. Statistics show that housing accounts for approximately 30% by value of all new construction. At a national level, therefore, and on the basis of being consistent in terms of planned provision for both housing and aggregates, it was agreed that the provision required for aggregates should be guided by a 30% uplift on historical sales figures.

The National Figure is 20.224Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA)

- 4.3 Stage 2 – Calculation of the Regional Split between North and South Wales.
The national figure, set out in stage one, is split between North and South Wales. The split is based on historical sales and is 38% North Wales and 62% South Wales.

The South Wales figure is 12.486MTPA.

- 4.4 Stage 3 -Calculation of Sub-Regional and LPA Apportionments.
South Wales has been split into five sub-regions which reflect distinct market areas, between which there is relatively little movement of aggregate (see appendix B of the background papers for a map of the sub-regions). The percentage of historic sales

and house build rates for each authority provides the basis for the Local Planning Authority (LPA) apportionment.

The LPA apportionment is 0.199MT per annum.

4.5 Stage 4 – Sand and Gravel and Crushed Rock total Apportionment.

This final stage took the figures calculated in stage 3 and multiplied them by the number of years required (25 years for crushed rock) for the LDP allocation. Merthyr Tydfil has permitted reserves of 120.1MT and this results in an existing landbank of 211.8 years. As a result of this, no further sites are required at this time.

Merthyr Tydfil's apportionment for consideration in the Local Development Plan is 4.975 MT crushed rock

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	3 of 4	0 of 4	1 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5
3. Protected Characteristics <i>(including Welsh Language)</i>	10 of 10	0 of 10	0 of 10
4. Biodiversity	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1

Summary:

The main positive impacts are that proposal provides adequate reserves of aggregate for construction and other industries in the most sustainable manner reasonably achievable, incorporating long term and collaborative ways of working. The proposal also contributes specifically to the Council's environmental well-being.

There are no negative impacts identified with the proposal.

JUDITH JONES
CHIEF OFFICER PLANNING AND
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

COUNCILLOR DAVID HUGHES
CABINET MEMBER FOR
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND
PLANNING

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Regional Technical Statements (RTS) for the North Wales and South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Parties – 2 nd Review (including Appendix B)	September 2020	
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.