

**Carmarthenshire Revised Local Development Plan (LDP)**

**Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Deposit LDP**

**November 2019**

# 1. Introduction

This document is the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report, consisting of the joint Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), of Carmarthenshire Council's Deposit Revised Local Development Plan (rLDP). The SA/SEA is a combined process which meets both the regulatory requirements for SEA and SA. The revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan is a land use plan which outlines the location and quantity of development within Carmarthenshire for a 15 year period.

The purpose of the SA is to identify any likely significant economic, environmental and social effects of the LDP, and to suggest relevant mitigation measures. This process integrates sustainability considerations into all stages of LDP preparation, and promotes sustainable development. This fosters a more inclusive and transparent process of producing a LDP, and helps to ensure that the LDP is integrated with other policies. This combined process is hereafter referred to as the SA. This Report accompanies, and should be read in conjunction with, the Deposit LDP.

The geographical scope of this assessment covers the whole of the County of Carmarthenshire, however also considers cross-boundary effects with the neighbouring local authorities of Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Swansea. The LDP is intended to apply until 2033 following its publication. This timescale has been reflected in the SA.

## 1.1 Legislative Requirements

The completion of an SA is a statutory requirement for Local Development Plans under Section 62(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004<sup>1</sup>, the Town and Country Planning (LDP) (Wales) Regulations 2005<sup>2</sup> and associated guidance.

The European SEA Directive 2001<sup>3</sup> has been transposed into law in Wales by The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004<sup>4</sup> (the Regulations) which sets out a mandatory requirement to carry out SEA on all development plans. The Directive sets out a legal assessment process that must be followed. Welsh Government Guidance on the Preparation of Local Development Plans identifies that a Sustainability Appraisal must integrate the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations.

The SA process considers how the four components of sustainable development (economic, social well-being, environmental protection/enhancement and resource conservation) are integrated into a plan. The SEA process focuses solely on the environmental impacts of a plan, including the built environment and the effect on local populations and health.

Planning Policy Wales<sup>5</sup> (PPW) stresses the presumption in favour of sustainable development and that LPAs should ensure that the plan and proposals deliver sustainable development. The SA is an integral part of good plan making and is an iterative process, which identifies and reports on significant effects of the Plan and demonstrates that the LDP is sound by ensuring that it reflects sustainable development objectives. It thereby contributes to the reasoned justification of policies.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2005/2839/contents/made>

<sup>3</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2004/1656/made>

<sup>5</sup> <https://gov.wales/planning-policy-wales>

## 1.2 SA and the LDP Process

Guidance on how to carry out SA for LDPs is contained in the draft Welsh Government LDP Manual Edition 3 (2019), where SA is defined as a tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives.

The LDP Manual outlines five main stages in undertaking an SA (see Table 1). SA is an iterative process, resulting in comment and feedback at each stage of the LDP and thus allowing the potential sustainability implications of proposed options/policies to be considered and the process to be transparent. If necessary, the LDP can be refined throughout its preparation to ensure it is a sustainable document.

Table 1 Stages in the SA process and their relationship to the LDP. Adapted from the LDP Manual (3rd Edition).

SA/SEA Stage	LDP Stage
<b>Stage A: Scoping</b>	Evidence Gathering and Objectives
A1 Outline the contents and the main objectives of the plan Required by SEA Directive 2001/42/EC Annex I (a)	
A2: Identify and review other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives that will inform the plan. Required by SEA Directive 2001/42/EC Annex I (a) and (e)	
A3 Collecting baseline information on the current and likely future social, economic, cultural, well-being and environmental conditions at the relevant spatial scale for the plan The SEA Directive requires the baseline data to cover 'the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan (Annex I (b)); and 'characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected' (Annex I (c)).	
A4 Identifying sustainability issues and problems which are relevant to the plan Required by SEA Directive 2001/42/EC Annex I (d)	
A5 Develop SA framework against which the plan can be appraised	
A6 Prepare and consult on the SA Scoping Report Required by SEA Directive Article 5(4) and 6(3).	
<b>Stage B: Assessment of Alternatives</b>	Strategic Options and Preferred Strategy
B1 Assess and mitigate the effects of the plan objectives using the SA framework	
B2 Develop reasonable alternatives Required by SEA Directive Article 5(1) and Annex I (h).	
B3 Assess and mitigate the effects of the alternatives using the SA framework Required by SEA Directive, Annex I (f) and (g).	
B4 Choose the preferred alternatives and provide an outline of reasons for selecting the preferred alternatives. Required by SEA Directive, Annex I (h).	
<b>Stage C: Assessment of the Deposit Plan and Preparation of the Sustainability Report</b>	LDP Preparation and Deposit
C1 Assess and mitigate the effects of the Deposit plan using the SA framework Required by SEA Directive, Annex I (f) and (g).	
C2 Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan. Required by SEA Directive, Article 9(c), Article 10, Annex I (i).	
C3 Consult on the Deposit Plan and SA Report Required by SEA Directive, Article 6.	
<b>Stage D: Consultation, Examination and Adoption of the Plan</b>	Submission Examination and Adoption
D1 Assess the effects of significant changes made to the Deposit plan by the SA framework. Required by SEA Directive, Article 5(2).	

D2(i) After the plan is adopted, the plan making authority must publish a Post Adoption Statement Required by SEA Directive, Article 9(1).	
<b>Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects on implementing the LDP</b>	
E1 Develop aims and methods for monitoring Required by SEA Directive, Article 9(1) (c), Article 10, Annex I (if).	Monitoring and Review
E2 Responding to adverse effects Required by SEA Directive, Article 10 (1)	

### 1.3 How the Council has complied with the Regulations

#### Stage A

The Council completed Stage A of the SA in July 2018 with the publication of the draft SA Scoping Report for consultation. The SA Scoping Report contained:

- **A1: Outline the contents and the main objectives of the plan**

The SA Scoping Report outlined information about the revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan, its spatial scale and timescale and its main objectives.

- **A2 Plan/Policy/Programme Review and Sustainability Objectives**

A number of Plans, Policies and Programmes that could have an impact upon the LDP were examined, including those at international, national, regional and local levels, as well as adjacent authorities Local Development Plans. An updated version of the list is presented in Appendix 1.

- **A3 Collation of Baseline Information**

The scoping report included an up to date collation of the state of the environment, economy and society in Carmarthenshire. This also forms the baseline for monitoring the outcomes of the LDP post adoption. An updated version of the baseline is presented in Appendix 2.

- **A4 Identifying relevant issues and problems**

The report highlights sustainability issues, problems but also opportunities which can be addressed via the revised LDP. This is reported within the baseline in Appendix 2.

- **A5 Developing the Sustainability Framework**

The SA Framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared and was developed in considerations of the issues and opportunities raised. This framework provides a basis by which the sustainability of the LDP can be tested. The SA Framework is presented in Appendix 3.

- **A6 Consulting on the Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal**

The SA Scoping Report was published for consultation on 18th July 2018 for a six week period. It was available to view on the Carmarthenshire County Council website and notifications emails and letters were sent out to inform consultation bodies and persons who had registered for updates on the LDP process. Comments were received from a number of stakeholders, which were reported as an Appendix to the Initial SA. Amendments to the SA have been made as a result of these comments, where appropriate, and any comments considered to relate more to the LDP were noted and passed on to the LDP team for their consideration.

#### Stage B

The Council completed Stage B of the SA process in December 2018 with the publication of the Initial SA Report of the Preferred Strategy. The Initial SA contained:

- **B1 Assess and mitigate the effects of the plan objectives using the SA framework**

The Initial SA tested and appraised the objectives of the LDP preferred strategy against the Sustainability Framework.

- **B2 Developing reasonable alternatives**

The Initial SA developed a number of strategic options, for both growth and spatial distribution, from an understanding of the main issues identified in the SA Scoping Report.

- **B3 Assessing and mitigating effects of alternatives**

The Vision, Strategic Growth Options, Spatial Options and Strategic Policies of the LDP Preferred Strategy against the SA objectives in the SA Framework. Mitigation measures were also identified as well as opportunities.

- **B4 Evaluate the effects of the LDP options**

Reasons for the selection of the preferred alternative and discarding of other alternatives were discussed and justified.

## Stage C

This SA Report of the Deposit LDP has been prepared to comply with Stage C of the SA process and is to be published as part of the Deposit Plan public consultation.

- **C1 Assess and mitigate effects of the Deposit LDP**

This report will evaluate the significant effects, both positive and negative, of the Deposit LDP policies and development sites. Where a policy or site is identified as having a negative effect, mitigation measures will be identified. This is documented in Chapter 6.5 and 6.7 of this report as well as in Appendices 4 and 7.

- **C2 Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan.**

This is discussed in Chapter 8 of this report.

- **C3 Consult on the Deposit Plan and SA Report.**

This report will be consulted alongside the LDP Deposit Plan for a six week period.

## 1.4 Links to Other Strategies and Assessments

This SA also integrates requirements under the Well-being of Future Generations ACT (WBFGA) 2015, the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Welsh Language requirements under TAN 20 into a single Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) which enables a more transparent, holistic and rounded assessment of the sustainability implications of growth options, objectives, policies and proposals.

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is undertaken in parallel to the SA process but is not integrated with the SA as it uses a different precautionary testing mechanism. The SA will summarise the HRA findings as part of its assessment of effects on biodiversity.

### Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 sets out the definition of sustainable development for the planning system in Wales, mirroring the definition in the WBFGA 2015.

*“Sustainable development” means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals”*

The WBFGA 2015 sets seven well-being goals which all public bodies are required to achieve (Figure 1).

## Well-being Goals

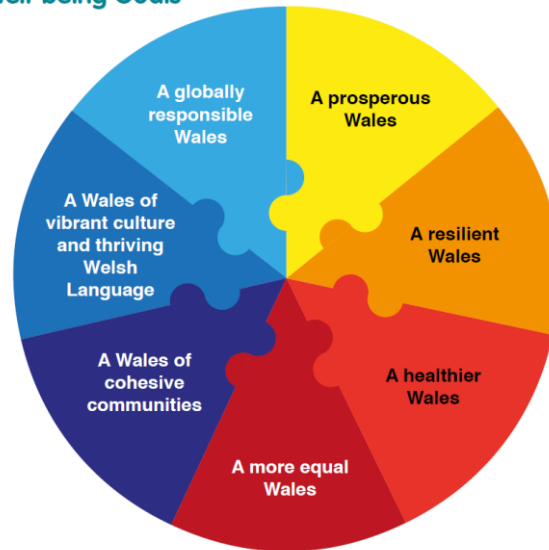


Figure 1 Seven Well-being Goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015

The WBFGA 2015 introduces Wellbeing Plans (which will replace Single Integrated Plans) and an assessment of Local Well-being which will replace Strategic Needs Assessments. The Act contains a sustainable development principle which ensures that public bodies must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, to be done through the consideration of the following five ways of working:

- Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
- Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring or getting worse;
- Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives;
- Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them; and
- Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.

### Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 requires a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to be carried out by public bodies to assess the likely effect, both short and long term on physical and mental health. The SEA Directive (Annex I (f)) requires human health to be considered as part of the assessment of environmental effects. Therefore for this SA, the health component of the SEA has been broadened to include both the physical and mental health objectives of an HIA.

### Welsh Language

It is now a legislative requirement that the SA must include an assessment of the likely effects of the plan on the use of Welsh Language (Section 62(6A) PCPA 2004 as inserted by section 11, PWA 2015). The SA process is the mechanism for considering how the scale and location of growth, the vision, objectives, policies and proposals individually and in combination, impact on the Welsh Language. Where evidence indicates a detrimental impact on the use of the Welsh Language the LPA can assess whether the strategy should be amended or mitigation measures should be identified.

### The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The Deposit LDP process must be assessed under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), by a process known as Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA), to assess whether the LDP would be likely to have a significant effect on a European protected site, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, directly or indirectly. The Directive is transposed into Welsh law via

the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2010. If the LDP is deemed likely to have a significant effect on one or more European sites it must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations.

The County contains twelve European protected sites. The potential effects on European sites were considered from the earliest stages of the plan making process and preliminary screenings were undertaken on the Preferred Strategy in December 2018. The Deposit Plan has been subject to screening under the Habitats Regulations and the report is published alongside the Deposit Plan. The conclusion of this screening exercise and subsequent appropriate assessment is that the Deposit Plan will have no likely significant effect, either alone or in combination, on any European sites.

The earlier informal HRA screening has been influential in ability to reach a favourable conclusion to the screening of the Deposit Plan. The iterative approach to HRA has facilitated the identification of potential issues allowing for potential risks to European sites to inform the emerging development of the Deposit Plan.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Approach

The SA methodology has referenced guidance provided in a number of documents. These include:

- Welsh Government LDP Manual, Edition 3 (2019) ,
- ODPM Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (2005)
- ODPM A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005)
- RTPI Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of SEA/SA for Land Use Plans (2018)

### 2.2 Undertaking the SA

SA is an iterative process and the outcomes of the appraisal have informed the final version of the Deposit LDP published for consultation. Where elements of the LDP have not changed from the Final Preferred Strategy the previous SA is still valid and is either signposted or reproduced in this Report.

### 2.3 The Sustainability Framework

The SA Framework provides a consistent basis for describing, analysing and comparing the sustainability effects of the objectives, options, specific policies and proposals of the LDP. The SA Framework is objective-led and therefore each of the revised LDP's strategic objectives and options are assessed on its contribution to achieving the SA objectives.

The framework sets out sustainability objectives that are based on sound evidence and reflect the challenges faced within the plan area. The objectives were developed in consideration of the following inputs, all of which are detailed in the SA Scoping Report:

- The Review of Plans, Programmes and Policies
- Baseline information
- Identified sustainability issues and opportunities
- Responses and feedback from consultation with consultation bodies and public

The full SA framework is provided in Appendix 3. In summary, the objectives reflect the topics identified within Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations as well as additional objectives relating to climate change and socio-economic factors. The 15 SA Objectives that make up the framework are shown in Table 2, as well as the corresponding SEA issue.

*Table 2 SA Objectives and corresponding SEA Directive Issues*

<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Corresponding SEA Issues</b>
SA1 Sustainable Development	
SA2 Biodiversity	Biodiversity, fauna, flora
SA3 Air Quality	Air
SA4 Climactic Factors	Climatic factors
SA5 Water	Water
SA6 Material Assets	Material assets
SA7 Soil	Soil
SA8 Cultural Heritage and Historic Environments	Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage
SA9 Landscape	Landscape
SA10 Population	Population
SA11 The Welsh Language	
SA12 Health and Well-being	Human health
SA13 Education and Skills	



SA14 Economy	
SA15 Social Fabric	

To aid in the assessment process each objective is supported by a number of sub-objectives and accompanying 'decision making criteria', which will facilitate the assessment process and assist in the interpretation of the main objective.

## 2.4 Determining Effect Significance

Prediction of effects involves identifying changes to the environmental baseline which are predicted to arise from the implementation of the plan, including alternatives. Annex II of the SEA Directive sets criteria for the determining of likely significant effects. They are a combination of:

- The **magnitude** of the plan's effects, including the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects, the degree to which it influences other plans, and environmental problems relevant to the plan.
- The **sensitivity** of the receiving environment, including the value and vulnerability of the area, exceeded environmental quality standards, and effects on designated areas or landscapes.
- **Effect characteristics**, including probability, duration, frequency, reversibility, cumulative effects, transboundary effects, risks to human health or the environment, and the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects.

Given the broad nature of plan proposals and the difficulty of separating other causes of the effects, a qualitative approach is considered to be the most meaningful approach. However, qualitative does not mean 'guessed' and predictions need to be supported by evidence. Once the evidence has been considered, a judgement must be formed on whether or not the predicted effect is considered significant. Figure 2 provides a framework by which judgements of significance can be made consistently and ensuring prediction, evaluation and mitigation are all incorporated into the appraisal.

## 2.5 Timescales

The SEA Directive also requires the analysis of effects to include "short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary ... effects" (Annex I(f)). Effects may vary over different timescales, e.g. adverse short term effects from disturbance of habitats but beneficial ones in the long term from reductions in air pollution or greenhouse gases. With this in mind, the SA will consider effects over three timescales.

- Short Term (S): 0 – 5 years
- Medium Term (M): 6 – 10 years
- Long Term (L): 11 – 20 years

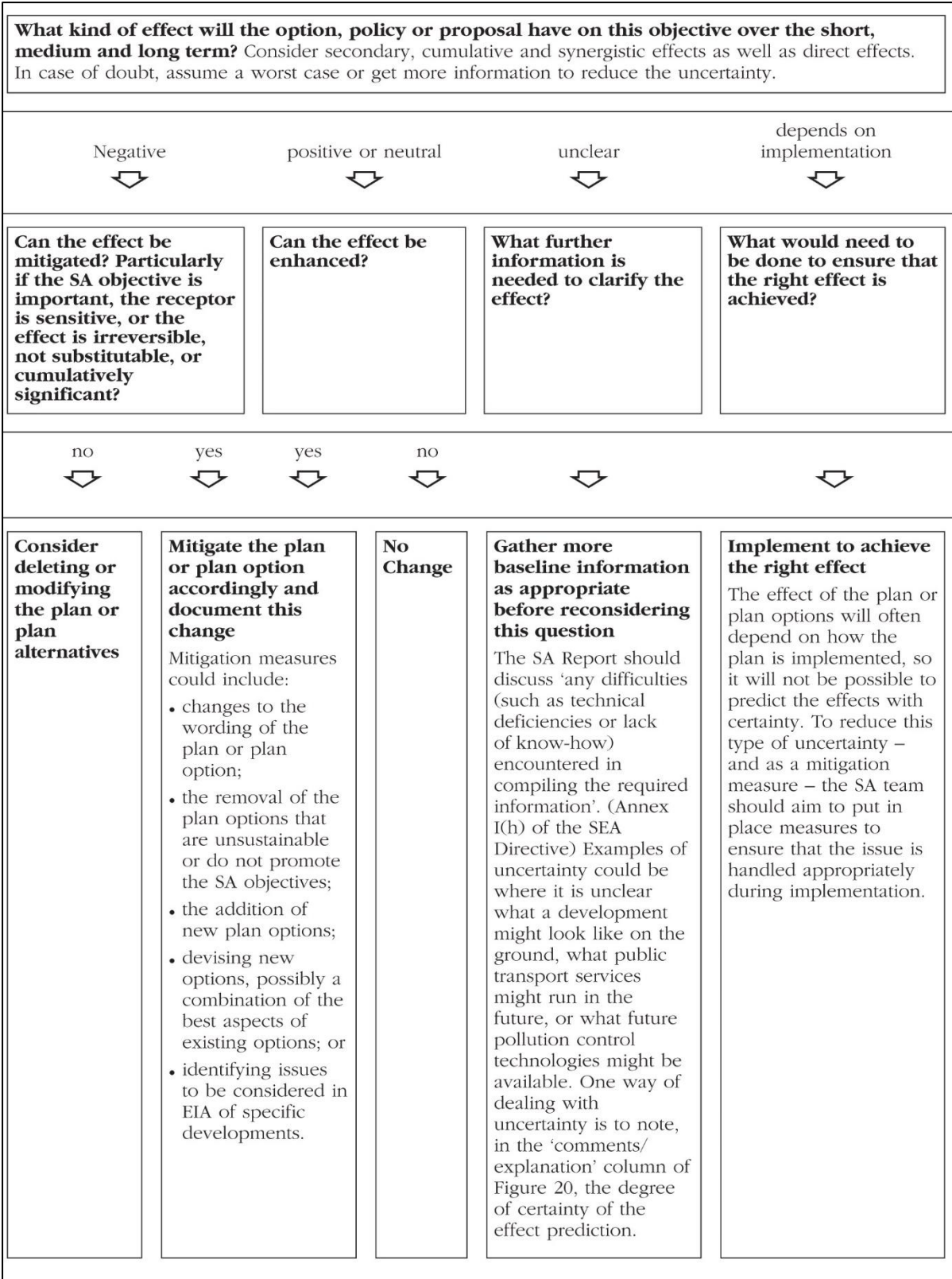


Figure 2 The Sustainability Appraisal Process

## 2.6 Baseline Scenario

To meet SEA requirements (SEA Regulations – Regulation 12 and Schedule 2(2)) it is necessary to identify the likely evolution of the plan area without implementation of the plan. Establishing what the situation might be without the plan, i.e. the business-as-usual scenario, involves asking how current policies, practices and trends might change in the future in the absence of any active intervention through the LDP. The business as usual situation should be used as a benchmark against which to compare the implications and performance of other options. As this is a revision of the current LDP the baseline against which all options and policies are considered is how the area would change under the current development plan in the absence of new policies being introduced.

This appraisal has been carried out with consideration of existing plans, programmes and policies in place as part of the baseline scenario. It is important to be aware that some of these plans, programmes and policies may already mitigate some of the negative effects that have the potential to occur as the result of the LDP and this has been considered as part of the assessment. A full list of relevant plans, programmes and policies is included in Appendix 1. Particular regard is had to existing national planning policy including associated Technical Advice Notes (TANs).

## 2.7 Impact Matrices

In order to test the compatibility of the strategic options and policies with the SA Framework, matrices have been used to summarise the appraisal using the criteria outlined in Table 3. The manner in which the objectives, options and sites contribute to achieving the SA Framework objectives is indicated by the following symbols:

*Table 3 Sustainability Appraisal assessment criteria for draft policies and reasonable alternatives.*

Symbol	Predicted Effect	Suggested action/response
++	Very positive effect – the subject of the appraisal would significantly help in achieving the Sustainability objective.	Consider whether very positive effect can be further enhanced
+	Positive effect - the subject of the appraisal would help in achieving the Sustainability objective.	Consider whether positive effect can be further enhanced
+/-	Positive and negative effects – the subject of the appraisal would help some elements of the Sustainability objective whilst hindering others.	Consider mitigation for negative effects and whether positive effects can be enhanced
-	Negative effect - the subject of the appraisal would be in conflict with the Sustainability objective.	Consider mitigation such as delete/reconsider/amend the policy or site allocation; reconsider the policy or proposed use.
--	Very negative effect - the subject of the appraisal would be in significant conflict with the Sustainability objective.	Significant mitigation measures to reduce severity or effect; reconsider the policy or proposed use
	Effect on the Sustainability objective depends on how the policy and allocation are implemented	Suggestions for implementation
?	Uncertain effect – need more information	Consider where this will come from – who has it? What will be done about collecting it? When will it be collected?

