



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL

CABINET

9th December 2020

Report of the Director of Environment and Regeneration Nicola Pearce

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All

Planning Policy Wales (Edition 10) – Consideration of: the Regional Technical Statement 2nd Review (2020) and Statement of Sub-Regional Collaboration for the Swansea City Sub Region

Purpose of the Report

To consider and seek endorsement of the Regional Technical Statement 2nd Review (RTS2) along with the Statement of Sub-regional Collaboration for the Swansea City Sub Region.

Executive Summary

Minerals Technical Advice Note 1: Aggregates (2004) (MTAN 1) requires the preparation of Regional Technical Statements (RTS) for the areas covered by both the South Wales and North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Parties (RAWPs).

The principal objective of the RTS is to provide a strategic framework to ensure adequate reserves of aggregate (crushed rock and sand & gravel) is supplied for the construction and other industries and is done so in the most sustainable manner.

The RTS2 (September 2020) identifies the necessary aggregate apportionments and any necessary allocations at a Local Planning Authority (LPA) level but also at a sub-regional level, thereby allowing sub-regional areas to make adjustments in apportionments where considered

to be justified. To that end, RTS2 requires accompanying 'Statements of Sub-regional Collaboration' to be prepared by all constituent LPAs within each RTS sub-region as part of the evidence base needed to support each Local Development Plan (LDP) or Strategic Development Plan (SDP).

This report therefore seeks endorsement of the RTS2 along with the Statement of Sub-regional Collaboration.

Background

Ensuring the sustainable supply of minerals is a strategic issue which plays a fundamental role in supporting non-minerals development. National policy stipulates that each LPA should ensure it makes an appropriate contribution to meeting local, regional and UK needs for primary minerals which reflects the nature and extent of resources in the area and their best and most appropriate use, subject to relevant environmental and other planning considerations.

The requirements, as set out within MTAN 1, are that a minimum 10 year landbank of crushed rock and a minimum 7 year landbank for sand and gravel should be maintained throughout the entire plan period of an LDP. In effect, this means having a minimum landbank for sand & gravel of 22 years, at the start of a 15-year Plan period, and a minimum crushed rock landbank of 25 years.

Forward planning for minerals has therefore formed an intrinsic part of the LDP process, with LDPs having benefitted from the clear strategic direction that the RTS provides on the sustainable approach to mineral development across Wales.

Regional Technical Statement 2nd Review (RTS2)

The RTS2 (September 2020) identifies the necessary apportionments and any necessary allocations at a LPA level but also at a sub-regional level, thereby allowing sub-regional areas to make adjustments in apportionments where justified. To that end, RTS2 requires 'Statements of Sub-regional Collaboration' to be prepared by all constituent LPAs within each RTS sub-region as part of the evidence base needed to support each LDP or SDP.

Methodology

The methodology used in the 1st Review (2014), was primarily based on historical sales averages, combined with an assessment of the various 'drivers' of potential future change. For the 2nd Review, this has been combined with an attempt to reflect *planned* future requirements for housing construction activity, and to avoid perpetuating historical supply

patterns in areas where there is scope to encourage more sustainable patterns of supply.

Within this context, the calculation of the apportionments set out in RTS2 followed a four-stage process:

- **Stage 1 ‘Setting the National Level for future aggregates provision’** – based on the correlation between housing completions and aggregate sales, at a national level, the provision required for aggregates has been guided by a 30% uplift on historical sales figures. The national figure amounts to 20.224 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA).
- **Stage 2 ‘Calculation of the regional split between North and South Wales’** – the national figure, set out in stage one, is split between North and South Wales, based on the historical sales which equates to 38% North Wales and 62% South Wales respectively. The South Wales figure totals 12.486 MTPA.
- **Stage 3 ‘Calculation of sub-regional and LPA apportionments’** – South Wales has been split into sub-regions which reflect distinct market areas, between which there is relatively little movement of aggregate. Neath Port Talbot sits within the ‘Swansea City Sub-region’ along with Carmarthenshire and City & County of Swansea (refer to Appendix 1). The percentage of historic sales and house build rates for each authority provides the basis for the LPA apportionment. The NPT apportionment equates to 0.305 MTPA.
- **Stage 4 ‘Sand & Gravel and Crushed Rock total apportionment’** – the final stage took the figures calculated in Stage 3 and multiplied them by the number of years required (25 years for crushed rock) for the LDP total apportionment. The extent of permitted reserves within each LPA is then factored in to determine whether any allocations are required to meet the required provision.

