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DRAFT

**Minutes of Meeting of SEEAWP held on 19 March 2013
at Eland House, Bressenden Place, London**

Present:

John Kilford	Chairman		
Matt Meldrum	West Berks	Alan Everard	MPA
Roger Kirkham	Slough	Bob Smith	MPA
Shereen Ansari	Bucks CC	Richard Ford	MPA
Tony Cook	E Sussex CC	Ken Hobden	MPA
Adrian Flavell	Hants CC	Mark Russell	BMAPA
Lillian Harrison	Kent CC	Steve Cole	BAA
Catherine Smith	Medway		
Peter Day	Oxfordshire CC	Mark Plummer	DCLG
Paul Sanderson	Surrey CC		
Mike Elkington	West Sussex CC	Nick Everington	The Crown Estate
Chris Mills	Isle of Wight	Nat Percival	MMO
Mark Chant	Milton Keynes		
Claire Potts	South Downs NPA	Chris Waite	Technical Secretary

1 Welcome & Apologies

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed those attending for the first time. He also congratulated the Secretary on being appointed for the next two years and thanked him for continuing to act as Secretary while unpaid between contracts. Apologies were received from Nigel Jackson and Keith Frost (MPA).

2 Minutes and Matters Arising from 24 October 2012 meeting

- 2.1 The minutes were agreed and matters raised, other than those to be dealt with under an agenda item were as follows:

2.1 KH to alert the Secretary when the Competition Commission reports on the aggregates industry.

3.12 The Secretary to keep SEEAWP informed of any outcome from the GLC seminar on cross boundary issues. Other members, if and when they might be involved in future seminars, would endeavour to keep the Secretary informed of anything that might be relevant to SEEAWP.

5.2 AF reported that the last days of the Hampshire hearing were on 13 and 14 March. The Inspector has supported the figure for land-won sand and gravel and resisted requests to reduce it. His report is expected in mid May with the Council likely to adopt the Plan in June.

5.5 & 5.6 Kent and Oxfordshire were SEEAWP responses to their LAAs and copies circulated.

7.2 The appeal decision on the oil and gas exploratory well in Surrey was reported to UKMF.

3 Update by DCLG and Role of SEEAWP

3.1 MP congratulated the Secretary on being appointed to SEEAWP, but said that tenders had been reissued for three AWP that currently had no appointment. He intended to call a meeting between the AWP Secretaries as soon as the three appointments were made, and that meeting would precede an NCG meeting. These meetings would discuss the implementation of NPPF and the MASS guidance bottom up process, and seek to clarify the relationship between AWP and NCG. The minutes of the November NCG were not yet available.

3.2 MP expanded on:

- LAAs: he would be looking to industry and planners to draw up a joint protocol on managing LAA submissions
- AMRI: the 2011 data is now on DCLG web.
- DCLG web: the web has been reorganised with data by county and national sets, and individual LA data has been brigaded by LEPs. MP would welcome feedback on how helpful this is, and it was agreed that this would be an agenda item at next SEEAWP meeting.
- Technical advice: a tender has been issued to appoint consultants to assist the department with technical advice.
- Lord Taylor Review Group: over 350 responses had been received. MP recognised that the overwhelming advice from this sector was to retain some guidance on both minerals policy and legislation. It is intended that a decision on what to retain but streamline is to be in place by summer. The UKMF, in view of its broad representation, including environment organisations, has been invited to set up a small group to assist in providing guidance on what to keep, what to add, and assist in drafting the text.

The guidance to be issued by the Review Group will include other elements which will impact on minerals such as guidance on the duty to cooperate and how 'viability' is to be defined.

- Regional Strategies: an order to revoke the SE Strategy has been laid and will come into effect in 3 months time. The E Midlands and North East are the next to be revoked.

- Growth and Infrastructure Bill: Clause 1 – poor performing authorities will be defined by the lack of speed in determining major applications, and the number of appeals against a refusal that have been allowed. Clause 9 – the provision for ROMPs has been unopposed. Infrastructure Regime – over 100 views have been received, with the majority in favour of the regime, but the threshold levels need to be set carefully to only capture big projects.
- 3.3 In response to a question by MM relating to applications, MP said that a policy in an out of date Plan would continue to have weight if it was consistent with the NPPF, but if the Plan was silent, or there was a degree of conflict, NPPF would apply. MP said he was pleased that more Plans are coming forward, although Councils are prioritising Waste Plans rather than for minerals
- 3.4 On the role of SEEAWP, it was agreed that if its views on LAAs are to carry weight with an MPA or as a material consideration at a Plan hearing, the views need to be widely supported by industry and MPAs having a common approach. SEEAWP's views should be of a strategic nature rather than detailed comments. LH pointed out that the response drafting process needs to avoid errors of fact that could be eliminated by consulting the MPA producing the LAA.
- 3.5 It was agreed that the status of SEEAWP's views on an LAA is one of a technical body. In taking part in SEEAWP discussions and decisions, industry and MPA representatives express their professional opinions and not as representatives of a particular aggregate company or MPA. PS said that he had delegated authority to take part in SEEAWP on that basis. It is recognised that an individual company or local authority might take a different line at an EIP hearing.