A separate framework for assessing sites has been developed to assess more site specific criteria. This methodology along with the assessment of sites will be published in due course in Appendix X.

Table 4 outlines the definition of Secondary (or indirect), cumulative and synergistic effects, as considered in this SA.

*Table 4 Definitions of Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects. Source: A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, ODPM.*

Type of Effect	Definition
Secondary (or indirect)	Effects that are not a direct result of the plan but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway
Cumulative	Effects arise, for instance, where several developments each have insignificant effects but together have a significant effect; or where several individual effects of the plan (e.g. noise, dust and visual) have a combined effect.
Synergistic	Effects interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects.

### 3. Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

The development of the LDP takes place within a framework of legislation and guidance and is informed by the objectives and aspirations of other plans, policies and programmes from international to local level. The Plan's direct influence will be restricted to the use and development of land and buildings, but it also has the potential to be an important tool for the implementation of a wide range of objectives contained in other plans and strategies. Policy integration is essential if LDPs are to build on and add value to other plans and strategies.

This chapter summarises the relationship between the LDP and other plans, policies and programmes at all levels, and indicates how the requirements of other plans, policies and programmes have been taken into account in the development of the Plan to date through the SA process.

A review of relevant plans and policies at international/European, national, regional and local level has been undertaken within the SA Scoping Report order to take account of the relationship between the LDP and other relevant policies, plans, programmes (PPP) and sustainability objectives. For a list of the identified PPP's and where applicable a more detailed description of the documents and their relevance to the Plan, as well as web links, see Appendix 1.

#### 3.1 International Summary

The international (European Union) level legislative instruments and strategies set out and reviewed within Appendix 1 represents the highest tier of the sustainable development agenda that is then required to be transposed into Member State legislation. National level legislation subsequently conditions the content of plans, policies and programmes at the national, sub-regional and local level that effectively inform the local on-the-ground delivery of the sustainability agenda.

The European Directives and strategies reviewed concern environmental issues that are of considerable importance at the global scale, yet require localised action to be effective, and include:

- Climate change and renewable energy;
- Establishing sustainable communities;
- Delivering sustainable transport systems;
- Delivering sustainable waste management;

- Using and managing natural resources efficiently
- Establishing patterns of sustainable production and consumption;
- Promoting social inclusion and fighting poverty;
- Conserving and enhancing biodiversity;
- Conserving and improving the water environment; and
- Air quality.

Reference is made to transposition of European legislation into national law as a result of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and the implications of the Great Repeal Bill. In this respect the implications and outcomes of the repealing on the one hand the European Communities Act, and on the other hand to transposing of the EU secondary legislation - regulations and directives already enforceable in the UK - into domestic laws will be monitored and the SA amended where appropriate to reflect any impacts.

### **3.2 National Summary**

The sustainability themes covered by the national PPP documents reflect environmental issues important at the international scale, cascaded down to the regional level as well as issues of specific relevance to Wales, particularly with respect to social and economic issues. The social aspects covered by the national level documents include the need to reflect the well-being objectives and deliver safe, inclusive and healthy communities in which social exclusion is minimised and access to facilities is maximised. A strong theme of some of the national level documents is to strengthen cultural identities and to support cultural distinctiveness and the prominence of the Welsh language.

Responding to local community needs through development is also a theme echoed through a number of the documents. Minimising the need to travel, supported by integrated and healthier forms of transportation is also reiterated by the national policy and strategy documents. The environmental issues covered in the national documents are commonly based upon the need to conserve biodiversity and protected sites and habitats. A strong theme underpinning many of the policies/strategies is to provide the capacity for habitats, species and the natural environment to respond to a changing climate by allowing time and space for adaptation. The need to protect the quality and availability of water resources was also noted during the PPP review. High quality urban design is also cited as a key component of delivering sustainable communities.

The economic themes of the national documents typically centre upon the need to encourage a more diversified and high value Welsh economy that maximises the country's extensive natural assets. Tourism is a key theme of a number of the national level documents as is the need to move towards capturing renewable technologies markets.

### **3.3 Local Summary**

The sub-Wales and Carmarthenshire level policy documents and strategies also reflect a number of the sustainability themes highlighted in the international and national documents; for example increasing access to services via integrated transport facilities and meeting community needs at the local level.

Local documents such as the emerging Well-being Plan and the Integrated Community Strategy seek to tackle issues pertinent to Carmarthenshire such as exclusion, the need to promote sustainable access to services, delivering safe and healthy communities, promoting education and employment and regenerating and developing the labour market. The need to develop a high value-added and diverse economy also mirrors the policies and strategies set out in some of the national level documents. The need to minimise energy expenditure, use energy efficiently and invest in less damaging sources of energy is a key theme of Carmarthenshire's Climate Change Strategy.

Following consultation, the Council drafted a set of Well-being / Improvement Objectives. These were approved by Council on 8th March 2017 and re confirmed following the Local Government Elections of 2017. There are also Action Plans in place.

## **4. Baseline Environmental Conditions and Predicted Effects without Implementation of the LDP.**

### **4.1 Baseline Summary**

This section summarises the environmental baseline of the County and provides an update to the Scoping Report and previous SA Report. The baseline information for the SA comprises of quantitative and qualitative information and data describing the social, economic and environmental state of the Plan area. The SEA Regulations require that the SA Report contains a commentary on the likely predicted effect on the environmental baseline both with and without the implementation of the revised LDP.

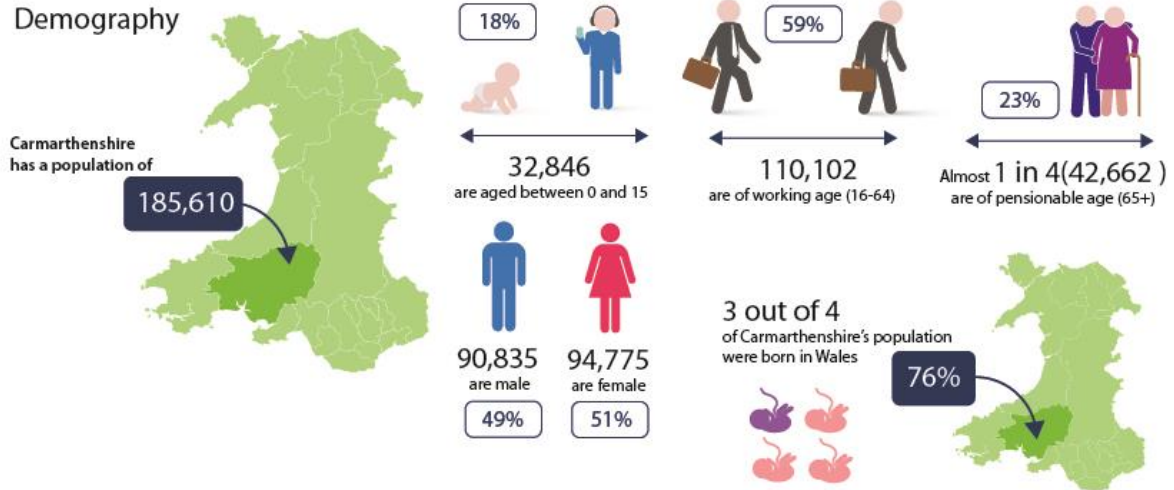
The baseline information for Carmarthenshire has been collated under a series of headings and is set out with Appendix 2. These heading have, in the interests of consistency, been grouped under broadly the same headings as those used within the existing adopted LDP. They have however been changed to include Welsh language as a separate heading, to reflect the position of the Welsh language within the County and its communities.

These baseline headings are as follows:

1. Sustainable Development;
2. Biodiversity;
3. Air Quality;
4. Climactic Factors;
5. Water;
6. Material Assets;
7. Soil;
8. Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment;
9. Landscape;
10. Population.
11. The Welsh language;
12. Health and Well-being;
13. Education and Skills;
14. Economy, and
15. Social Fabric.

The following provides a 'snap shot' pictorial indication of key baseline data in respect of Carmarthenshire.

# Demography



## Carmarthenshire has an ageing population.

By 2039, around **1 in 3** Carmarthenshire residents will be aged 65 and over.



**1 in 4**

have a limiting long-term illness



**1 in 25**

Carmarthenshire is predominantly white, with **4%** of the population having a non-white ethnicity.

Carmarthenshire has the highest number of Welsh speakers in Wales at



**78,048**



There are over **78,800** households in Carmarthenshire.

**30%** are occupied by just one person.



**60%** of the population live in rural areas, which form **53%** of the County



**6 in 10**

There are **three major towns** of **Llanelli, Carmarthen** and **Ammanford** which are

home to **25%** of the population.



**25%**



**7 out of 10** households are owned (outright or with a mortgage)



**14%**

are socially rented

**10%**

private rented



**44** crimes per **1000** population



**8166**

recorded crimes during 2015/16



**79%**

feel safe in their area



## Economy



Nearly 8 in 10 of Carmarthenshire's working age population (16-64) are economically active. (62% as employees; 12% self-employed)

8 in 10

79%, 89,600



63,000  
Employee jobs in Carmarthenshire



1 in 5

work in wholesale and retail



13%

in manufacturing



1 in 5

work in health and social care fields



10%

in education



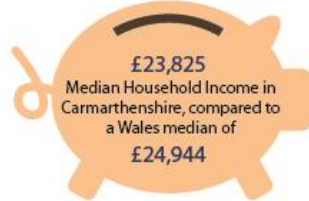
7%

in public administration



92%

of businesses are micro enterprises (employ less than 10 people)



£23,825  
Median Household Income in Carmarthenshire, compared to a Wales median of £24,944

Over 1 in 3 of households are living in poverty, according to the Welsh Government definition – households with less than 60% of GB median income



(36%)



Croeso / Welcome

£370 million

value / contribution of tourism to Carmarthenshire's economy



24,000

people in Carmarthenshire provide unpaid care, that's 13% the population.



+50 Hours

Over 7000 provide more than 50 hours of unpaid care a week.

## Health and Well-being

Life Expectancy is favourable at:



78.5 yrs  
for men



82.6 yrs  
for women



7.4 : 10

Average score for 'life satisfaction', on a scale of 1 to 10

3 in 10

suffer from mental health issues



28%

60%

of adults reported being overweight or obese (using BMI)



## Environment



40%

of the population live within 400m of natural or semi-natural greenspace

5,587

Minimum number of Carmarthenshire properties at risk of flooding from rising sea levels



## Culture

83%

of Carmarthenshire households have internet access



68%

said that people from different backgrounds get on well together



2 in 3

participate in sports

66%



## 4.2 Future Trends

The SA Scoping Report brought together a detailed analysis of the current state of the social, economic and environmental situation across Carmarthenshire, characteristic likely to be affected by the LDP as well as existing problems relevant to the LDP.