Total Apportionments

The total apportionments for Neath Port Talbot presented in the RTS2 are nil for sand & gravel and 7.636 million tonnes for crushed rock over 25 years. The table below sets out the individual apportionments and allocations for crushed rock for those LPAs that comprise the Swansea City Sub-region.

Members should note that NPT’s apportionment of crushed rock has been significantly reduced when compared to previous RTS editions, with half

the requirement now apportioned to Swansea to encourage a more equitable pattern of supply.

Swansea City Sub-Region – Apportionments and Allocations

Local Planning Authority	New Annualised Apportionment for crushed rock (mt)	Total Apportionment Required over 25 years (mt)	Existing permitted reserves at end of 2016 in mt	Minimum Allocation needed to meet Required Provision (mt)	Additional reserves at Dormant sites, 2016 (mt)
Carmarthenshire	1.102	27.556	59.900	0.000	13.82
Swansea	0.305	7.636	0.000	7.636	0
NPT	0.305	7.636	16.480	0.000	0

The table illustrates that both Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthenshire have sufficient permitted reserves at existing sites to meet the apportionments, so importantly no further allocations are necessary within the respective LDPs. Swansea however, has no existing reserves and is therefore identified as requiring an LDP allocation to meet its apportionment up to 2041.

Statement of Sub-Regional Collaboration (SSRC)

The RTS2 states that in exceptional circumstances, the SSRC may identify an alternative pattern of supply, which still achieves the requirements of the sub-region in a different way. Such circumstances arise either where:

1. One or more LPAs within the sub-region is unable to meet the minimum requirements of their apportionments – in this instance, a LPA would need to demonstrate that it has no (or insufficient) workable resources or that there is no interest from the minerals industry in the area; or
2. An alternative, achievable and more sustainable pattern of supply is identified through collaboration – this will entail transferring some or all of the apportionment from one LPA to another within the same sub-region.

The SSRC for the Swansea City Sub-Region is presented in full in Appendix 2. Notably, the SSRC highlights that Swansea is currently reliant on NPT for supplies of road surfacing aggregate (i.e. high PSV sandstone) and at present, Swansea is unable to demonstrate the required evidence referred to in 1 above – this evidence will be prepared and tested as part of their LDP review due to commence in September 2022.

The SSRC confirms the position that for this interim period, there are more than sufficient reserves within NPT to take up the joint apportionment

without resulting in under provision and moving away from the overall 25-year apportionment. On this basis, the SSRC envisages that NPT would take on the majority of the supply in the first part of the 25-year period of RTS2 and Swansea will seek to take on the supply load for the second part of the 25-year period of the RTS2 following their LDP Review.

Once agreed, the SSRC will remain in place until it is superseded by the requirements of future reviews of the RTS, or new information comes forward which justifies a change.

Members should note that the SSRC has been subject to consultation with the Mineral Products Association (MPA) and British Aggregates Association (BAA). The MPA has responded stating that the approach outlined in the draft SSRC is contrary to the requirements of RTS2, lacks ambition and takes advantage of the SSRC process to effectively side step the local decisions that are required to fulfil the updated local allocations for Swansea presented in RTS2. The MPA argue that the expectation should be towards undertaking the detailed investigation to meet the prescribed minimum local allocation for Swansea sooner rather than later.

Whilst the MPA response is noted, any proposals that the industry wishes to put forward to deliver the allocations identified in RTS2 can already be considered under Swansea's LDP Policy RP12 and as a consequence, it is considered that there is no need to update LDP allocations in the interim in advance of Swansea's LDP review.

Financial Impacts

No implications.

