



Delivering for Northern Ireland
... Enhancing our quality of life

Quarry Products Association NI
Agenda 2016 - 2020



Essential materials ... sustainable solutions

Quarrying is an essential part of our modern society and aggregates are a vital resource for economic growth and development, making a significant contribution to Northern Ireland's prosperity and quality of life not least in helping to create and develop sustainable communities.

It is important that there is an adequate supply of raw materials to provide the infrastructure, buildings and goods that society, industry and the economy needs.

As a result of its varied geology, Northern Ireland has a diverse aggregates base upon which the construction industry has developed. We need quarry products not just for construction and manufacturing, but because they offer sustainable solutions to the challenges of creating and maintaining our built environment and coping with the effects of climate change and a growing population.

The quarry products industry has much to offer in the next four years. We will be in the engine room as the nation recovers from recession. Our relationship with the Assembly, the Executive, Government and Local Government is crucial. Delivery of the Executives aspirations for the built and natural environments is heavily dependent upon our contribution.

We will play our part – but we need support from Government and a willingness to tackle several crucial issues.

FACT: Every year, Northern Ireland produces 20 million tonnes of aggregates, supplies materials worth over £600 million, directly and indirectly employs over 4,000 people, and underpins the vitally important construction sector.

FACT: Every £1 invested in construction generates £3.00 in total economic activity – our construction industry and many activities we take for granted are dependent on quarry products.

QUARRY PRODUCTS:

aggregates (sand & gravel, basalt, gritstone, limestone) ... asphalt ... cement ... concrete ... mortar ... lime ... recycled aggregates

1 Economic and Political conditions that support investment



As the major supplier to the manufacturing and construction industries, we have been particularly hard hit by the recession. A period of economic stability is now essential if our industry is to have the confidence it needs to invest for the future and contribute to the recovery of the Northern Ireland economy.

We will deliver:

- Continued investment in our local quarry products operations to underpin essential infrastructure, housing and construction investment.
- Quality and value for money products that meet the design, technical and commercial needs for our clients and customers.
- Secure, long term employment in rural areas designated by Government as targeting social need.
- Employee skills programmes that deliver competence and promote sustainable construction.
- Corporate and social responsibility by investing significantly in protection of the environment and protecting the health and safety of all who work on and visit our sites.
- Development of new and sustainable materials and products.
- QPANI members will continue to ensure that their operations are as energy efficient as possible, but we need the confidence to know that Government appreciates the significance of energy related costs to NI businesses.

But we need:

- A fully functioning Executive, decisive and strategically focused, responsive to the challenges and opportunities ahead. Our Industry demands that locally elected representatives make strategic decisions, instill confidence and inspire our young people and local communities.
- Better, targeted and lower cost regulation of business.
- Implementation and monitoring of construction contracts to prevent unsustainable sub economic tendering and to ensure fair and prompt payment through the construction supply chain.
- To create a new procurement and delivery agency by the end of 2017 with responsibility for all public sector capital projects other than those under the remit of the new Department for Infrastructure.
- To ensure a pipeline of procurement ready construction projects.
- Support and encouragement to develop exploration and assessment of locally derived energy sources.
- To address our energy challenges by prioritising the delivery of the second North-South Interconnector, levelling the playing field on energy supply by restructuring electricity tariffs and develop a longer-term strategic energy vision to attract investment in energy infrastructure to deliver competitive energy prices.
- To set a 'date and a rate' for implementing Corporation Tax no later than the end of May 2016.

FACT: On average, QPANI members deliver approximately 75,000 tonnes of quarry products every working day to support the sustainable development of Northern Ireland.

2 Better Government support for an essential industry



Northern Ireland needs a secure long-term supply of quarry products that enhance sustainable development. Our roads, sewers and other vital industries and commercial infrastructures are in need of continual development; our housing stock needs to grow to meet demand and there is a constant need for the repair and maintenance of our infrastructure and buildings. Climate change means that quarry products have never been more relevant. They can protect against floods, boost energy efficiency and reduce the need for air conditioning.

We will deliver:

- Quarry products that are responsibly sourced, quality assured and sustainable.
- Reduced use of energy and lower carbon emissions.
- An improving recycling record and optimisation of the reuse of construction materials.
- High-quality land management and restoration and enhanced biodiversity.
- Annual reporting against key performance indicators as clear proof of progress.

But we need:

- Increasing awareness of the industry's contribution to the economy and recognition that we are critical to the development of Northern Ireland's infrastructure.
- Reduced cost of compliance for responsible operators.
- Stiffer penalties and naming and shaming for those operating in the black market.
- A partnership approach by those agencies who make decisions on our industry resulting in quicker and more effective responses.
- A procurement process that recognises and rewards responsible sourcing of construction materials.

FACT: A typical family indirectly demands three lorry loads of aggregates each year. A new house requires some 50 tonnes of aggregates.

3 A reasonable “licence to operate”



Northern Ireland can only enjoy the considerable benefits of its quarry products if the industry has a sound “licence to operate” that provides reasonable access to the aggregate resources upon which its downstream manufacturing activities and the construction industry rely. We demand a planning system that operates on the basis of identified strategic or local need through a minerals planning policy for Northern Ireland.