Table 5 presents the likely evolution of the baseline aspects of the social, economic and environmental situations, without the implementation of the LDP. These likely future trends are considered to be either static, improving or declining. Future trends were calculated based on the analysis of the baseline data identified and compiled within the SA Scoping Report and how these trends have changed over time. Further commentary on these trends are discussed in Appendix 2.

*Table 5 Likely evolution of the baseline aspects of the social, economic and environmental situations in the absence of a revised Local Development Plan*

SA Objective	Future Baseline
SA1 – Sustainable Development	Declining
SA2 – Biodiversity	Declining
SA3 – Air Quality	Declining
SA4 – Climatic Factors	Declining
SA5 – Water	Declining
SA6 – Material Assets	Static
SA7 - Soil	Declining
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	Declining
SA9 – Landscape	Declining
SA10 – Population	Static
SA11 – Welsh Language	Declining
SA12 – Health and Well-being	Declining
SA13 – Education and Skills	Improving
SA14 – Economy	Improving
SA15 – Social Fabric	Improving

## 5. Sustainability Appraisal of the Preferred Strategy

### 5.1 What the SA has appraised to date

The LDP Preferred Strategy (or emerging plan) was published for consultation in December 2018. This Preferred Strategy was subject to SA, which was documented and published alongside the Preferred Strategy in the Initial SA Report<sup>6</sup>.

This section summarises the results of the Sustainability Appraisal of the LDP Preferred Strategy, and presents relevant scoring matrices. Where appropriate, full matrices and accompanying commentary presented in the original reports are now provided in this section. The Vision, LDP Objectives, Growth Options and Spatial Strategy within the Deposit Plan are the same as those contained within the draft Preferred Strategy, 2018.

### 5.2 Details of the process

Preparation of the draft LDP Preferred Strategy began in July 2018 and included the development of the Council's Vision, Objectives, Strategic Options and Policies. This document was published for consultation in December 2018 and was supported by an Initial SA Report which was published as part of the consultation documents.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216965/initial-sa-english.pdf>

A call for candidate sites was completed between February and August 2018. Each site was subject to the Site Assessment Methodology (SAM) process, resulting in a number of sites being rejected and therefore not subject to SA. A number of sites were discarded during the Stage 1 filtering exercise, which removed all sites failing to comply with the Preferred Strategy i.e. site is divorced from the settlement and would result in development in the open countryside.

A number of sites were also rejected as a result of the conclusions of the Stage 2 candidate site assessment. This stage assessed each site to establish suitability for inclusion in the Deposit LDP against considerations including environmental impact and sustainability, local context and character, accessibility and deliverability constraints (flood risk, viability etc). All remaining sites were subject to both SA and HRA.

### **5.3 SA of the Preferred Strategy LDP Vision**

The draft LDP Vision was initially presented in the Preferred Strategy. The role of the Vision is to establish the core purpose of the revised LDP and to provide a framework for developing policies and measuring the extent to which the implementation of the plan is successful. The LDP Vision provides a spatial perspective which gives the plan purpose and direction and to ensure delivery through the land use planning system. The Vision draws on strategic planning priorities identified in national policy and local strategies, as well as the identified Key Issues for the County.

The draft Vision was tested against the SA framework in order to determine performance against sustainability principles (Figure 4). The Initial SA concluded that the draft Vision successfully addressed most aspects of the SA framework. The SA recommended that minor changes were made to the wording, in order to make direct reference to the importance of Welsh Language to Carmarthenshire.

### **5.4 SA of the Preferred Strategy LDP Objectives**

The LDP Objectives should provide clear statements of intent and focus on how the LDP Vision is to be delivered. They provide a framework by which the strategic policies are formed, and will later inform the formulation of detailed policies for the Deposit Plan. The Strategic Objectives also set the context for the development of the Strategic Growth and Spatial Options. Fourteen draft Strategic Objectives were developed having regard to key issues identified from the emerging evidence base.

The fourteen draft Strategic Objectives were presented in Section 8 of the LDP Preferred Strategy, and were subject to testing against the SA framework within the Initial SA Report (Section 3.2). The results of this assessment are set out below (Figure 4) and are also presented, with accompanying commentary, in Table 4 and Figure 3 of the Initial SA Report.

Figure 2 Appraisal of Draft Strategic Objectives (Source: Figure 3 of Initial SA of LDP Preferred Strategy 2018)

	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
<b>Vision</b>	+	+	?	?	?	+	?	?	?	+		+	+	+	+
<b>SO1</b>	+	+	+	+	+				+			?			
<b>SO2</b>	+	?			?	+			?	+		+			+
<b>SO3</b>	+								+	+	+				+
<b>SO4</b>	+		+	+		+			+	+	+			+	+
<b>SO5</b>	+						+	+	+		+	+			
<b>SO6</b>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+			+	+		+
<b>SO7</b>	+		+	+	+	+			+						
<b>SO8</b>	+			+		+			?	+		+			+
<b>SO9</b>	+	+						+	+	+	+				+
<b>SO10</b>	+							+	+	+	+				+
<b>SO11</b>	+								+	+	+		+		+
<b>SO12</b>	+	-	-	?	-	?			-	+	?	+	+	+	+
<b>SO13</b>	+	-	-		-			-	?	+	?	+	+	+	
<b>SO14</b>	+		+	+	+	+			-	+		+	+	+	+

+	Positive alignment between Revised LDP Strategic Objective and Sustainability Objective
?	Unknown alignment between Revised LDP Strategic Objective and Sustainability Objective
	No direct link between Revised LDP Strategic Objectives and Sustainability Objective
-	Potential conflict between Revised LDP Strategic Objectives and Sustainability Objective

The Initial SA concluded that overall, the 14 Strategic Objectives show positive alignment with the principles of sustainable development and perform well against the Sustainability Framework, with very few potential conflicts highlighted. The appraisal did highlight some potential conflicts, in particular with regards to Biodiversity, Air Quality, Water and Cultural Heritage. It was concluded that any uncertain and potentially negative impacts could be resolved with appropriate LDP policies and wording.

## 5.5 SA of the Preferred Strategy Growth Options

The revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan must consider population, housing and economic growth within the County over the fifteen year plan period. In order to inform the number of dwellings that will need to be provided for by the LDP, Edge Analytics were commissioned to provide a range of different demographic projection scenarios termed 'Strategic Growth Options'. These growth options and the trends on which they are based are summarised below.

The Edge Analytics Report<sup>7</sup> considered the latest demographic evidence published by Welsh Government, the Office of National Statistics and the Office for Budget Responsibility, as well as drawing on existing economic strategies including the Swansea Bay City Deal<sup>8</sup>, Carmarthenshire's Strategic Regeneration Plan<sup>9</sup> and Employment Sectoral Study<sup>10</sup>, linking economic growth, population change and housing.

The report by Edge Analytics considered eight growth projections:

- WG 2014 based principal projection
- WG 2014 (10 year average migration)
- Long Term (16 years of migration data)
- Medium Term (10 years of migration data)
- Short Term (Last 6 years of migration data)
- Pre-Recession (pre 2008) migration data

They also considered two employment-led scenarios:

- Fixed Commuter Rate
- Reducing Commuter Rate

These different demographic projection scenarios were tested in line with PPW and the LDP Manual. The Growth options selected were therefore considered to be realistic and reasonable. Full details of reasons for selecting each of the growth options is set out in Section 9 of the Revised LDP Preferred Strategy Report. It was not considered realistic to include an alternative relating to business as usual (i.e. the current LDP position) as the LDP is required by WG guidance to use the WG growth projections as a starting point. The resulting dwelling requirements were set out in Table 5 of the Initial SA Report and are summarised in Table 6 below:

*Table 6 Carmarthenshire Demographic Scenario Projections 2018-2033 (Source: Population & Household Projections Topic Paper, December 2018)*

Growth Option	Total projected dwelling growth over plan period
Option 1: WG 2014 based principal projection	3,367
Option 2: WG 2014 (10 year average migration)	6,542

<sup>7</sup><https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216737/edge-analytics-carmarthenshire-demographic-forecasts-october-2018-final-version-002.pdf>

<sup>8</sup>[https://www.swansea.gov.uk/media/7514/Swansea-Bay-City-Region-Economic-Regeneration-Strategy/pdf/Swansea\\_Bay\\_City\\_Region\\_Economic\\_Regeneration\\_Strategy.pdf](https://www.swansea.gov.uk/media/7514/Swansea-Bay-City-Region-Economic-Regeneration-Strategy/pdf/Swansea_Bay_City_Region_Economic_Regeneration_Strategy.pdf)

<sup>9</sup><https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1212060/strategic-regeneration-plan-for-carmarthenshire-2015-2030-pdf.pdf>

<sup>10</sup><http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1212564/employment-sectoral-study-final-english-1.pdf>

Option 3: Short Term (6 years of migration data)	7,044
Option 4: Medium Term (10 years of migration data)	7,236
Option 5: Long Term (Last 16 years of migration data)	9,887
Option 6: Pre-Recession (pre 2008) migration data	14,090
Option 7: Reducing Commuting Rate	17,396
Option 8: Fixed Commuting Rate	19,690

The social, environmental and economic effects and overall sustainability of each growth option was tested against the SA framework. The results of this assessment are set out below (Figure 5) and are also presented in Figure 4 of the Initial SA Report. Option 1, as the starting point of the WG projections, was considered to be the baseline against which all other Options were assessed.

Full commentary of the SA of each growth option was presented in Table 6 of the Initial SA of the Preferred Strategy. In summary the SA of the growth options presented in the Preferred Strategy concluded the following:

**Growth Options 1 and 2** perform better with regard to preserving the County's natural environmental resources. However neither option sufficiently address existing socio-economic issues within the County, including the need for affordable housing, accessibility to community and health facilities and the retention of young people. Both options also provide for significantly lower employment growth than that projected in the Councils, Employment Sectoral study, and would not provide sufficient employment opportunities. The level of growth under Options 4 and 5 are more likely to deliver these social and economic benefits.

**Options 7 and 8** have the most potential for negative environmental impacts, compared to other options. These impacts could be mitigated by sustainable site selection and sensitive implementation, with consideration for Carmarthenshire's largely rural landscape and habitats of high biological value.

All options have the potential to impact negatively on the County's air quality due to increased transport and economic activity. Again, these impacts can be mitigated by sustainable site location with sufficient access to public transport. It is also important that Green Infrastructure (GI) is considered and where possible protected as GI assets can have air purification functions.

All options support growth in the population and are therefore likely to contribute to increases in consumption, waste and other activities such as transport. This could be addressed through sustainable design, integrating sustainable waste and transport solutions into new development. Protecting green infrastructure is also important to mitigate the effects of growth across the County, providing important carbon sink functions as well as providing land drainage and cooling effects.