Integrated Impact Assessment

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment, attached at Appendix 3, has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required. A summary is included below:

Equalities – The use of minerals affects all generations and all areas of society. The RTS2 was prepared on behalf of the Welsh Government and the North and South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Parties by Cuesta Consulting Limited. It was subject to a public and stakeholder consultation in 2019. Chapter 6 of the RTS2 Main Report outlines the consultation

process undertaken which included several stages of consultation (including wider public consultation) and technical peer review.

Welsh Language – All of the stages of production of the RTS 2 production adhered to the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015 and any amendments to subsequent RTS updates will adhere to these Regulations.

Biodiversity – The RTS2 provides a strong and improved statement of the desire to ensure that sustainability is at the heart of all future mineral planning in Wales.

The policy context and sustainability objections section of the RTS2 sets out the national legislation and policy within Wales which have a bearing on mineral development. The main piece of legislation of relevance to biodiversity is the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which introduced the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SNMR) and set out a framework to achieve this as part of decision-making.

The main objective is to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide. Ecosystem services derived from natural resources include services associated with both mineral extraction and the restoration of former mineral workings. Ecosystem services have an important bearing on site-specific aspects of mineral development, though probably not at the more strategic regional level being considered within the RTS.

Well-being of Future Generation (5 ways of Working) – The RTS2 embraces all five ways of working, it integrates with the Council's well-being objectives; involves people and partners in its development and implementation; and seeks to prevent problems getting worse.

Valleys Communities Impacts

No implications.

Workforce Impacts

No implications.

Legal Impacts

Where the local authorities involved are unable to reach agreement, or if individual local authorities do not accept the revised Regional Technical Statement, the Welsh Government will, as a last resort, consider its default powers to intervene in the Development Plan process (MTAN 1, paragraph A3).

Risk Management Impacts

The Council will be in breach of its legal requirement to ensure that sustainability is at the heart of all future mineral planning in NPT. This has a major impact on the preparation of the Replacement LDP and the delivery of the policies within the existing LDP.

Consultation

The RTS 2nd Review has been the subject of external consultation.

Recommendations

That having considered the report, it is resolved to make the following recommendations for approval:

1. The Regional Technical Statement 2nd Review is endorsed as providing an appropriate strategic framework to ensure an adequate supply of aggregates is achieved.
2. The Statement of Sub-Regional Collaboration presented in Appendix 2 is agreed as an appropriate means of managing the supply of aggregates in the Swansea City Sub-Region.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

The recommendations are needed to ensure compliance with Planning Policy Wales and Minerals Technical Advice Note 1: Aggregates and that an appropriate strategic framework is in place to enable a continued and adequate supply of aggregates.

Implementation of Decision

The decisions are proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Map of RTS 2nd Review Sub-Regions

Appendix 2 – Statement of Sub-Regional Collaboration (Swansea City Sub Region)

Appendix 3 – First Stage Integrated Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers

