

Meeting:	<b>Joint Committee on Mineral and Waste Planning</b>
Date:	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
From:	Stephen Pointer Team Manager Planning Policy, Nottinghamshire County Council

## **Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Aggregate Assessment**

### **1 Summary**

- 1.1 The Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) is a document produced under the requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and covers the geographical area of Nottinghamshire, including the Nottingham City unitary authority area. It monitors annual sales data for aggregate minerals as well as identifying other relevant local information to enable the Mineral Planning Authorities to plan for a steady and adequate supply of minerals. This report informs members of the Committee of the latest Assessment based on sales of aggregates from local quarries in 2023.

### **2 Background**

- 2.1 Aggregate minerals in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham are made up of sand and gravel, Sherwood Sandstone and crushed rock and are used in the construction industry. Their main uses include concrete, mortar, asphalt, railway ballast and bulk fill.
- 2.2 Each mineral planning authority is expected to develop a LAA each year to set out:
- Summaries of past aggregate sales, number of active quarries and the distribution of the extracted mineral;-
  - The latest 10 and 3 year average sales data and a comparison to the previous average sales data; and,-
  - The key issues that could affect the future demand for aggregates over the next plan period.

This LAA details the annual sales data for 2023.

- 2.3 Whilst aggregate mineral resources are present in the Nottingham City area, the opportunities to work these minerals are limited due to the built-up nature of the area. As a result, the majority of aggregates consumed in the City are supplied from either Nottinghamshire or further afield. The Nottingham City Land and Planning Policies document contains policies against which any proposal for minerals development within the City boundary would be assessed, including a Minerals Safeguarding Policy, however it does not include demand forecasts for aggregate minerals.
- 2.4 Nottinghamshire is an important producer of sand and gravel and Sherwood Sandstone and has a large export market, particularly to South Yorkshire and the wider East Midlands. Crushed rock production is currently at zero with most imported from Derbyshire and Leicestershire.
- 2.5 Sales of aggregate minerals in Nottinghamshire declined significantly after the economic recession of 2008 and have never recovered. Sales for sand and gravel and Sherwood Sandstone fell again in 2020 due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and issues with flooding along the River Trent. In 2023, total sales of aggregates amounted to 1.10 million tonnes compared to 1.52 million tonnes in 2022. Sand and gravel sales were 0.87 million

tonnes in 2023, compared to 1.34 million tonnes in 2022 – the lowest ever recorded sales. However, sales of Sherwood Sandstone increased slightly to 0.23 million tonnes, compared to 0.18 million tonnes in 2022.

- 2.6 The 10-year and 3-year average sales figures for both sand and gravel and Sherwood Sandstone have decreased slightly compared to previous years, continuing the trend of subdued sales since the 2007 recession. The latest 10-year average sales figure for sand and gravel is 1.29 million tonnes, and the 3-year average is 1.16 million tonnes. For Sherwood Sandstone, the 10-year average is 0.30 million tonnes, and the 3-year average is 0.20 million tonnes.
- 2.7 The sand and gravel landbank has gradually increased and stands at 16.02 years, which is well above the national policy of maintaining at least a 7-year landbank. The Sherwood Sandstone landbank is still substantial, standing at 23.33 years, which is also significantly above the national requirements.
- 2.8 Whilst the county does have a permitted site to extract crushed rock (limestone), this site has been inactive since 2007, and so sales have remained at zero. The total permitted reserves for crushed rock remain at 3.34 million tonnes.
- 2.9 Since overall levels of production remain depressed in the Trent Valley, these fall below the levels of provision made in the Nottinghamshire Minerals Plan adopted in 2021. There is therefore at present no need to review overall provision made in this plan and several allocated sites for aggregates in the Plan still remain to be implemented.

#### Next steps

- 2.10 The LAA is currently being circulated for comment to the East Midlands Aggregate Working Party (AWP) made up of local planning authorities and industry representatives who advise on aggregate supplies at a regional level. It is a requirement that the LAA is produced in association with the AWP. Subject to any comment made by the AWP, the LAA will then be reported to the County Council Cabinet lead and recommended to be approved and formally published.

### **3 Recommendation(s)**

- 3.1 That this report be noted.

### **4 Background papers referred to in compiling this report**

- 4.1 See Appendix 1

#### **Contact Officer**

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