All of the options have the potential to impact negatively on historic and cultural assets and landscape, depending on the selection of sites and implementation of development. These impacts could be mitigated by ensuring that design of new developments is sympathetic to local character and distinctiveness, and that the cultural and historic assets are protected.

Figure 3 SA of Growth Options (Source: Figure 4 Initial SA of Preferred Strategy Report 2018)

Growth Option	SA1 Sustainable Development	SA2 Biodiversity	SA3 Air Quality	SA4 Climatic Factors	SA5 Water	SA6 Material Assets	SA7 Soil	SA8 Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	SA9 Landscape	SA10 Population	SA11 Welsh Language	SA12 Health and Well-being	SA13 Education and Skills	SA14 Economy	SA15 Social Fabric
Option 1 224 dwellings a year	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+		+			+	-	+	?	+	+
Option 2 436 dwellings a year	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+		+/-			-	-	-	?	-	-
Option 3 470 dwellings a year	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+		+/-			-	-	-	?	-	-
Option 4 482 dwellings a year	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+		+/-			-	-	-	?	-	-
Option 5 659 dwellings a year	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+		+/-			+	+	?	?	+	+
Option 6 939 dwellings a year	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	-		+/-			+	+	?	?	+	+
Option 7 1,160 dwellings a year	-	-	-	-	-		-			+	+/-	+	?	++	+
Option 8 1,313 dwellings a year	-	-	-	-	-		-			+	+/-	+	?	++	+

From the SA, it emerged that Option 5 (Long Term equating to 659 dwellings per year) would achieve the most sustainable effects of all of the options across the sustainability framework, with the greatest balance between economic, environmental and social considerations (Figure 4).

## **5.6 SA of the Preferred Strategy Spatial Options**

The process of developing the Spatial Options for consideration was set out in Section 9, para 9.44 – 9.53 of the Preferred Strategy Report (2018). Each Spatial Option reflects the need to have regard to legislation, national planning policy, local and regional strategies whilst recognising the specific characteristics, assets and issues which are prevalent in Carmarthenshire and form a strategic approach which delivers on the vision and which promotes and guides development for the County.

The development of these options was informed by the available baseline evidence, as well as stakeholder views and the integrated objectives. These options are based on an understanding of the development potential of the County and the need to accommodate future growth requirements. In developing the options regard has also been had to the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the wellbeing objectives developed by Carmarthenshire County Council and the Public Service Board.

Each Option considered different levels of scale and distribution of growth and explored the extent to which it could deliver sustainable development. The Options did not define precise site boundaries, but provided a broad outline of how growth could be distributed across the County.

The SA process helped to inform the selection of the spatial strategy contained in the Preferred Strategy and provided a mechanism through which reasonable alternatives were considered.

The LDP Preferred Strategy (2018) initially detailed six spatial options for consideration (Table 7). The Initial SA of the Preferred Strategy (2018) assessed these six options against the sustainability framework, and predicted the likely short, medium and long term, positive and negative effects of each on the environmental baseline as outlined in the SA Scoping Report (2018). A 'business as usual' Option was included (Option 1) which looked at continuing the spatial strategy of the current LDP. The results of this assessment are set out in Table 8 and are also presented in Figure 5 of the Initial SA Report.



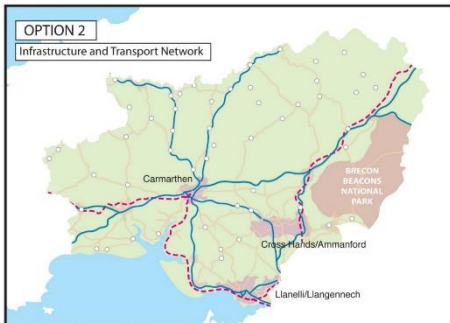
Table 7 Summary of Spatial Options (as reported in the Draft Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy December 2018)



### Option 1 – Sustainable Distribution

This option focusses growth proportionally across a hierarchy underpinned by the principles of sustainability. In doing so, this option:

- Encourages the dispersal of employment, housing and other types of development to identified settlements and village groups or clusters in a manner reflective of their existing scale, population and availability of facilities and services.
- Reflects the diversity of the County and growth is apportioned appropriately to urban and rural use areas.
- Focusses the majority of employment growth in larger towns and villages.



### Option 2 – Infrastructure and Transport Network

This option looks at the existing provision of utility infrastructure and the highway network across the County and aims to focus the majority of growth in areas with the capacity for growth. This option seeks to encourage growth in areas which it can most feasibly be accommodated by:

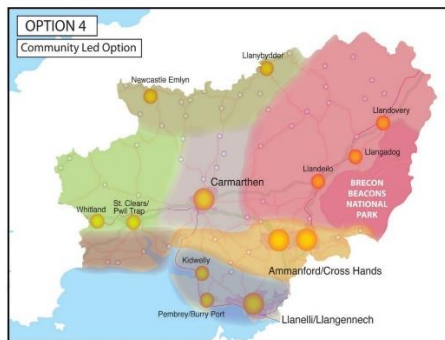
- Encouraging growth along the key transport routes and junctions of the M4, A40, A48, A484, A474 and A485, as well as in locations accessible to other modes of transport including the rail network, cycle network and pedestrian linkages.
- Encouraging growth in areas where there is either current or planned capacity for the supply and treatment of water and waste water.
- Encouraging growth in areas where there are sufficient services and facilities to support communities.



### Option 3 – Dispersal

This option distributes housing, employment and other forms of development on a broad basis between settlements within the County, both urban and rural. It allows settlements to grow incrementally without necessarily taking account of the availability of services or facilities nor the impact which growth could have upon the existing communities and their capacity to accommodate and absorb growth.

This option would see a higher proportion of the County's growth being directed to the rural areas and a lower proportion to the existing urban areas.

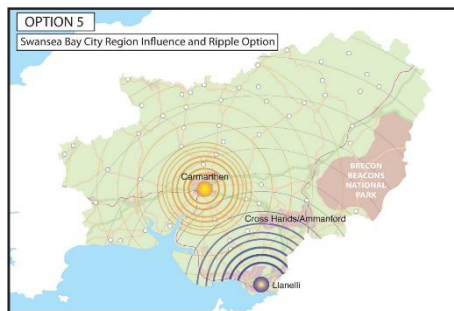


#### Option 4 – Community Led

This option focusses on the role of settlements within their wider locality and community, acknowledging the relationships and interdependency between settlements and considers how the local communities work and live.

This option will encourage growth in areas which play a significant role in the wider community; through the provision of facilities and services seeking to reflect the needs of communities, including their demand for housing.

This option should reflect an understanding of local communities and focus growth in areas where it is needed to support communities and their aspirations for future growth and ongoing sustainability of facilities and services. This is likely to result in the allocation of smaller sites and a higher proportion of growth being directed to smaller settlements.



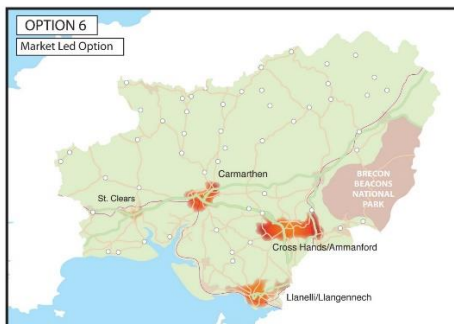
#### Option 5 – Swansea Bay City Region Influence and Ripple

This option is focussed on the projects and investment planned as part of the Swansea Bay City Deal and channels growth to align with these geographical areas. The projects proposed for Carmarthenshire are:

The Life Science and Well-being Village, Llanelli. This facility is a village providing facilities and services which promote and improve well-being. It is proposed to be a multi-faceted facility integrating business development, education, healthcare, leisure, tourism, wellness support and research into life sciences in one location; and,

Yr Egin, Carmarthen. This facility would be a new creative, digital and media hub to be based at the University of Wales, Trinity St David.

This option is likely to see the majority of growth focussed in Carmarthen and Llanelli and the surrounding areas. This will see some growth focussed in the areas between these two areas, however, settlements further away from Carmarthen and Llanelli will see very little growth but could nevertheless benefit from the inward investment



#### Option 6 – Market Led

This option will aim to meet the aspirations and requirements of the development industry by identifying sites and areas which are the most economically attractive to develop. This option looks at the market success of settlements within the county since 2008 and apportions growth in accordance with past delivery rates.

The past delivery rates indicate that the majority of growth took place in the Llanelli and Hendy areas with a significant amount of development also being directed to the Carmarthen and the Ammanford/Cross Hands growth areas.

This approach could be construed as ‘planning based on numbers’. It would seek to direct growth in accordance with the highest delivery rates of the past and where developers would build.

Table 8 Summary of the SA of Spatial Options (Source: Figure 5 Initial SA Report of Preferred Strategy December 2018)

SA Objective	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
SA1 Sustainable Development	+	-	-	+	?	?
SA2 Biodiversity		+			+	
SA3 Air Quality	-	-	-	-	-	-
SA4 Climatic Factors	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	-
SA5 Water	+/-	+	-	+	-	-
SA6 Material Assets	+	-	-	+	-	-
SA7 Soil		+	-		+	+
SA8 Cultural Heritage						
SA9 Landscape			-			
SA10 Population	++	-	-	++	+/-	+/-
SA11 Welsh Language	+	-	-	+	+/-	-
SA12 Health and Wellbeing	+	-	-	++	+/-	+/-
SA13 Education and Skills	+	-	-	+	++	?
SA14 Economy	+	-	-	+	++	?
SA15 Social Fabric	+	-	-	++	-	-

Full commentary of the SA of each spatial option was presented in Section 4.3 of the Initial SA of the Preferred Strategy. In summary the SA of the growth spatial presented in the Preferred Strategy concluded the following:

- **Options 1 and 4** both perform well overall against the sustainability framework, in particular in terms of economy, improving social fabric and addressing the needs of both rural and urban areas. This is in contrast to **Options 2 and 3** which do not specifically address rural economy or need, and do not perform favourably against improving social equality across the county. **Option 5** is predicted to have positive effects on education, skills and economy due to the 'ripple' effect of inward investment and knowledge and skills to the county. It is also likely to have highly positive effects on population structure, by aligning residential development with significant, skilled employment opportunities, creating attractive areas for young people.
- Although **Options 2,5 and 6** would reduce private car use in the short term by directing growth to areas that currently have sufficient services and facilities, the medium to long term is likely to see an increase in traffic, congestion and associated emissions in areas which already breach UK Air Quality Objectives. In contrast, **Options 1, 4 and 3** direct higher growth to rural areas which in the short term may not have sufficient access to services and so would increase public car use. However, in the long term, it is likely that services centres would be established and retained around rural settlements and public transport links improved, leading to a reduction in car use and associated air quality issues.
- **Options 1, 3 and 4** all have both negative and positive impacts with respect to Climatic Factors. Directing growth to rural areas will reduce pressure on urban areas in the short term, some of which are partially or wholly in C1/C2 flooding zones. However, growth outside of urban centres is likely to result in an increase in public car use and associated emissions in the short term. In the longer term, growth in rural areas is likely to increase

development of greenfield land which may reduce upland flood storage areas. However, services and public transport links are likely to become more established and retained in rural areas following growth and so the need for private cars will likely be reduced. **Option 2** would result in an increase in access to alternative modes of transport and growth in areas where there are sufficient services and facilities, reducing the need for private car use. However, some major transport routes (e.g. A40) follow river corridors and focussed development in such areas is likely to fall somewhat within C1 and C2 flood zones. Growth directed to urban areas such as Llanelli, Pembrey and Burry Port, which are partially or wholly within C1 and C2 areas could result in new development being at risk of climate related flooding in the long term. It is for this reason, coupled with rural needs not being addressed that **Options 5 and 6** are predicted to have negative impacts on this objective.

