Dear Hayley

BLAENAU GWENT REVISED LOCAL PLAN: SPATIAL STRATEGY OPTIONS BRIEFING PAPER (JULY 2019)

The Mineral Products Association (MPA) is the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries. With the affiliation of British Precast, the British Association of Reinforcement (BAR), Eurobitume, QPA Northern Ireland, MPA Scotland and the British Calcium Carbonate Federation, it has a growing membership of over 530 companies and is the sectoral voice for mineral products. MPA membership is made up of the vast majority of independent SME quarrying companies throughout the UK, as well as the 9 major international and global companies. It covers 100% of UK cement production, 90% of GB aggregates production, 95% of asphalt and over 70% of ready-mixed concrete and precast concrete production. Each year the industry supplies £20 billion worth of materials and services to the Economy and is the largest supplier to the construction industry, which had annual output valued at £151 billion in 2016. Industry production represents the largest materials flow in the UK economy and is also one of the largest manufacturing sectors. For more information visit: www.mineralproducts.org.

Thank you for consulting us on the above document. We have the following comments to make.

Challenge 1
The Challenge appears to overlook the rural environment and the need to safeguard rural employment in agriculture, forestry and quarrying. These environments all contribute to economic growth and well-being.

Challenge 10
Whilst we appreciate the need for the efficient use of minerals and sustainable management of natural resources, this challenge does not reflect planning policy in Planning Policy Wales. There is nothing in PPW which states “The exploitation of minerals needs to be limited” and this sentence should therefore be deleted.

Challenge 10 needs to properly reflect PPW which requires each Local Planning........
Authority to make an appropriate contribution to the sustainable supply of minerals. This is to be achieved through balancing the adequate supply of minerals with environmental protection through limiting the environmental effects of mineral working. PPW recognises that minerals are essential to the economy and the economic contribution made by minerals and minerals products. It places a duty upon LPAs to safeguard mineral resources and minerals infrastructure.

PPW requires the adequate supply of aggregates to be delivered through collaboration with other local planning authorities in accordance with MTAN1 and the Regional Technical Statement.

Challenge 10 therefore needs a fundamental rewrite to reflect the above and fully accord with PPW.

We trust the above is helpful and would be happy discuss the comments with you further.

We should be grateful if you could forward future correspondence to the email below.

Yours sincerely

Nick Horsley
Director of Planning, MPA Wales

Email: nick.horsley@mineralproducts.org
Tel: 07568 427720