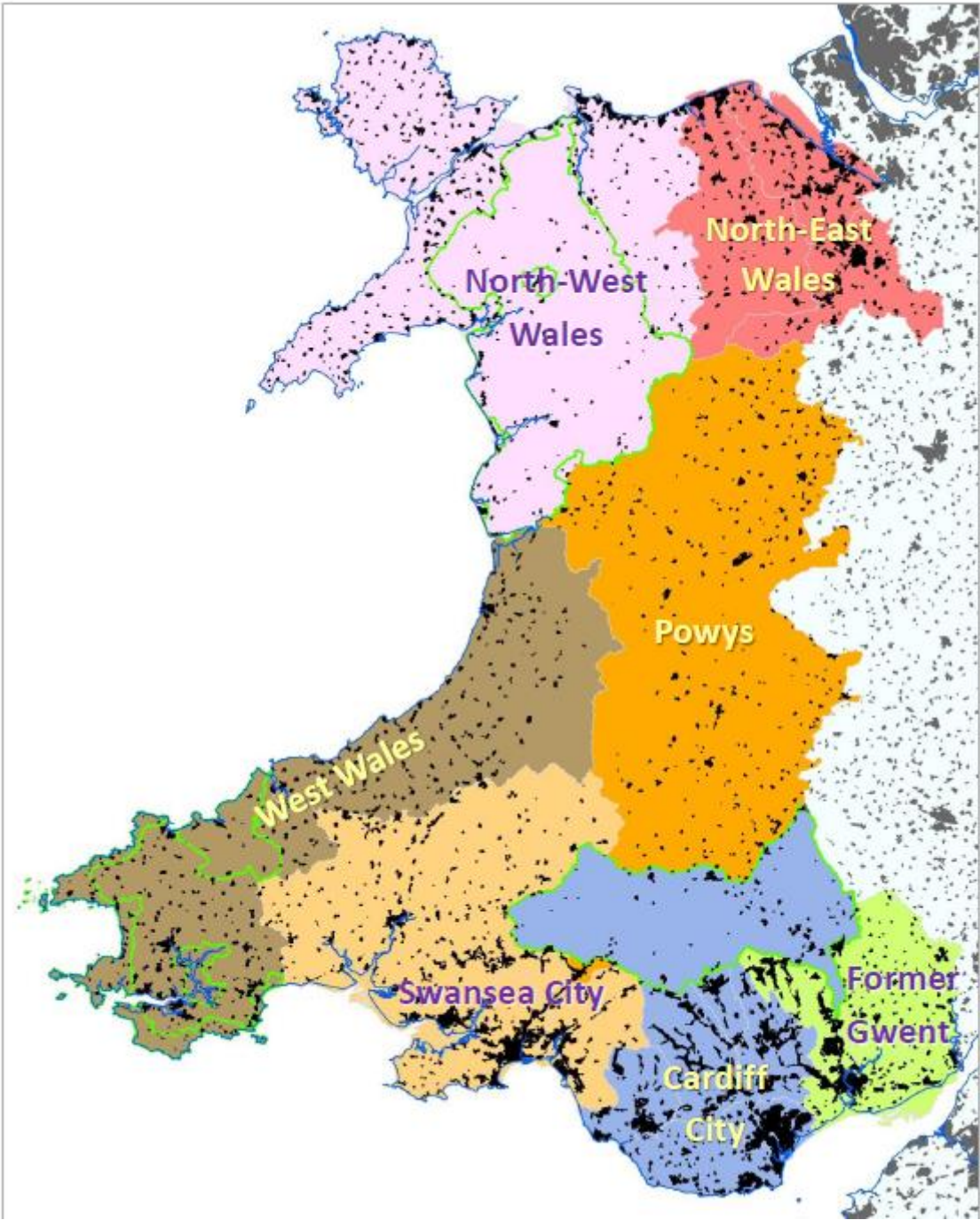
Planning Policy Wales Edition 10 (2018)
Minerals Technical Advice Note 1: Aggregates (2004) (MTAN 1)
Regional Technical Statement 2nd Review – Main Document (Sept'20)
Regional Technical Statement 2nd Review – Appendix B South Wales
(Sept'20)

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Appendix 1 – Map of RTS 2nd Review Sub-Regions



Appendix 2

Statement of Sub-Regional Collaboration (Swansea City Sub Region)

Introduction

PPW10 (paragraph 5.14.10) states that ensuring the sustainable supply of minerals is a strategic issue which plays a fundamental underpinning role in supporting non-minerals development. Each local planning authority (LPA) should ensure that it makes an appropriate contribution to meeting local, regional and UK needs for primary minerals which reflects the nature and extent of resources in the area and their best and most appropriate use, subject to relevant environmental and other planning considerations. For aggregates this should be done under the aegis of the North and South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Parties, whose role is to provide a regional overview of supply and demand and through the framework provided by the Regional Technical Statements for Aggregates.

The Regional Technical Statement for the North Wales and South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Parties – Second Review (RTS2) (September 2020) identifies the necessary apportionments and any necessary allocations at LPA level but also at a sub-regional level. This is to allow sub-regional areas to make adjustments in apportionments within those sub-regions if more detailed investigation by the LPAs indicates that such adjustments are justified.