- Performance against sustainability objectives such as cultural heritage, biodiversity and landscape is largely dependent on site selection and implementation due to the localised nature of these features and so appraisal of impact at this strategic level is difficult. However, **Options 2 and 5** are likely to have broadly positive effects on biodiversity due to them directing growth to areas which have historically seen development, as opposed to areas more likely to result in the development of green belt land.
- **Options 2 and 6** that direct growth to areas that have historically seen high levels of growth and as a result, changes in demographics, are less likely to be able to absorb further changes in character and would therefore likely see negative impacts on Welsh Language. **Options 1 and 4** look to distribute growth more proportionally between urban and rural areas, and will also support vibrant communities and economy, all of which are likely to have positive effects on the Welsh Language, in particular through the retention of young people **Option 3** would see an unsustainable amount of growth provision in rural areas, that has the potential to dilute the Welsh speaking communities in these areas. Option 5 has both the negative effects of Options 2 and 6 but may also have positive effects as a result of the job creation and skills associated with the Swansea Bay City Region (in particular Yr Egin, which houses S4C's offices) that will help to retain young people in the County.

Following the SA assessment and subsequent responses to the Preferred Strategy consultation, none of the options were considered to be preferable alone as each demonstrated some negative outcomes to varying degrees and would not deliver the balanced sustainable development required. Therefore, Carmarthenshire County Council has sought to identify the most positive elements of each to contribute towards developing a preferred option.

### Hybrid Option – Balanced Community and Sustainable Growth

As a result of the Initial Sustainability Appraisal, and subsequent stakeholder engagement, it was recommended that a hybrid option be considered as the preferred option, which reflects a number of characteristics with positive impacts from the options above. The initial SA suggested that the hybrid option seek to build on the positive impacts of Option 4 - Community Led, seeking to provide opportunities for rural areas and ensuring the diversity of the County and communities is recognised, but removing the prescriptive approach of assigning character areas within the County. This option aims to retain an approach which reflects the role and function of settlements and will seek to be responsive in how it assigns growth, to urban and rural areas of the County.

The hybrid option also incorporates positive elements of Option 5, recognising and reflecting investment and economic benefits to the County and its communities through the Swansea

Bay City Deal, and other economic opportunities. As is the primary focus in Option 2, the hybrid option also acknowledges that sustainable growth needs to be supported by the availability of a range of appropriate infrastructure. In line with Option 6, it will recognise that growth should also be deliverable and orientated to a community's needs and market demand.

The hybrid option was assessed against the Sustainability Framework and a detailed commentary is presented in Section 4.3 of the Initial SA of the Preferred Strategy. The results of this assessment are set out in Table 9 and are also presented in Figure 6 of the Initial SA Report.

Table 9 Summary of the SA of Spatial Options, including Hybrid Option (Source: Figure 6 Initial SA Report of Preferred Strategy December 2018)

SA Objective	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Hybrid
SA1 Sustainable Development	+	-	-	+	?	?	+
SA2 Biodiversity		+			+		
SA3 Air Quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
SA4 Climatic Factors	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-
SA5 Water	-	+	-	+	-	-	+
SA6 Material Assets	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
SA7 Soil		+	-		+	+	
SA8 Cultural Heritage							
SA9 Landscape			-				
SA10 Population	++	-	-	++	+/-	+/-	++
SA11 Welsh Language	+	-	-	+	+/-	-	+
SA12 Health and Wellbeing	+	-	-	++	+/-	+/-	++
SA13 Education and Skills	+	-	-	+	++	?	++
SA14 Economy	+	-	-	+	++	?	++
SA15 Social Fabric	+	-	-	++	-	-	++

## 5.7 SA of Preferred Strategy Strategic Policies

The LDP Strategic Policies are high level policies intended to deliver the LDP Vision and Objectives. They are strategic in nature and will be supplemented by more detailed policies and proposals in the Deposit Plan stage of the LDP.

The nineteen draft Strategic Policies were presented in Section 11 of the LDP Preferred Strategy, and were subject to testing against the SA framework within the Initial SA Report (Section 5). The results of this assessment are set out below ( 10) and are also presented, with accompanying commentary, in Figure 7 and Section 5 of the Initial SA Report.

Following the assessment, the Initial SA also made a number of recommendations and to changes to policy wording to reduce impacts and enhance opportunities. These suggested changes and the LDP Policy team responses are listed in Appendix 4. Many of the Strategic Policies were rewritten for the Deposit Plan and as such, many of the recommendations were considered but suggested wording changes no longer relevant. For this reason, the Strategic Objectives will be reassessed in this SA of the rLDP Deposit plan and new recommendations made.

Table 10 Sustainability Appraisal of draft LDP Strategic Policies (Source: Figure 7 of the Initial SA Report of Preferred Strategy December 2018)

Strategic Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
SP1	+	-	-	-	+	+				++	+/-	+	+	++	+
SP2	+		+/-	+/-					+	+				++	
SP3	+	-	-	-	+	+				++	+/-	+	+	++	+
SP4	+									++	+	+	+	+	++
SP5	+	-	+/-	+/-	?	+				++	+	++	++	++	++
SP6	+	-	+/-	+	?	+				++	+/-		+	++	+
SP7	+							+		+	++		+	+	++
SP8	++	+/-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	++		+	+	+	++
SP9	+				?					+					+
SP10	+		+/-	+/-		+				+	+/-	++	+	++	+
SP11	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+		+		+	+
SP12	+	-	+	+	-	+	-		-	+	+/-	+	+	++	++
SP13	+	++	+	+	+		+		+			+		+	
SP14	+							++	+			+		+	
SP15	++	+	+	++	+	+						+	?		
SP16	++	-	+	+	?	++				++	+/-	+	+	++	++
SP17	++	+	++	+		++				+		+	+		+
SP18		-	-	-		?	-		-					+	
SP19		-				+	-		-					+	

## 5. Uncertainties and Difficulties of SA during the Preferred Strategy Stage

The main limitations of the SA process at the LDP Preferred Strategy stage was the fact that due to the broad nature of the Strategy at this stage of the plan making process, there is uncertainty over the exact location of development and the number of houses on each site. For this reason, only broad conclusions could be reached by the SA about the different likely effects of alternative growth scenarios and spatial distributions. The importance of mitigation being adequately addressed by the Deposit Plan was emphasised, particularly in the case of:

- Biodiversity and habitat loss
- Capacity of water and sewerage infrastructure to facilitate growth
- Increased traffic and resulting air quality impacts
- Development in C1/C2 flood zones

### 5.9 Summary of Initial SA of Preferred Strategy and Recommendations

The Initial SA concluded that overall, the Preferred Strategy would have significant benefits in terms of providing the housing and employment land required to support sustainable growth in Carmarthenshire. It performed well against the socio-economic objectives of the sustainability framework, with strategic options that look to improve access to good quality jobs, services and infrastructure across the County, with a view to addressing some of the disparity between rural and urban areas. The Preferred Strategy also aimed to improve health and well-being across the County, with better housing, access to open space and active travel facilities.

However, as is the case with any development, some potential negative impacts remained, in particular with regards to biodiversity, air quality and climatic factors. However, with suitable mitigation in place, this negative impact can be reduced. Some mitigation measures had already been considered within the Preferred Strategy as a result of the ongoing dialogue between the SA appraisal and policy writing, such as the selection of a Hybrid spatial option that looked to combine the best aspects of the existing alternatives. The Sustainability Appraisal also suggested some changes to the wording to strengthen the sustainability of the Strategic Policies (Appendix 4).

Some broader recommendations were also made in the Initial SA to consider in the authoring of the LDP Deposit Plan, which are outlined in Table 7 of the Initial SA and in Appendix 4 of this report.

A summary of the performance of the Preferred Strategy against the SA Framework was presented in Figure 8 of the Initial SA Report and is also shown in Table 11 below.

Table 11 Summary of Sustainability Appraisal of Preferred Strategy. (Source: Figure 8 of the Initial SA Report of Preferred Strategy December 2018)

SA Objective	SA1 Sustainable Development	SA2 Biodiversity	SA3 Air Quality	SA4 Climatic Factors	SA5 Water	SA6 –Material Assets	SA7 Soil	SA8 Cultural heritage and Historic Environment	SA9 Landscape	SA10 Population	SA11 The Welsh Language	SA12 Health and Well-being	SA13 Education and Skills	SA14 Economy	SA15 Social Fabric
Vision	+	+	?	?	?	+	?	?	?	+		+	+	+	+
Objectives	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	++
Growth Option 4	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	?		+/-			+	+	?	?	+	+
Spatial Option Hybrid	+		+	+/-	+	+				++	+	++	++	++	++
Strategic Policies															
SP1	+	-	-	-	?	+				++	+/-	+	+	++	+
SP2	+		+/-	+/-					+	+				++	
SP3	+	-	-	-	+	+				++	+/-	+	+	++	+
SP4	+									++	+	+	+	+	++
SP5	+	-	+/-	+/-	?	+				++	+	++	++	++	++
SP6	+	-	+/-	+	?	+				++	+/-		+	++	+
SP7	+							+		+	++		+	+	++
SP8	++	+/-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	++		+	+	+	++
SP9	+				?					+					+
SP10	+		+/-	+/-		+				+	+/-	++	+	++	+
SP11	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+		+		+	+
SP12	+	-	+	+	-	+	-		-	+	+/-	+	+	++	++
SP13	+	++	+	+	+		+		+			+		+	
SP14	+							++	+			+		+	
SP15	++	+	+	++	+	+						+	?		
SP16	++	-	+	+	?	++				++	+/-	+	+	++	++
SP17	++	+	++	+		++				+		+	+		+
SP18		-	-	-		?	-		-					+	
SP19		-				+	-		-					+	



## 6. Sustainability Appraisal of the rLDP Deposit Plan

Section 5 of this report has outlined the process by which the SA influenced the Vision, Growth Options, Spatial Option and Strategic Policies contained in the LDP Preferred Strategy which formed the basis of the Deposit Plan. Section 5 also refers to full details of appraisals presented within the Initial SA of the Preferred Strategy Report.

