

MAC 10.1

Action point 10.1

(M2)The plan attempts to reflect local circumstances that prevail in Bridgend CBC. No coal extraction proposals are likely to come forward for tertiary coal alone without including the target seams in the primary/secondary coal resource. It is not viable to work in such a manner and no such proposals are anticipated within the plan period or beyond. It is widely acknowledged the break even figure for coal to waste (overburden) proposals is 1:20. The extraction of tertiary seams alone would certainly not generate this ratio.

(M3/4)The Council is happy to accept the revised wording “Elsewhere proposals for coal extraction will need to satisfy the mineral development criteria of policy ENV11” and also add “Where this cannot be achieved, any adverse effects resulting from coal extraction operations will need to demonstrate local or community benefits which clearly outweigh the disbenefits”.

(M5)The reserves figure of 107 years has been accepted by the SWRAWP and is published as such in the SWRAWP’s annual report-Annual Survey 2011(WD82, page 3, table 2 headed ‘landbank of reserves’ column ‘Bridgend’). This figure is calculated by using the amount of reserves = 47.49mt* and dividing it by the average sales of rock over the last 3 years i.e.0.44mtpa. This latter figure is confidential. If a 50:50 split is taken for aggregate to non-aggregate end-use in Cornelly/Grove quarries run by Tarmac, this is the average over the last 3 years, there would be 22.5mt of reserves for aggregates and 22.5mt for non-aggregates. But, non-aggregates reserves can also be used for aggregate use and therefore if Tata steel at Port Talbot closed down, there would still be the opportunity to run an aggregate quarry at Cornelly.

*At the hearing reference was made to the three main quarries i.e. Cornelly/Grove/Gaens in South Cornelly but there are also two other quarries which have landbanks albeit relatively small i.e. Stormy Down and Cefn Cribbwr. The reserves in these quarries amounts to 1.1mt.This figure forms part of the total landbank for Bridgend CBC.

In the Council’s rebuttal the figure of 25 years relates to the estimated reserve for aggregates in Cornelly quarry. On reflection this figure is conservative and taking the reserves at the quarry itself (35mt) if this figure is halved to allow for a 50:50 split i.e.18 mt, this would give a reserve in years of approximately 42 years. This is considerably more than that required by MTAN1-para49.