

Appendix 10 – Revised Carmarthenshire LDP Preparatory Considerations

Whilst the LDP plays a key role in shaping decision making and the location and nature of developments within the County, it is prepared and operated within the national framework set through legislation and by Planning Policy Wales and accompanying Technical Advice Notes. In this respect the Plan must have regard to National Planning Policy and legislation including the Well-being and Future Generations Act 2015, Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The process for the preparation of the LDP is set within statutory regulations, with further procedural guidance contained within the LDP Manual as prepared by the Welsh Government. The preparation and content of the LDP at the Examination in Public will be assessed against three tests of soundness set out in national policy, namely:

1. Does the plan fit?
2. Is the plan appropriate?
3. Will the plan deliver?

Failure of the Revised LDP to comply with the 3 tests of soundness will result in it not being adopted. The full content of the tests of soundness are set out below.

It should also be noted that the Inspector's findings following the Examination are binding on the Authority.

Due regard will also need to be had to the emerging Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 for Wales and the requirements for LDPs to conform to its content.

Submission Documents

In accordance with LDP Regulation 22 the Council must publicise and advertise the submission and both publish and make available the relevant documentation. It must send simultaneously to the Planning Inspectorate and the Welsh Government (Planning Directorate) paper copies and an electronic copy of the following documents.

- the Deposit LDP
- the Addendum: schedule of Focussed Changes (FCs)
- the SA report
- the Review Report
- the Candidate Sites Register (where applicable)
- all other supporting evidence-base material and technical documents such as the HRA and issue/topic-based evidence/technical documents
- the DA incorporating the CIS
- the Consultation Report (which should update and expand upon the initial consultation report, see previous section)
- Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)
- A copy of all representations made to the deposit plan and FCs where relevant (required only for Planning Inspectorate)

Tests of Soundness

Preparation Requirements:

- Has preparation of the plan complied with legal and regulatory procedural requirements? (LDP Regulations, CIS, SEA Regulations, SA, HRA etc.?)
- Is the plan in general conformity with the NDF and/or SDP? (when published or adopted respectively)

Test 1: Does the plan fit? (Is it clear that the LDP is consistent with other plans?)

Questions

- Does it have regard to national policy (PPW) and the WSP (NDF when published)?
- Does it have regard to the Well-being Goals?
- Does it have regard to the Welsh National Marine Plan?
- Does it have regard to the relevant Area Statement?
- Is the plan in general conformity with the NDF (when published)?
- Is the plan in general conformity with relevant SDP (when adopted)?
- Is it consistent with regional plans, strategies and utility provider programmes?
- Is it compatible with the plans of neighbouring LPAs?
- Does it regard the Well-being Plan or the National Park Management Plan?
- Has the LPA demonstrated it has exhausted all opportunities for joint working and collaboration on both plan preparation and the evidence base?

Test 2: Is the plan appropriate? (Is the plan appropriate for the area in the light of the evidence?) Questions

- Is it locally specific?
- Does it address the key issues?
- Is it supported by robust, proportionate and credible evidence?
- Can the rationale behind the plan's policies be demonstrated?
- Does it seek to meet assessed needs and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development?
- Are the vision and the strategy positive and sufficiently aspirational?
- Have the 'real' alternatives been properly considered?
- Is it logical, reasonable and balanced?
- Is it coherent and consistent?
- Is it clear and focused?

Test 3: Will the plan deliver? (Is it likely to be effective?)

Questions • Will it be effective?

- Can it be implemented?
- Is there support from the relevant infrastructure providers both financially and in terms of meeting relevant timescales?
- Will development be viable?
- Can the sites allocated be delivered?
- Is the plan sufficiently flexible? Are there appropriate contingency provisions?
- Is it monitored effectively?