The LDP Vision, Objectives and Strategies are implemented through a range of policies that set out the approach that will be taken when planning applications are determined. Section 6 sets out the process by which the SA has informed the content of the Deposit Plan and presents the outcomes of appraisal of the Deposit Plan Strategic (Section 6.4) and Specific (Section 6.5) policies and site allocations (Section X).

### 6.1 SA of Deposit Plan Vision and Strategic Objectives

Following feedback from the initial SA process and representations received during Preferred Strategy consultation (December 2018 to January 2019) the Vision was revised for its inclusion in the Deposit LDP. The revised LDP Vision is set out below. The revised Vision was then re-assessed against the SA framework (Table 12).

#### LDP Vision: One Carmarthenshire

Carmarthenshire 2033 will be a place to start, live and age well within a healthy, safe and prosperous environment, where its rich cultural and environmental qualities (including the Welsh language) are valued and respected for residents and visitors alike

It will have prosperous, cohesive and sustainable communities providing increased opportunities, interventions and connections for people, places and organisations in both rural and urban parts of our County.

It will have a strong economy that reflects its position as a confident and ambitious driver for the Swansea Bay City Region.

Table 12 Testing of draft and revised LDP Vision against the SA Framework

	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
Draft Vision (2018)	+	+	?	?	?	+	?	?	?	+		+	+	+	+
Revised Deposit Vision (2019)	+	+	?	?	?	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

+	Positive alignment between Vision and Sustainability Objective
?	Unknown alignment between Vision and Sustainability Objective
	No direct link between Vision and Sustainability Objective
-	Potential conflict between Vision and Sustainability Objective

Following feedback from the initial SA process and representations received during Preferred Strategy consultation (December 2018 to January 2019), minor changes were made to two of the Strategic Objectives. Wording was added to SO7 to include reference to renewable energy and SO10 was changed to include reference to ensuring an appropriate number and mix of housing was considered. These minor changes were reassessed against the SA framework, however no changes were made to the impacts and opportunities identified.

## 6.2 SA of the Preferred Growth Strategy

In December 2018, the Council published its Preferred Strategy, which set out the long term vision for Carmarthenshire. As part of the evidence base the Council commissioned Edge Analytics to provide a range of demographic and economic scenarios to inform a likely future growth projections for the county during the plan period 2018-2033. Based upon the range of demographic and economic evidence presented in the report, the Council's Preferred Strategy set out a housing requirement figure of 9,887 dwellings (2018-2033), aligning directly to the PG Long Term scenario presented in the Edge Analytics analysis.

Prior to the publication of the Deposit Revised LDP in late 2019, it was anticipated that the Welsh Government would publish the 2017 sub-national Population and Household projections in time to be considered for the Deposit Plan. However, the release of these projections has been delayed and so in light of this, the Council recommissioned Edge Analytics to update various housing requirement scenarios in the light of a range of new evidence, including Carmarthenshire's 2018 mid-year population estimate and the draft National Development Framework. This updated report<sup>11</sup> presented three alternative demographic scenarios, which consider alternative migration histories from which to derive trend assumptions. The resulting dwelling requirements for each of the scenarios are outlined in Table 13.

Table 13 Carmarthenshire Population Growth Scenario Projections 2018 – 2033. Edge Analytics Addendum 2019

<b>PG Long Term (2019 Addendum Report)</b>			
Internal migration rates and international migration flow assumptions are based on the full seventeen-year historical period (2001/02-2017/18).			
Change over plan period (2018 – 2033)		Dwellings required	
Population (%)	Households (%)	Annually	Total over plan period
9.6%	12.0%	671	10,065

<b>PG 10 year (2019 Addendum Report)</b>			
Internal migration rates and international migration flow assumptions are based on a ten-year historical period, ignoring the anomalous years around the immediate aftermath of the financial crash.			
Change over plan period (2018 – 2033)		Dwellings required	
Population (%)	Households (%)	Annually	Total over plan period
8.1%	10.6%	589	8,835

<b>PG Short Term (2019 Addendum Report)</b>			
Internal migration rates and international migration flow assumptions are based on the four-year historical period (2014/15-2017/18) which corresponds with the four-year period of recovery in housing growth.			
Change over plan period (2018 – 2033)		Dwellings required	
Population (%)	Households (%)	Annually	Total over plan period
7.6%	10.5%	585	8,769

With the 2017-based household projections not yet published, household and dwelling growth under the demographic scenarios was estimated using assumptions from the WG 2014-based

<sup>11</sup> Edge Analytics – Carmarthenshire Population and Household Forecasts Addendum, Sept 2019

household projection model. In contrast to the population growth scenarios provided in the rLDP Preferred Strategy, the revised population projections provided in the 2019 Addendum exclude the small proportion of Carmarthenshire’s population that sits within the Brecon Beacons National Park. Excluding this geography from the Carmarthenshire scenarios results in a marginally smaller population total and growth outcomes.

In order to assess the potential effects of the growth options on the SA Framework, they should be considered against a ‘business as usual’ scenario which is considered as the baseline. For the revised LDP, business as usual means a continuation of the existing plan, as an alternative to preparing a new one. The current LDP makes provision for 1,013 dwellings to be delivered per year, based on Welsh Government 2008 household projections.

The effects of each of the revised growth options were assessed against the SA Framework, and a full commentary is provided in Appendix 6. A summary is provided in Table 14.

*Table 14 Summary of the SA of the rLDP revised Growth Options*

Growth Options	PG Long Term (2019) 671 dwellings per year	PG 10 Year (2019) 589 dwellings per year	PG Short Term (2019) 585 dwellings per year
SA1 Sustainable Development	+	+	+
SA2 Biodiversity	+/-	+/-	+/-
SA3 Air Quality	+/-	+/-	+/-
SA4 Climatic Factors	+/-	+/-	+/-
SA5 Water	+	+	+
SA6 Material Assets	0	0	0
SA7 Soil	+/-	+/-	+/-
SA8 Cultural Heritage			
SA9 Landscape			
SA10 Population	+	+	+
SA11 Welsh Language	+	+	+
SA12 Health and Well-being	?	?	?
SA13 Education and Skills	+/-	+/-	+/-
SA14 Economy	+	+	+
SA15 Social Fabric	+	+	+

In summary, the revised growth options present the following issues and opportunities:

The revised growth options all offer similar issues and opportunities when assessed against the SA Framework. Growth at any level that results in development infers the loss of soil/permeable surfaces to hard standing and potential for negative effects on biodiversity. However, under these growth scenarios, the levels being proposed are far less than those predicted in the current LDP. This reduction in growth will allow for more sustainable site selection and will reduce the pressure to allocate sites on greenfield land.

Likewise, both housing and economic development can result in increased transport activity which could have negative impacts on the County’s air quality and carbon footprint. Again, with a lower growth option, there is more flexibility to allocate sites in sustainable locations, with access to public transport and active travel networks.

All growth options have the potential to have negative effects on historic and cultural assets and landscape and will be dependent on where growth is allocated.

In summary, these growth options all contribute positively to supporting a sustainable economy and a healthy, balanced society, whilst also reducing the risks of negative effects on environmental SA Objectives.

It was concluded that the preferred growth option would be PG 10 Year (2019 Addendum) as this option provided a balance of socio-economic benefits in the delivery of the Swansea Bay City Region Deal, the Council's Corporate Strategy, regeneration and job creation objectives and progressing the Council's ambitions in delivering affordable homes across the County, whilst also looking to reduce tensions between development and the potential for impacts on SA Objectives such as Biodiversity, Air Quality, Water, Soil, Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Welsh Language.

### **6.3 SA of the Preferred Spatial Option**

The preferred spatial option has not been changed since the Preferred Strategy, and therefore there is no need to reassess the option at this stage. The assessment of the preferred Spatial Option can be found in Section 4.3 of the Initial SA of the Preferred Strategy. The preferred Hybrid Option continues to look to provide opportunities for rural areas and to ensure the diversity of the County and communities is recognised, as well as aiming to reflect the role and function of settlements in how it assigns growth to urban and rural areas of the County.

The hybrid option also reflects the investment and economic benefits to the County and its communities through the Swansea Bay City Deal, and other economic opportunities. It also acknowledges that sustainable growth needs to be supported by the availability of a range of appropriate infrastructure and that growth should also be deliverable and orientated to a community's needs and market demand.

### **6.4 SA of the Strategic Policies**

Following the public consultation of the rLDP Preferred Strategy, a number of policies were amended to reflect feedback and comments, including those made in the Initial SA. The revised policies were then re-screened against the Sustainability Framework to consider whether they would result in likely significant effects. The amended policies and the SA commentary of the reassessment are listed in Appendix 4. The results of the re-assessment against the SA Framework are presented in Table 15.

Table 15 Summary of the Sustainability Appraisal of the rLDP Strategic Policies

Strategic Policy	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	SP19
SA1	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	++	++	++		
SA2	-		-	-		-		+/-			+	-	++		+	-	+	-	-
SA3	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+/-		+		+/-	++	+	+		+	+	++	-	
SA4	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+		+	-	+/-	++	+	+		++	+	+	-	
SA5	+		+			?		+			+	-	+		+	?			
SA6	+		+		+	+		+	+	+	+	+			+	++	++		+
SA7								-	-		+	-	+					-	-
SA8							+	-	0		+		+	++					
SA9		+	+					-	-		+	-	+	+				-	
SA10	++	+	++	++	++	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+		++	+		
SA11	+/-	+	+/-	+	+	+	++	+		+/-		+/-		+		+/-			
SA12	+		+	+	++			+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
SA13	+		+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	?	+	+		
SA14	++	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	+	++	+	++	+	+		++		+	+
SA15	+		+	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	+	++	+	+		++	+		

## 6.5 Mitigation and SA Recommendations – Strategic Policies

Table 16 summarises the assessment of the potential impacts of the Strategic Policies. It must be considered however, that this assessment however, does not consider any mitigation.

In implementing the rLDP, all policies should be read collectively and no one policy should be considered in isolation. For this reason, due to the 'protective' and prescriptive nature of some LDP policies, they can provide mitigation for potential negative effects in the implementation of other policies. Appendix 4 has identified the plan policies which mitigate any negative impacts and uncertainty of the Strategic Policies.

Table X proposes further measures to avoid or reduce residual impacts of the Strategic Policies. It also makes suggestions for how to improve the benefits of the Strategic Policies as well as addressing some uncertainty that may remain.