We will deliver:

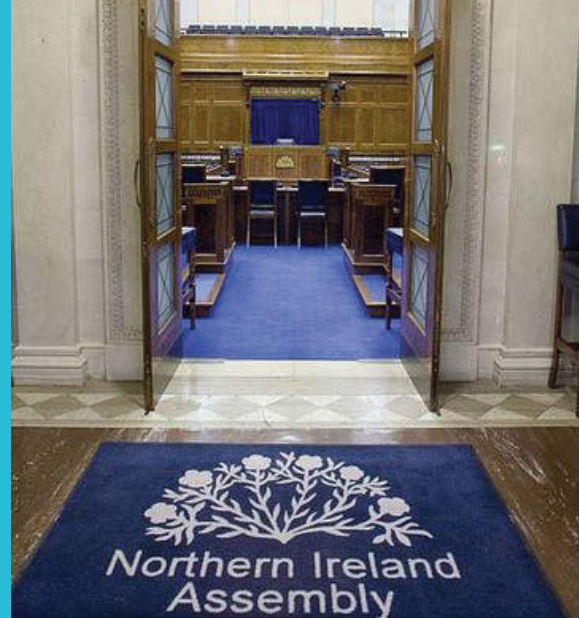
- A steady and adequate supply of quarry products.
- Operations managed to high environmental and safety standards.
- Continuing management and protection of the natural environment and further improvement of biodiversity.
- Positive engagement with local communities and other stakeholders.

But we need:

- Joined up communication between the relevant regulatory agencies to deliver an effective, simpler, more consistent and faster planning service.
- Higher recognition given to the economic importance of the aggregates and minerals industry within Planning Policy.
- A mineral planning system based on a realistic assessment of future demand and the introduction of mineral safeguarding areas that will protect future resources for sustainable use.
- A fairer planning fees system.
- An end to the “not in my back yard” mentality of many in Northern Ireland.

FACT: Our sector supports local, rural communities by employing over 4,000 people directly.

4 Proportionate legislation and regulation



Every industry needs to be properly and reasonably regulated, and the quarry products industry is no exception. Our concern is with the overwhelming and often conflicting volume of regulation coming from the Assembly, Westminster and Brussels. Often, legislation emanating from the EU can become “gold-plated” or unhelpfully transposed to the UK and locally.

We will deliver:

- A positive response to reasonable, proportionate, consistent and effective legislation and regulation.
- Engagement with Government and regulators at an earlier stage to evaluate the potential impacts of proposed regulation and legislation.
- Engagement with regulators and stakeholders to raise awareness about the workings of the industry.
- Advice and information to our industry to highlight best practice and ensure compliance.

But we need:

- New legislation that is reasonable, proportionate, consistent and fit for purpose.
- Reduced costs of compliance and more recognition of responsible operators.
- Effective and early consultation and more accurate and realistic impact assessment.
- Fair transposition of EU legislation to the UK and NI - no “gold plating”.
- Legislation that recognises cross-border competition issues.
- To complete a strategic review of our employment laws by the end of 2016, with subsequent legislation focused on ensuring our laws are competitive with those of the UK and Ireland.
- Scrapping or restructuring of the aggregates levy.

Our Association has identified high and rising regulatory costs imposed by Government and a broadening range of regulatory charges and processes which are duplicated, inconsistent and disproportionate. Aggregates levy, landfill tax, energy and climate change taxes and other planning and environmental measures currently have a significant annual cost.

5 Recognition of progress



The Northern Ireland quarry products industry has come a long way in the past 10 years and is now a leader in the fields of quality, value for money, environmental and health and safety management. The constantly evolving built environment is heavily dependent on our products and we are contributing greatly to the challenges that arise from climate change. Our industry is committed to the principles of sustainable development and also to continuous improvement across all aspects of our business.

We will deliver:

- Evidence of our ever-improving operational and environmental performance.
- Transparency of our operations through provision of data and performance indicators.
- Expert advice on the sustainable use of our products.
- Positive action on climate change and biodiversity improvement.
- Restoration that benefits nature and local communities.
- Proactive community liaison.

But we need:

- Recognition of responsible operators through the procurement process that rewards best practice across health and safety, quality and service and environmental performance.
- Recognition that quarry products are essential to the construction and manufacturing industries and to the economy.
- Recognition that quarry products' issues should be central to Government delivery of its aspirations for the natural and built environments.
- Sustained investment in our infrastructure with a focus on growing the NI economy and creating a society where our young people will have the confidence to live, work and raise their families.
- A recognition that quarrying activity and restoration has beneficial outcomes, especially for biodiversity and nature conservation.

FACT: In Northern Ireland our sector is committed to maximising the volume of construction and demolition waste we recycle.



Progress on sustainability

Headlines from our actions on Sustainable Development

QPANI members are working with the NIEA, Woodland Trust, RSPB and other NGO groups to enhance biodiversity

QPANI Members now have the highest water discharge compliance of any NI Industry sector

QPANI members represent the whole of the Northern Ireland cement sector, 95 per cent of aggregates production, 95 per cent of asphalt and ready-mixed concrete production and the majority of quarry products supplied to the construction, manufacturing and other sectors of the economy.

QPANI members are:

- Socially and environmentally responsible suppliers and operators.
- A valuable and active part of local communities.
- Committed to the principles of sustainable production and consumption.
- Encouraging and enabling the sustainable use of our products.
- Providing a wide range of career opportunities and career developments.



The Quarry Products Association NI is the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, concrete and lime industries

For further information visit www.qpani.org

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