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**Authority Monitoring Report 2018-2020, including Local Aggregates Assessment**

1 message

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**Authority Monitoring Report 2018-2020, including Local Aggregates Assessment**

Consultation database reference: 538

Dear Sir or Madam,

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Worcestershire County Council's Authority Monitoring Report for 2018-2020, including Local Aggregates Assessment, has been published on the Council's Website at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/amr](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/amr). Its purpose is to assess the effectiveness of the Council's planning policies.

The headlines from the report are:

**Plan preparation**

Significant progress was made on the Minerals Local Plan (MLP) during this monitoring period, including the Fourth Stage Consultation, consultation on the Publication Version and submission of the plan to the Secretary of State for Examination in Public in December 2019. Hearing sessions were held in November and December 2020.

Consultation was also carried out during the monitoring period on a proposed site-selection methodology for the Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) and a further 'Call for Sites' was undertaken.

Preparatory work for the review and revision of the Waste Core Strategy did not commence during the monitoring period, for the reasons set out in revisions to the Local Development Scheme.

**Implementation of the Waste Core Strategy**

Performance against waste indicators was good, with all relevant Waste Core Strategy objectives being met, although the target of achieving 100% equivalent self-sufficiency for managing all waste streams through re-use, recycling and other recovery was missed in 2020 (at a rate of 93%). The self-sufficiency target was exceeded in 2018 and 2019, and it is currently unclear if the reduction in 2020 was due to recycling sites temporarily or permanently closing, or was simply down to incomplete data. For 'Local Authority Collected Waste' managed in Worcestershire, however, performance has been positive, as the proportion of this waste going to landfill fell year-on-year between 2018 and 2020 and landfill capacity remains adequate for the life of the Waste Core Strategy.

**Implementation of the Minerals Local Plan**

Some minerals indicators failed to meet their targets in the monitoring period. In particular, the

provision of adequate landbanks for aggregate minerals was below target. The new Minerals Local Plan and the emerging Minerals Site Allocations Development Plan Document will help to address this by providing an effective and up-to-date policy framework and site allocations to give the minerals industry greater certainty and confidence to bring sites forward. The new Local Aggregates Assessment will provide more up-to-date and appropriate evidence of aggregate demand and capacity in the county.

### **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)**

Satisfaction levels with the planning application process/service were on target, with no planning appeals upheld, no planning complaints upheld by the ombudsman, and no planning court decisions against the council.

Within the monitoring period, a 71% satisfaction rate with the planning policy consultation process was recorded, although sample size was limited. This is a slight decrease compared to the previous AMR monitoring period, when an 86% satisfaction rate was recorded.

### **Authority Monitoring Report**

#### Substitute, secondary and recycled aggregates

There is a lack of data about the contribution that substitute, secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste make to the supply of aggregate materials in Worcestershire.

#### Sand and gravel

Indicators suggest that there is a significant increase in demand for sand and gravel from Worcestershire. These indicate that the production guideline for primary sand and gravel should be increased above the 10-year sales average. In combination with indicators of demand, consideration was given to Worcestershire's ability to supply sand and gravel to determine the appropriate level of uplift.

The production guideline for sand and gravel therefore deviates from the 10-year sales average by +50%. The annual production guideline for sand and gravel identified by this Local Aggregates Assessment is therefore 0.853 million tonnes per annum.

Based on this production guideline and the stock of permitted reserves of 2.504 million tonnes, Worcestershire had a landbank of 2.94 years at 31st December 2020. This is well below the 7-year landbank required by national policy and indicates that there is currently a shortfall of permitted reserves in the county.

#### Crushed rock

Worcestershire has no permitted reserves, no productive capacity and no landbank for crushed rock. The 10-year sales average for crushed rock sales is 0 tonnes and there has been no production of crushed rock in Worcestershire since 2010. However, there is demand for crushed rock to meet needs within Worcestershire which is currently met by material imported from other mineral planning authority areas, and there may also be an increasing need for crushed rock to be supplied from within Worcestershire as reserves are diminished elsewhere. This indicates that the annual production guideline should be increased above the 10-year average.

Although crushed rock resources exist in Worcestershire, and therefore production may be possible, there are very significant limitations on Worcestershire's ability to supply crushed rock, both in the short and longer term. The lack of existing sites with permitted reserves and the lack of any planning applications pending decision means that there is no likelihood of supply from within Worcestershire in the immediate future.

The LAA therefore concludes that the production guideline for crushed rock in Worcestershire is unable to be calculated, but that it is explicitly greater than 0 tonnes.

Yours faithfully,

**Marianne Pomeroy**

**Team Leader (Minerals & Waste Planning Policy)**

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**Job title:** Parish Clerk  
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