To that end, RTS2 requires Statements of Sub-regional Collaboration (SSRCs) to be prepared, collaboratively, by all constituent LPAs within each RTS sub-region (as defined by the RTS 2nd Review) as part of the evidence base needed to support each Local Development Plan (LDP) or Strategic Development Plan (SDP). Once agreed, an SSRC will remain in place until it becomes superseded by the requirements of future reviews of the RTS, or new information comes forward which justifies a change.

This document is the SSRC for the Swansea City Sub-region which comprises the City and County of Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthenshire (for crushed rock) local authority areas.

RTS2 apportionments and allocations

The table below sets out the individual LPA apportionments and allocations for crushed rock as set out in the RTS2 for LPAs within the Swansea City Sub-region.

Local Planning Authority	New Annualised Apportionment for crushed rock (mt)	Total Apportionment Required over 25 years.	Existing permitted reserves at end of 2016 in mt	Minimum Allocation needed to meet Required Provision (mt)	Additional reserves at Dormant sites, 2016 (mt)
Carmarthenshire	1.102	27.556	59.900	0.000	13.82
Swansea	0.305	7.636	0.000	7.636	0
Neath Port Talbot	0.305	7.636	16.480	0.000	0

On this basis Carmarthenshire and Neath Port Talbot have sufficient permitted reserves at existing sites to meet their apportionment so no further allocations are necessary within their LDP's. Swansea has no existing reserves and is therefore identified as requiring an allocation of a minimum of 7.636 million tonnes to meet its apportionment up to 2041.

RTS2 states that by default, each SSRC will simply confirm that all constituent LPAs within a particular RTS sub-region accept the individual apportionments for aggregates for their individual Authority areas, as set out in the table above, and that (as a minimum) the RTS requirements for that sub-region as a whole will therefore be met.

However, RTS2 recognises that in exceptional circumstances, an SSRC may identify an alternative pattern of supply which achieves the RTS requirements for that particular sub-region in a different way. Such circumstances may arise *either* where one or more LPAs within the sub-region are unable to meet the minimum requirements of their apportionments identified in the RTS *or* where an alternative, achievable and more sustainable pattern of supply is identified through collaboration between the LPAs involved.

RTS2 sets out the considerations that will need to apply, in such circumstances, as follows:

1. *Inability to meet RTS apportionments:* In order to demonstrate an inability to meet RTS apportionments, an LPA would need to show either that it has no (or insufficient) workable aggregate resources of the type required by the RTS and/or that there is no interest from the minerals industry in developing such resources within the area. It will *not* be sufficient simply to demonstrate that the area has no existing quarries or no recent production, or that alternative resources and/or permitted reserves exist within another LPA.

2. *An alternative pattern of supply:* Where an alternative pattern of supply is proposed this will entail transferring some or all of the RTS apportionment from one LPA to one or more other LPAs within the same sub-region, so as to make corresponding increases in provision within those authorities, as required by MTAN 1. The receiving authorities will need to increase their apportionments (and, where necessary, allocations), to ensure that *as a minimum*, the overall requirements for ongoing supply within that sub-region, as set out in the RTS, are met (both numerically and in terms of aggregate type²²). It will not normally be appropriate to merely transfer apportionments to an LPA with sufficient existing reserves to arithmetically absorb the apportionment, without reference to the additional consideration of productive capacity.

There is no requirement for Swansea or Neath Port Talbot to make any provision for land won sand and gravel. Carmarthenshire is required by RTS2 to work with the West Wales Sub-region in relation to land won sand and gravel.

Assessment

RTS2 recognises that Swansea has a high population density but no active quarries or pits, relying instead on neighbouring Carmarthenshire for most of its limestone supplies, on Neath Port Talbot for supplies of road surfacing aggregate, and on marine dredged sources landed at Swansea Wharf for building sand.

Swansea does have indigenous resources of Carboniferous Limestone but these are almost entirely within an AONB designation – that of the Gower Peninsula. Therefore realistic opportunities for resource development in Swansea relate only to high PSV sandstone which, at present, is supplied primarily from NPT. The Mineral Safeguarding Map of Wales indicates the areas of high PSV sandstone within each LPA.