4 **AM2011 and AM2012**

AM2011

- 4.1 The Secretary thanked those who had given views on the draft AM2011 and he had made appropriate minor amendments. The gap in data reported last time regarding Berkshire authorities had now been filled by the Secretary carrying out a survey direct with operators. This had now thrown up changes to the Berks figures in the draft sent to SEEAWP - a permission for 800,000 tonnes and an additional 800,000 tonnes of permitted reserves needing to be added to Table 1 and reflected in Tables 3 & 4. Kent has also supplied figures changing the proportion of soft sand and sharp sand and gravel reserves in Table 1, but not the total reserve.
- 4.2 The Secretary also thanked those who had responded to his request for updates to Appendices B and C. He now had a complete updated Appendix B on Key Milestones for DPDs with TC confirming that the East Sussex Waste & Minerals Plan was adopted on 19 February 2013. For Appendix C responses were awaited from E Sussex, Kent, Medway and W Sussex, with Milton Keynes sites also to be checked. The Secretary asked for the updates by the end of the month. He thanked Claire Potts for correcting Appendix C to show a series of sites in SDNPA area rather than in Sussex. He asked AF to check whether any site should be shown as in NFNPA.
- Post meeting note: AF confirmed that Fawley, Badminton Farm is in the NFNPA.*
- 4.3 A number of MPAs had questioned why the report was still using the Proposed Policy M3 in the Tables and with reference to landbanks, rather than the NPPF and MASS Guidance for

LAAs to be based on the average of sales over the last 10 years.. The Secretary said that he had used Proposed Policy M3 because of the 2009 letter to Chief Planning Officers which said that SE MPAs should work from these figures; SEEAWP had supported the figures as the basis for LDFs/MDDs until revised Guidelines were published; and it was noteworthy that the Lord Taylor Review report last December placed the 2009 letter in the category for documents to be retained and streamlined in new Guidance. It was agreed that the issue was appropriate for discussion at the various meetings on the implementation of NPPF and MASS Guidance in the coming months. AM2011 would not be amended and SEEAWP would await advice for AM2012.

4.4 LH considered that paragraph 9.3 in the draft report was too critical of MPAs in respect of plan preparation. It did not give sufficient recognition to those authorities that had submitted or adopted plans, despite difficulties and delays due to circumstances beyond their control, and implied that the current timetables in Appendix B would not be adhered to. A number of other MPAs supported this view and particularly asked for the last sentence to stop at the word 'report' and omit the following phrase. KH and other minerals representatives said that paragraph 9.3 was right in highlighting the lack of plans and the slippage in programmes. After discussion on alternative wording SEEAWP agreed to the Secretary and Chairman finding suitable amended wording to include in the report.

4.5 The Chairman and Secretary were authorised to finalise the AM2011 report, including changes arising from in 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4 above, to issue it and ask for it to be placed on DCLG and MPA web sites.

AM2012

4.7 The specification for the AM2012 and subsequent surveys includes a number of features which are different from practice in previous SE AM surveys:

- Non Energy Minerals: it is assumed that this addition to the survey relates only to those with potential for substituting for aggregate. If collected it is not clear how complete and useful such data would be. JH pointed out that MPAs should have the data as part of their LAA assessment of overall supply. Although some chalk and building stone quarries contribute some aggregate, there are a large number of sites eg for brick clay which are not likely to be so used.
- Road Planings: MPAs do not currently collect this data so it cannot be in place for AM2012. Indeed, recording would need to have been started earlier this year if to be included in the AM2013 survey.
- Imports and exports between AWP: SEEAWP AM surveys collect data on imports by rail and sea, but it is considered impractical to seek to cover road transport. The four yearly national and regional collation covers this data.
- Construction Projects: it was agreed that AWP should only draw attention to major projects such as the recent decision on Hinkley Power Station. Appropriate reference could be made in AWP's AM2012 reports.

4.7 The AM2011 survey forms for the SE have been issued and do not cover the above items. It was agreed that any change in coverage for the first three of the above bullet points should be referred to the AWP Secretaries and NCG meetings before considering whether to introduce them into future AM surveys.

