



Hampshire County Council

E7/pf/1180

7 August 2008

Aggregates Consultation
South East England Regional Assembly
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Councillor Ken Thornber CBE
Leader of the Council

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Dear Sir

Thank you for consulting Hampshire County Council on the *Review of sub-regional allocation of land-won aggregates* as part of the partial review of RPG9 and the draft South East Plan. This matter is of the greatest importance to the Hampshire community and I am responding on behalf of all the mineral planning authorities (Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils and New Forest National Park Authority).

Generally, the need for aggregates is well understood by both residents and businesses, but all feel very strongly that the allocation be reasonable and sustainable given the special nature of Hampshire's environment and the availability for supply from alternative sources.

The County Council with the other mineral planning authorities in Hampshire are in the process of preparing the Hampshire Minerals Plan and identifying sites for the extraction of land won sand and gravel. This matter has been discussed and debated recently at the respective Councils and I can say without question that all Members feel that the current apportionment is untenable, and therefore this review and consultation of the current apportionment is timely.

Hampshire has a significant resource of sand and gravel - about 18% of the geographic area, but this is limited by national and international environmental designations, which reduce this to 5%. Moreover, the effect of these constraints are further compounded by local circumstances such as transport, quality of mineral and land ownership issues. Accordingly, the ability of the county to produce aggregate from local land won resources in a sustainable manner is severely limited. Indeed, I have with my colleagues on the Cabinet visited all of the potential sites and it is quite evident the opportunities are very few. It is important that any allocation made by Assembly reflects this reality. I do however, welcome the position taken by the Assembly that the Draft National and Regional Aggregate Guidelines need to be further reduced for the south east below 12.2 million tonnes per annum (mtpa).

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