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## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

SEERAWP 11/02

### 1 SEERAWP Terms of Reference and Membership

- 1.1 SEERAWP is a technical group with the role of advising government, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the South East Regional Planning Body (RPB), Mineral Planning Authorities and industry on aggregates. Its membership has been drawn from officers of the RPB and mineral planning authorities, the minerals industry through the Mineral Products Association and the British Aggregates Association, and government representatives from DCLG and the Government Office for the South East (GOSE). The Port of London Authority, The Crown Estate and an officer from the East of England region and the Greater London Authority are also represented. However, the membership at 31 December 2010 reflects the abolition of the RPB at 31 July, and the impending closure of the GOSE office – see Appendix A
- 1.2 Each year, SEERAWP sets a programme on which to focus, which includes both actions to be undertaken annually, such as the Aggregates Monitoring survey and report, and new initiatives on current issues. The following paragraphs summarise how SEERAWP fared in pursuing the 2010 programme, whilst paragraph 7 suggests a work programme for 2011.

### 2 Future of Regional Planning Bodies and RAWPs

*Be prepared to consider implications for SEERAWP and any steps to secure its continuance if RPBs are abolished.*

- 2.1 The South East RPB was abolished at 31 July 2010, and the GOSE office has also been closed. In a letter of 25 June the Secretary of State has also sought to revoke Regional Spatial Strategies. This was declared unlawful, and the South East RSS (The South East Plan) still stands. However, government proposes to abolish RSSs in its Localism Bill currently starting its procedures in parliament.
- 2.2 SEERAWP has been maintained since the abolition of the RPB with the extension of the RAWP secretary contract firstly to 31 September, and then to 31 March 2011. The future remains unclear.
- 2.3 Government has made plain its intention for minerals planning decisions to be made locally by MPAs, including the amounts of minerals required. Minerals targets would not be handed down to MPAs except for ‘nationally strategic deposits’ where responsibility would lie with the Secretary of State. It is not clear whether any aggregates, e.g. hard rock sources which are wholly or largely absent from MPA areas in the wider south east, will be treated as an exception, perhaps with the retention of some form of Managed Aggregate Supply System (MASS). Under the Localism Bill MPAs will have a duty to work together on cross boundary issues, but this does not guarantee the formation of area working parties (AWPs) for minerals or the maintenance of the high level of hard rock imports on which this region depends.

### **3 SE Plan Minerals Review**

*Consider the EIP Panel report and respond to any GOSE consultation on regional and sub-regional apportionment.*

- 3.1 The EIP Panel concluded that the principles of the modelling process used by DCLG for aggregate forecasting were sound; it did not provide reliable forecasts of aggregate consumption in the South East. There was a case for departing from national policy, but the rationale for a figure of 9.01mtpa proposed by the RPB was not supported by evidence and was unsound. The Panel recommended that the regional allocation for land-won sand and gravel should be no more than the 11.12mtpa, and crushed rock set at 1.44mtpa. It considered that the methodology used by the RPB for sub regional apportionment was sound despite the limitations of some of the data, and apportioned the sub regional figures according to this methodology. The Panel also recommended that DCLG should review the assumptions and regression coefficients inherent in the aggregate forecasting model, and determine whether the national guidelines or guidelines for other regions should be altered in the light of the recommendations for the South East.
- 3.2 The consultation by GOSE on Proposed Changes to the minerals section of the RSS fully supported the EIP Panel recommendations on regional and sub regional apportionment. However, in the light of its intention to revoke the RSS, the coalition government did not pursue the Proposed Changes consultation. Instead, in a letter of 25 June 2010, the Secretary of State recommended that MPAs should work from the apportionment set out in the 'Proposed Changes' and only use alternative figures if they had new or different information and a robust evidence base.
- 3.3 A number of MPAs had challenged any increase in apportionment above the lower figures proposed by the RPB as undeliverable. They remained opposed to the EIP Panel's recommended figures. At its meeting on 3 November, SEERAWP MPAs were asked whether their development plans were likely to be based on the figures in the 'Proposed Changes' or not. The response indicated that three are likely to proceed on this basis, three will use the figures but test their delivery in their Core Strategy, four are to base their plans on local supply issues, and one MPA plan was at the EIP stage.

### **4 AM2009**

*a) Assist the 4 year National Aggregates Monitoring Survey, and issue an AM2009 regional monitor.*

- 4.1 The National Aggregates Survey has been undertaken by BGS on behalf of DCLG. The survey is more extensive than in the intervening years, obtaining data on inter regional and intra regional movements of aggregates, as well as sales and reserves. This enables consumption figures to be drawn up for regions and each MPA or group of MPAs. As in intervening years, MPAs have collated returns from industry and sent these via the RAWP secretary to BGS. There was a very high level of returns for this region. The National Collation report is due to be completed by 31 March 2011.
- 4.2 A draft of the AM2009 regional report has been prepared based on the data from the national survey, together with additional data collected at the regional scale on aggregate sales and distribution from rail depots, and the effect of allocations on planning decisions. An opportunity to issue to the regional report to SEERAWP awaits the receipt by DCLG of the final draft report of the national survey from BGS.