4.8 The specification also reflects NPPF and MASS guidance:

- Each MPA submits a draft LAA to the AWP: It was agreed that MPAs should aim to submit their draft to the November meeting of SEEAWP at the latest.
- The AM report to be completed and submitted to DCLG by the end of June: the 2011 survey forms sent by MPAs to operators are asking for a return (in 2 months) by the end of April; the MPA will then have a month (May) to complete and send the collation forms to the Secretary: he will have one month (June) to draft the report. KH said industry supported this timetable, and proposed that forms are sent out in December to enable AM2013 to be completed by the end of June 2014.
- Each AWP is to state whether it is making a full contribution to national and local needs: the Chairman considered that it would be difficult for SEEAWP to make this judgement when referring the combined LAAs and its AM report to NCG. MP said that it was the AWP's role to advise NCG, and if necessary to draw attention to an MPA not pulling its weight. The Chairman considered that the statement to NCG would need to be all encompassing to give the full picture.

5 Local Aggregates Assessments

Isle of Wight LAA

5.1 CM and PS said that the views by PS had been misinterpreted, as Surrey supported the 0.1mtpa provision for land-won aggregates. Accordingly SEEAWP agreed unanimously that the response to the Isle of Wight consultation should be that SEEAWP considered that the draft LAA was clearly and succinctly presented, and the provision for land-won sand and gravel at 0.1mtpa was supported.

Timetable for LAAs not yet submitted to SEEAWP

5.2 Surrey expects to circulate a draft LAA for comment in April. Oxfordshire plan to submit a draft LAA to SEEAWP July meeting. Other authorities are aiming for the November SEEAWP meeting. West Berkshire intend to prepare an LAA for their area, and also contribute to a joint LAA for the six Berkshire Unitary Authorities. CP confirmed that the SDNPA will be included in the LAAs for East and West Sussex.

Procedure for SEEAWP response to LAAs

5.3 The procedure agreed by the East Midlands AWP had been circulated with the agenda. The Secretary suggested that the 21 days for member comments and 14 days for a second round of comments could be shortened to some 10 days in each case. After this year LAA updates may all be prepared towards the end of the year to go into MPAs AMRs, and might be directed to one SEEAWP meeting.

Minerals Plans and LAAs from MPAs in adjoining AWP's

5.6 It was agreed that members who receive any documentation on Plans and LAAs from outside SEEAWP area should notify the Secretary. The bare details of such documents that the Secretary is made aware of, together with any other documentation sent directly to SEEAWP, will then be disseminated by him. If the Secretary identifies any matters of potential concern to SEEAWP, or if he is notified of any such matters by members, then he

will seek comments from the membership before deciding on how to respond to the consultation.

6 Marine Aggregates

Marine Licence Renewals

- 6.1 NP reported that the short term licence renewals had been successfully completed, and industry was now focussing on some 50 applications for longer term licences. Bill McBride will accompany NP on future occasions to report on progress.

East Coast and South Coast Plans

- 6.2 NP reported that the consultation on the draft East Coast Plan is to take place for 12 weeks starting in May. MR reminded NP that 90% of the tonnage from the East Coast area is landed outside the adjoining land areas, principally to London and the SE. The Secretary said that SEEAWP made representations about this at an earlier stage of the Plan and will be looking to see that this aspect is now sufficiently highlighted. In response to the Chairman NP said that the Plan will identify areas where aggregate resources exist but will not identify where extraction could take place or a rate of extraction. Applications would be dealt with on a case by case basis.
- 6.3 Three workshops have been held on the South Coast Plan, with a call for evidence. It was noted that BGS resource mapping studies will be available at the start of this Plan preparation.
- 6.4 There was a call for reports on the East Coast and South Coast Plans and on Resource mapping to be submitted to SEEAWP's next meeting.

Marine Reserves

- 6.5 NE said that a methodology for calculating marine reserves has now been agreed. SEEAWP will be advised of the output as soon as this is available. The Crown Estate will also provide briefing notes for each sea area. SEEAWP welcomed these initiatives and stressed the importance of having up to date data on marine landings and reserves in view of SEEAWP's heavy dependence on marine aggregate supply and the requirement for MPAs to draft LAAs which need to assess all aggregate resources.

7 Any Other Business

- 7.1 There was no other business.

8 Date of Next Meetings

- 8.1 The next SEEAWP meeting is to take place **at 2pm on Wednesday 3 July 2013** at DCLG Offices, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU.

The following meeting will be on Wednesday 13 November 2013.