



CABINET – 4TH JUNE 2014

**SUBJECT: REGIONAL TECHNICAL STATEMENT FOR THE SOUTH WALES
REGIONAL AGGREGATES WORKING PARTY**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION
151 OFFICER**

- 1.1 The attached report, which was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 20th May 2014, set out the Regional Technical Statement (RTS) for the South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party (SWRAWP) and sought the views of Members on the recommendations contained therein.
- 1.2 Members were advised that the South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party (SWRAWP) has issued a first review of the Regional Technical Statement (RTS) originally published in October 2008. The RTS sets out a strategy for the provision of aggregates within Wales until 2036, developing national mineral planning policy and providing apportionments and allocations for each local planning authority (LPA) which will be carried through into the Local Development Plan (LDP). The Council, as a member of the SWRAWP, is required to consider the provisions set out in the document and to consider whether to endorse its findings.
- 1.3 The RTS is a strategic document and does not give site-specific guidance. It gives a recommendation to each local planning authority regarding the amount of aggregates that need to be supplied from its area (apportionment) and the total tonnage of any new areas of future working (allocation) which should be made through the LDP.
- 1.4 In terms of paragraph 4.10 in the report, local members expressed concern with regard to the future of the railhead. It was noted that Machen Quarry is currently mothballed and the RTS states that if it does not reopen when the market picks up consideration may be given to the allocation of reserves elsewhere to compensate. Members were concerned that this could affect the railhead, which the report states should continue to be safeguarded regardless of the quarry's operational status. The feasibility of reinstating the Machen Quarry Liaison Group was raised.
- 1.5 Following consideration and discussion Members noted the contents of the report and unanimously recommended that for the reasons contained therein, the amended RTS be referred to Cabinet for consideration and subsequently Council for approval and that the Welsh Government be advised of the Council's decision.
- 1.6 Members are asked to consider the above recommendations.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 20th May 2014 – Agenda Item 7(1).