## 5 Marine Aggregates

*Continue to address and make representations on any proposals flowing from the Marine and Coastal Access and associated legislation.*

- 5.1 SEERAWP responded in May 2010 to a pre-consultation draft of the UK Marine Policy Statement drawing attention to the disparity between guidelines and apportionment for land-won aggregates, and the supply from marine sand and gravel based upon an assumption. SEERAWP asked for the integration of policies that will emerge from marine plans for marine dredged aggregate with policies for land-won supplies in adjoining regions. Marine plans should be for 20-25 years, comparable with terrestrial plans and giving a long term assurance to the marine aggregate industry bearing in mind the high levels of capital investment needed to upgrade or replace significant numbers of the dredging fleet.
- 5.2 Changes were sought to the proposed marine plan areas, and subsequently SEERAWP was pleased to learn that amendments met its views on a single plan to be prepared for the Thames Estuary, and one plan for the south coast inshore areas grouped together. However, the south coast inshore and off shore areas remain separate rather than combined as sought by SEERAWP.
- 5.3 SEERAWP welcomed the receipt of briefing notes published by The Crown Estate for each dredging region which provided a range of data including the number of licences, statistics on tonnages for the last ten years, maps and licence areas. The Crown Estate also provided figures on marine reserves and resources reflecting the 15 year dredging permissions. SEERAWP was pleased to note that there are over 100Mt of reserves and some 600Mt of reserve/resource in the four marine areas that supply the south east, and that there is substantial capacity to increase the level of supply if needed. With marine aggregate supplying a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of primary aggregate supply from the SE, this provides a healthy picture for long term supplies.

## 6 CE&DW and Secondary Materials

*Liaise with SERTAB on monitoring the sub regional provision for recycling set out in the revised SE Plan Policy M2.*

- 6.1 This remains a notoriously difficult sector on which to obtain reliable and comprehensive data. AM2008 has improved on AM2007 but has not achieved full spatial cover in all MPAs. Nonetheless, a total of some 110 fixed recycling sites have been identified in the region. These sites produced some 2.7Mt of recycled aggregate in 2008, with a further 0.6Mt from secondary sources. However, fixed sites are only part of the picture. Mobile plant is not captured by AM surveys, and one plant alone may produce 1Mt of recycled material.
- 6.2 The 2007-8 waste monitoring report to SERTAB estimated that there is a capacity of over 7Mt at existing recycling sites in the region, and the AM2008 report recorded that this would be increased by over 0.5Mt through permissions granted that year. The SEEPB has consulted LPAs on draft Guidelines on how to incorporate minerals and waste elements of the SE Plan into LDFs. This draws attention to the need for MDDs to set out the capacity requirements for minerals recycling facilities necessary to deliver the apportionment targets in SE Plan Policy M2.
- 6.3 DCLG has also confirmed that a 2009 survey of CD&EW is to take place in parallel with the 2009 national and regional aggregates survey.

## 7 **Work Programme for 2011**

7.1 It is suggested that the SEERAWP work programme for 2011 focuses on:-

- Future of MASS and AWP: consider implications of no government support or limited support for MASS or AWP, and any steps to mitigate the impact.
- Localism Bill: consider implications for LDFs/LDDs.
- AM2010: undertake AM2010 survey such that a draft report is available in Autumn 2011, and an AM2010 regional monitor issued by 31 December 2011.
- Marine Aggregates: continue to address and make representations on any proposals flowing from the Marine and Coastal Access Act and associated legislation
- CE&DW and Secondary Materials: liaise with SERTAB in monitoring the sub regional provision for recycling set out in the revised SE Plan policy M2.

*Post meeting note: this programme for 2011, including undertaking the AM2010 survey, was agreed by SEERAWP at its meeting on 16 February 2011 on the basis that there was a 'community of interest' to meet again in October 2011, and the annual survey data continued to be required.*

## 8 **Contractual Arrangements and Costs**

8.1 SEERAWP is ultimately responsible to DCLG which met the direct cost in servicing SEERAWP for January-December 2010 in accord with the terms of two six month extensions to a 4 year contract April 2006-March 2010. This pattern of contracts was common to all RAWPs in England. It should also be acknowledged that all the main bodies represented on SEERAWP have made a considerable contribution during the year through carrying out studies, responding to surveys, or facilitating or being in attendance at meetings of SEERAWP.

8.2 A review of the role and value of RAWPs is being undertaken by DCLG. It is hoped that DCLG will recognise the value of the AWP bringing industry and local authorities together, and continue to support and fund the AWP beyond March 2011. Without such support the future of AWP and work programmes such as the above are in jeopardy.

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### **Other Minerals Group**

A number of Mineral Planning Officers on SEERAWP have formerly taken part in an 'Other Minerals Group' sponsored by the RPB. This group included CBI minerals representatives and advised the RPB on non aggregate minerals. However, this group has not met in 2010 and with the demise of the RPB, will not meet again without an initiative from one of the other parties.

**SEERAWP MEMBERSHIP  
at 31 December 2010**

**APPENDIX A**

John Kilford	Chairman
Chris Waite	Technical Secretary
Anthea Hoey	Berkshire Unitary Authorities
Chris Colbourne	Buckinghamshire CC
Tony Cook	East Sussex CC & Brighton & Hove Council
Richard Read	Hampshire CC, Portsmouth & Southampton City Councils, and New Forest National Park
Chris Mills	Isle of Wight Council
Lillian Harrison	Kent CC
Bryan Geake	Medway Council
Fiona Tarbit	Milton Keynes Council
Peter Day	Oxfordshire CC
David Lamb	Surrey CC
Mike Elkington	West Sussex CC
Alan Everard	MPA (Tarmac)
Mike Pendock	MPA (Lafarge)
Bob Smith	MPA (Hanson)
Keith Frost	MPA (CEMEX)
Richard Ford	MPA (Brett)
Jon Lovett	MPA (Clubb)
Mark Russell	MPA(BMAPA)
Ken Hobden	MPA(BMAPA)
MPA	MPA
Steve Cole	BAA
	PLA
James Trimmer	The Crown Estate
Mark Wrigley	DCLG
Mark Plummer	DCLG
Lucy Yates	DCLG
Andrew Lipinski	

GLA

Richard Linton

Roy Leavitt

East of England RAWP