Limestone is supplied only from Carmarthenshire, which the RTS2 argues needs to retain its apportionment in full, with the balance of apportionments (for sandstone) being shared between Swansea and NPT. The figures shown in the RTS2 for those two LPAs assume an equal split between them. If a different balance is preferred, this would need to be agreed by those LPAs as part of their Statement of Sub-Regional Collaboration.

Conclusion

Carmarthenshire provides the only realistic source of limestone aggregate within the sub-region and therefore a continuation of the historic supply is appropriate, recognising that the sites in Carmarthenshire are already the source of supply for the sub-region.

The RTS2 seeks to split the HSA apportionment equally between Neath Port Talbot and Swansea in order to provide a more equitable balance of reserves in closer proximity to the major source of the demand. RTS2 allows for a different balance provided the considerations set out in the RTS2 are applied.

In order to demonstrate an inability to meet RTS apportionments, an LPA would need to show either that it has no (or insufficient) workable aggregate resources of the type required by the RTS and/or that there is no interest from the minerals industry in developing such resources within the area.

At present Swansea is unable to demonstrate that is the case and the appropriate test for that will be the LDP review due to commence from September 2022 and be completed by late 2025/early 2026. There are more than sufficient reserves within NPT to take up the joint apportionment within this period without resulting in under provision and moving away from the overall 25-year apportionment for NPT. It is envisaged that NPT would take on the majority of the supply in the first part of the 25-year period of RTS2 and Swansea will seek to take on the supply load for the second part of the 25-year period of the RTS2 following the LDP Review. In addition, Policy RP12 of the Swansea Local Development Plan allows mineral development to be permitted subject to a number of criteria being satisfied. Therefore, if the industry has any proposals to bring forward sites within Swansea to meet the RTS2 allocation it can do so in the period up until the LDP is reviewed.

Therefore, the LPA's within the Swansea City Region agree to accept their apportionments as set out in the RTS2.

APPENDIX 3 – First Stage Integrated Impact Assessment

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative Description/Summary: Regional Technical Statement 2 nd Review (RTS2)
Service Area: Planning and Public Protection
Directorate: Environment and Regeneration

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service Users		✓
Staff		✓
Wider Community	✓	
Internal administrative process only		✓

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age		✓				The use of minerals affects all generations and all areas of society. The RTS2 was prepared on behalf of the Welsh Government and the North and South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Parties by Cuesta Consulting Limited. It was subject to a public and stakeholder consultation in 2019. The document was subsequently amended, the final version being published in Sept 2020. Chapter 6 of the RTS2 Main Report outlines the consultation process undertaken which included several stages of consultation (including wider public consultation) and technical peer review.
Disability		✓				
Gender Reassignment		✓				
Marriage/Civil Partnership		✓				
Pregnancy/Maternity		✓				
Race		✓				
Religion/Belief		✓				
Sex		✓				
Sexual orientation		✓				

4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		✓				All of the stages of production of the RTS 2 production adhered to the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015 and any amendments to subsequent RTS updates will adhere to these Regulations.
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English		✓				All of the stages of production of the RTS 2 production adhered to the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015 and any amendments to subsequent RTS updates will adhere to these Regulations.

5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity			✓			<p>The RTS2 provides a strong and improved statement of the desire to ensure that sustainability is at the heart of all future mineral planning in Wales.</p> <p>The policy context and sustainability objections section of the RTS2 sets out the national legislation and policy within Wales which have a bearing on mineral development. The main piece of legislation of relevance to biodiversity is the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which introduced the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SNMR) and set out a framework to achieve this as part of decision-making.</p> <p>The main objective is to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide. Ecosystem services derived from natural resources include services associated with both mineral extraction and the restoration of former mineral workings. Ecosystem services have an important bearing on site-specific aspects of mineral development, though probably not at the more strategic regional level being considered within the RTS.</p>

