

6th December 2016



Andrew Farrow
Chief Officer (Planning and Environment)
Flintshire County Council
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Dear Mr Farrow

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON OPTIONS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR FLINTSHIRE

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 recent addition of British Precast and the British Association of Reinforcement (BAR), it has a growing membership of over 480 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 GB cement production, 90% of 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 has annual output valued at £144 billion. Industry production represents the largest materials flow in the UK economy and is also one of the largest manufacturing sectors.

With reference to the above consultation, we are supportive of the Council's sustainable aspirations to enhance community life, deliver growth and prosperity and safeguard the environment. There will be more informed respondents to advise the Council on which option would be most appropriate for the local area in terms of housing delivery and economic growth up to 2030.

The varying options for both housing development and employment will, however, have differing demands on infrastructure provision and the associated mineral products required to deliver such. Whichever option is pursued, this should be reflected through the appropriate provision of raw materials, building products, construction and industrial minerals to deliver the objectives of the plan. This will need to be delivered through appropriate minerals site allocations and supportive criteria based policies

As referenced in the Council's Topic Paper No 6 -Minerals (February 2015), it will also be necessary to ensure that the level of development does not have a detrimental impact on minerals resources and the plan should therefore include the necessary safeguarding on minerals and minerals infrastructure to ensure these are not sterilised.

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Registered in England as Mineral Products Association Limited No. 1634996
Registered at the above address

We also note in the **Council's Topic Paper No 6 -Minerals**, reference is made to National policy seeking to direct mineral development away from the AONBs and environmental designations. However, there may be exceptional circumstances where any such development is deemed to be in the public interest.

Council's Topic Paper No 6 -Minerals, is likely to need updating to reflect changes in planning policy and the emerging RTS as the Flintshire Local Development Plan development.

Please do not hesitate to contact me further if you wish to discuss any of the above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Horsley', is enclosed in a light grey rectangular box. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Nick Horsley

Director of Planning, Industrial Minerals and MPA Wales
Mineral Products Association

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