

Subject:	Local Aggregates Assessment for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove		
Date of Meeting:	10 March 2016		
Report of:	Executive Director Environment, Development & Housing		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Steve Tremlett	Tel: 29-2108
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 This report sets out to the Economic Development & Culture Committee the outcome of the joint Local Aggregate Assessment 2015 for the Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs) of Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority.
- 1.2 The National Planning Policy Framework requires MPAs to produce an annual Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) to monitor the demand for and supply of aggregates in their area, and to then assess the future balance between supply and demand. The LAA is based on the Plan Area for the East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Plan which was adopted in February 2013. The Plan Area covers the administrative areas of East Sussex and Brighton & Hove including those parts which lie within the South Downs National Park.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Economic Development & Culture Committee:
- i) Approves and agrees to the publication of the Local Aggregate Assessment 2014/15 for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.
 - ii) Delegates authority to the Executive Director Environment, Development & Housing, to approve and publish future annual Local Aggregate Assessments and report the findings to the Committee.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework states that Mineral Planning Authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates by preparing an annual LAA. It is important to maintain an adequate supply of aggregates to ensure there is sufficient material available for construction activities and to facilitate economic growth in the city.

3.2 The National Planning Practice Guidance indicates that a LAA should contain three elements:

- A forecast of the demand for aggregates based on the rolling average of 10 year sales data and other relevant local information;
- An analysis of all aggregate supply options;
- An assessment of the balance between demand and supply, and the economic and environmental opportunities and constraints that might influence the situation. It should conclude if there is a shortage or surplus of supply and, if the former, how this is being addressed.

3.3 The 2014 LAA found that requirement for land-won aggregates of 0.1 million tonnes per annum is more than met by existing planning permissions in the far east of the Plan area. It also found that there is a more than adequate supply of marine dredged aggregates to meet demand if land-won sources were depleted, as long as sufficient wharf capacity was maintained.

3.4 It is not considered that any of the main components in supply and demand have altered since the 2014 LAA was agreed by the Committee, although there have been some minor changes. Changes relevant to Brighton & Hove are as follows:

- Imports of marine aggregates at Shoreham Port have slightly increased. With the current demise of marine dredged aggregate imports at Newhaven, East Sussex and Brighton & Hove remain very dependent on imports at Shoreham.
- The agreement of a Statement of Common Ground on safeguarding minerals wharfage at Shoreham Port sets the framework for positive co-operation between the relevant authorities to safeguard sufficient wharf capacity at the port to maintain important marine-won aggregates.
- The Proposed Submission East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Sites Plan published October 2015 emphasises the importance of safeguarding wharves and railheads for aggregate imports.

3.5 The adopted Waste & Minerals Plan includes a commitment that the relevant policy in the Plan will be reviewed if it appears that sufficient aggregates supply is not being maintained. The Authorities will continue to monitor the situation in this regard.

3.6 Approval is also sought for the Committee to delegate authority for the agreement and publication of future Local Aggregate Assessments to the Executive Director Environment, Development & Housing. Given the lack of mineral resources in Brighton & Hove, and relatively small amount in East Sussex, future LAAs are considered unlikely to raise any concerns for members.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 LAAs could continue to be taken to the Economic Development & Culture Committee, but given the uncontentious nature of the LAA which is likely to continue into the future, this is not considered to be a good use of Committee time.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 A draft LAA was circulated to neighbouring Mineral Planning Authorities, the Marine Management Organisation and the Mineral Products Association for comments.
- 5.2 The South East England Aggregates Working Party (SEEAWP) was consulted on the draft LAA. The LAA was circulated to SEEAWP members and was considered by SEEAWP at its meeting on 10 November 2015, where the draft LAA was approved.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The City Council, as a Mineral Planning Authority is required by the National Planning Policy Framework to produce a Local Aggregate Assessment. The LAA has been produced jointly with East Sussex County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority to reflect the Plan Area of the adopted Waste and Minerals Plan.
- 6.2 The LAA concludes that existing planning permissions and marine reserves should be sufficient to maintain an adequate supply of aggregates to support development in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove until 2026. The situation will be monitored.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The costs to the council of producing the annual Local Aggregate Assessment is funded from existing revenue budgets within the Planning service.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steven Bedford

Date: 24/02/16

Legal Implications:

Local Aggregate Assessments are not statutory documents and there are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

Lawyer Consulted:

Name Hilary Woodward

Date: 24/2/16

Equalities Implications:

- 7.2 None arising directly from this report.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.3 The planning system has a clear purpose to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development. A steady and adequate supply of aggregates facilitates the new development required to support economic growth in the city.

- 7.4 The LAA notes that there are moves to increase utilisation of recycled aggregates.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 The City Council, as a Minerals Planning Authority is required by the National Planning Policy Framework to produce a LAA. Failure to do so would risk inadequately planning for the steady and adequate supply of aggregates required to support future development.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Local Aggregate Assessment for East Sussex County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council and the South Downs National Park Authority 2015 (in members' rooms)

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Plan (February 2013)