<p>To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.</p>			<p>✓</p>		<p>The RTS2 provides a strong and improved statement of the desire to ensure that sustainability is at the heart of all future mineral planning in Wales.</p> <p>The policy context and sustainability objections section of the RTS2 sets out the national legislation and policy within Wales which have a bearing on mineral development. The main piece of legislation of relevance to biodiversity is the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which introduced the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SNMR) and set out a framework to achieve this as part of decision-making.</p> <p>The main objective is to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide. Ecosystem services derived from natural resources include services associated with both mineral extraction and the restoration of former mineral workings. Ecosystem services have an important bearing on site-specific aspects of mineral development, though probably not at the more strategic regional level being considered within the RTS.</p>
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6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
<p>Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people</p>	<p>✓</p>		<p>The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is listed within the policy context and sustainability objectives section of the RTS2 as having been adhered to within the production of the RTS. The Act places a statutory duty on public bodies in Wales to consider sustainable development in their decision-making in order to meet the 7 well-being goals.</p>
<p>Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives</p>	<p>✓</p>		<p>The relationship and interdependencies between the aims and objectives of the RTS2 (albeit at a strategic and regional level) and the Council's well-being objectives and Public Service Board priorities, do not pose any conflict.</p>
<p>Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative</p>	<p>✓</p>		<p>Chapter 6 of the RTS2 Main Report outlines the consultation process undertaken which included several stages of consultation (including wider public consultation) and technical peer review (including the Mineral Industry, Welsh Government and</p>

			Natural Resources Wales).
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	✓		<p>A collaborative exercise with several stages of consultation and technical peer review has been undertaken during the formulation of the RTS2. Meetings were held with a range of stakeholders including the Mineral Industry and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) (refer to Section 6 of the RTS2 for further detail).</p> <p>Neath Port Talbot Local Planning Authority (LPA) forms part of the Swansea City Sub-Region alongside Carmarthenshire and Swansea LPAs. Statements of Sub-Regional Collaboration (SSRC) are required to be prepared collaboratively by all constituent LPAs within each RTS sub-region as part of the evidence needed to support each Local Development Plan (LDP) or Strategic Development Plan (SDP).</p> <p>The SSRC is contained within Appendix 2 of this report and is the result of a collaborative exercise which aims to achieve a sustainable regional solution.</p>
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	✓		The aim of the RTS2 and accompanying SSRC is to provide a future supply of aggregates for the Swansea City Sub-Region (of which Neath Port Talbot Council belongs) in the most sustainable way.

7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	✓
Reasons for this Conclusion	
<p>Equalities – The use of minerals affects all generations and all areas of society. The RTS2 was prepared on behalf of the Welsh Government and the North and South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Parties by Cuesta Consulting Limited. It was subject to a public and stakeholder consultation in 2019. Chapter 6 of the RTS2 Main Report outlines the consultation process undertaken which included several stages of consultation (including wider public consultation) and technical peer review.</p> <p>Welsh Language – All of the stages of production of the RTS 2 production adhered to the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015 and any amendments to subsequent RTS updates will adhere to these Regulations.</p> <p>Biodiversity – The RTS2 provides a strong and improved statement of the desire to ensure that sustainability is at the heart of all future mineral planning in Wales.</p> <p>The policy context and sustainability objections section of the RTS2 sets out the national legislation and policy within Wales which have a bearing on mineral development. The main piece of legislation of relevance to biodiversity is the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which introduced the</p>	

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SNMR) and set out a framework to achieve this as part of decision-making.

The main objective is to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide. Ecosystem services derived from natural resources include services associated with both mineral extraction and the restoration of former mineral workings. Ecosystem services have an important bearing on site-specific aspects of mineral development, though probably not at the more strategic regional level being considered within the RTS.

Well-being of Future Generation (5 ways of Working) – The RTS2 embraces all five ways of working, it integrates with the Council's well-being objectives; involves people and partners in its development and implementation; and seeks to prevent problems getting worse.

	Name	Position	Date
Completed by	Lana Beynon	Planning Policy Manager	16/10/2020
Signed off by	Ceri Morris	Head of Planning and Public Protection	17/10/2020