*Table 16 Summary of proposed mitigation/enhancement measures for rLDP Strategic Policies*

Strategic Policy	Proposed Mitigation/Enhancement
SP 2: Retail and Town Centres	Mitigation for any air quality impacts could be further strengthened by making a specific reference to the protection and enhancement of GI within and adjacent to AQMA's in policy PSD12 Light and Air Quality.
SP 4: Affordable Homes	Suggested that due to likely need for affordable housing in rural as well as urban areas of Carmarthenshire, policy SP4 make specific reference be made in the supporting text to the protection of the natural environment when locating affordable housing.  Suggested that policy make specific reference in the supporting text to locating affordable housing in locations with good access to public transport networks as well as active travel routes.
SP 7: Welsh Language and Culture	To strengthen this policy further, specific reference should be made to the motion that was passed by council in July 2019 that called for the whole county to be considered as linguistically sensitive and to be a material planning consideration in all developments of 10 houses or more.
SP 9: Gypsy and Traveller Provision	The boundary of the proposed Pen-y-fan site has some scrub habitat which has biodiversity value as well as providing some screening of noise/air pollution from the adjacent railway line. The SA recommends that this is retained as a buffer to the adjoining railway line.  Existing green Infrastructure corridors should also be maintained as buffer zones to mitigate any negative impacts on landscape.  It is recommended that the Council give due consideration as to whether SP9 complies with the policy requirements contained in Policy CCH4 – Flood Risk Management and Avoidance in relation to flood risk. Such consideration should be further informed by any detailed / project level Flood Consequences Assessments (FCA). An FCA could assist in clarifying the likelihood and severity of flood risk on the 3 locations listed under Strategic Policy 9 to the Council.
SP 11: Placemaking and Sustainable Places	Suggest specific reference is made to energy efficient design as well as resource efficiency.  Suggest reference to use of sustainable materials as well as techniques.  Suggest reference to recycling of waste under criteria (j)

SP 13: Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment	Specific reference should be made in the supporting text to the Council's Duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 2018.
SP 14: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment.	<p>Although this policy does not directly impact on SA3 – Air Quality, the policy itself can be affected by air quality. Poor air quality can have impacts the built and historic environment such as increasing the corrosive gases in the atmosphere as well as deposition of particles which can cause discolouration of surfaces. This should be mentioned in the supporting text of this policy to ensure its due consideration in any planning application.</p> <p>In line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act, the policy should make reference to the fact that the historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource and a vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales. The historic environment can only be maintained as a resource for future generations if historic assets are protected and restored.</p>
SP 15: Climate Change	<p>A stronger statement needs to be made to a commitment to reduce carbon emissions in policy.</p> <p>Specific reference should be made to the motion on climate change that was passed by Council in Feb 2019 that resulted in a climate emergency being declared by Carmarthenshire County Council. The LDP should make reference somewhere in the deposit plan as to how the LDP seeks to address this climate emergency.</p> <p>The policy does not mention the benefits of Green Infrastructure to mitigating and increasing resilience to the effects of climate change, in particular as carbon sinks. Reference to green infrastructure would result in a change from no effect to positive effects on SA7 – Soil. The SA recommends that specific reference should be made to the multifunctional benefits of green infrastructure for climate change resilience and mitigation in this policy.</p>
SP 17: Transport and Accessibility	Suggest reference be made in the supporting text to development in rural locations being preferably sited within and adjoining settlements that benefit from key services and facilities, rather than at sporadic countryside locations.
SP 18: Mineral Resources	<p>In order to provide further mitigation of this policy against SA4 Climatic Factors, reference should be made in the policy to ensuring that where possible, mineral extraction utilise transport links such as rail/or water transport as opposed to road haulage.</p> <p>Suggest adding a clear statement clarifying that the Council will not support the development of land based coal or unconventional oil or gas operations, including the exploration, appraisal and extraction of oil and gas by unconventional methods (including the making of exploratory boreholes), unless the applicant can demonstrate the proposal conforms with national planning policy.</p> <p>Clarify that petroleum refers to any mineral oil or relative hydrocarbon and natural gas existing in its natural strata as defined in the Petroleum Act 1998. This therefore includes shale oil and gas and coal bed methane. The definition of coal is taken from the Coal Industry Act 1994. This covers coal and also underground coal gasification.</p> <p>In order to mitigate for residual impacts on SA7 – Soil, wording should be added to supporting text that makes clear that any soil removed as a result of the extraction process must be retained and replaced in situ.</p>

	Although specific policy MR1 Mineral Proposals goes some way to mitigating any residual negative impacts on SA9 – Landscape, it is suggested that additional wording on the protection of Landscape character and visual amenity in this policy to reinforce its importance.
SP 19: Waste Management	<p>Policy should include a criterion stating that no significant impacts in the environment should occur as a result of waste management proposals.</p> <p>Suggest more in the supporting text regarding sustainable location of waste management facilities especially when situated outside of development limits.</p> <p>To further strengthen mitigation against potential negative effects on SA9 – Landscape, reference should be made to design of buildings being in keeping with surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Include reference to the proximity principle to minimise distance between where waste is generated and managed.</p> <p>Suggest including some wording around the importance of green infrastructure for visual, noise and air pollution screening.</p>

## 6.6 SA of the Specific Policies

The Deposit LDP contains 75 Specific Policies as listed in Table 17.

Table 17 rLDP Strategic and Specific Policies

Preferred Strategy – Strategic Policies	Deposit Plan - Specific Policies
SP1: Strategic Growth	SG1 Regeneration and Mixed Use Sites
	SG2: Reserve Sites
	SG3 Pembrey Peninsula
SP2: Retail and Town Centres	RTC1: Carmarthen Town Centre
	RTC2: Protection of Local Shops and Facilities
	RTC3: Retail in Rural Areas
SP3: A Sustainable Approach to Providing New Homes	HOM1: Housing Allocations
	HOM2: Housing within Development Limits
	HOM3: Homes in Rural Villages
	HOM4: Homes in Non-Defined Rural Settlements
	HOM5: Conversion or Subdivision of Existing Dwellings
	HOM6: Specialist Housing
	HOM7: Renovation of Derelict or Abandoned Dwellings
	HOM8: Residential Caravans
	HOM9: Ancillary Residential Development
SP4: Affordable Homes Strategy	AHOM1: Provision of Affordable Homes
	AHOM2: Affordable Homes – Exceptions Sites
SP5: Strategic Sites	
SP6: Employment and the Economy	EME1: Employment – Safeguarding of Employment Sites
	EME2: New Employment Proposals
	EME3: Employment – Extensions and Intensification
	EME4: Rural Employment Exception Sites
	EME5: Home Working
SP7: Welsh Language and Culture	WL1: The Welsh Language and New Development
SP8: Infrastructure	INF1: Planning Obligations



	INF2: Healthy Communities
	INF3: Broadband and Telecommunications
SP9: Gypsy and Traveller Provision	GTP1: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation
SP10: The Visitor Economy	VE1: Visitor Attractions and Facilities
	VE2: Permanent Serviced or Self-Catering Holiday Accommodation
	VE3: Touring Caravan, Camping or Temporary other Camping Sites
	VE4: Static Caravan and Chalet Sites and Permanent other Camping Accommodation
SP11: Placemaking and Sustainable Places	PSD1: Sustainable and High Quality Design
	PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
	PSD3: Green Infrastructure Network
	PSD4: Green Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows
	PSD5: Development and the Circular Economy
	PSD6: Community Facilities
	PSD7: Protection of Open Space
	PSD8: Provision of New Open Space
	PSD9: Advertisements
	PSD10: Extensions
	PSD11: Noise Pollution
	PSD12: Light and Air Pollution
	PSD13 Contaminated Land
SP12: Rural Development	RD1: Replacement Dwelling in the Open Countryside
	RD2: Conversion and Re-Use of Rural Buildings for Residential Use
	RD3: Farm Diversification
	RD4: Conversion and Re-Use of Rural Buildings for Non-Residential Use
	RD5: Equestrian Facilities
SP13: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment	NE1: Regional and Local Designations
	NE2: Biodiversity
	NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness
	NE4: Development within the Caeau Mynydd Mawr SPG Area
	NE5: Coastal Management
	NE6: Coastal Development
	NE7: Coastal Change Management Area
	NE8: Landscape Character
SP14: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment	BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas
SP15: Climate Change	CCH1: Renewable Energy
	CCH2: Electric Vehicle Charging Points
	CCH3: Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources
	CCH4: Sustainable Drainage
	CCH5 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Developments
	CCH6: Climate Change – Forest and Woodland Planting
SP16: Sustainable Distribution – Settlement Framework	SD1: Development Limits

SP17: Transport and Accessibility	TRA1: Transport and Highways Infrastructural Improvements
	TRA2: Active Travel
	TRA3: Gwili Railway
	TRA4: Redundant Rail Corridors
SP 18: Mineral Resources	MR1: Mineral Proposals
	MR2: Mineral Buffer Zones
	MR3: Mineral Safeguarding
SP 19: Waste Management	WM1: Waste Management Proposals
	WM2: Landfill Proposals
	WM3: Agricultural Land – Disposal of Inert Waste

Each Policy has been assessed against the SA Framework and the findings are discussed in full in Appendix 7, but are summarised briefly here.

Overall, the appraisal found that the rLDP Deposit Plan policies would have largely positive effects overall, in particular on those SA Objectives that relate to socio-economic sustainability. Many of the plan policies facilitate sustainable development, including residential, affordable homes, retail, employment, tourism and infrastructure. In particular, the rLDP policies seek to ensure that affordable housing provision in the County is increased, and that facilities and services are fully accessible to all. The plan also seeks to rebalance the aging population in Carmarthenshire by making the County an attractive place to live and work for young people, with a range of good quality employment and housing.

The rLDP plan policies also seek to maximise the health and wellbeing of Carmarthenshire's population. Policy PSD7 looks to protect and enhance accessible open spaces, as well as more informal, ambient green space which can have both physical and mental health benefits. In addition, Policy TRA2 Active Travel seeks to connect development and spaces with safe and attractive active travel routes, to encourage healthier travel choices.

Development of any form has the potential for negative effects on biodiversity and soil resources against the baseline scenario of no plan, and in the absence of any mitigation. A number of the rLDP policies are protective in nature and are in place to mitigate for some of the potential for negative effects from development focussed Specific Policies. Strategic Policy SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment ensures that development will be expected to protect and enhance the County's natural environment as well as conserve and enhance soil resources.

Carmarthenshire is both a rural and urban County, and the Specific Policies of the rLDP direct and facilitate development of both housing and employment in both areas. This can have differing implications on Sustainability Objectives SA3 Air Quality and SA4 Climatic Factors. Development in urban areas ensures that developments are sustainably located in that they have access to facilities and services as well as regular public transport networks and Active Travel routes. This should reduce the need for private car use and as a result can reduce carbon emissions and associated air pollution. However, since the publication of the adopted LDP, three AQMA's have been designated in Carmarthenshire due to poor air quality. These are located in Llanelli, Carmarthen and Llandeilo. Further development in these more urban areas may exacerbate this problem unless suitable mitigation for any negative effects in air quality are put in place. Policy PSD12 Light and Air pollution, which ensures that based on scale and location, an Air Quality Assessment will be required to show how any risks to amenity, biodiversity and health are mitigated. Policy PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network can also help to mitigate for these impacts as increasing green infrastructure in urban areas can have many benefits including filtering of pollutants and carbon sequestration.

Conversely, providing some development in rural areas is essential to retain and enhance vital facilities and services in these areas. However, in the short term, such development may not

be fully serviced by regular public transport and active travel routes and, if facilities and services have already been lost in these areas, then private car use may be required. The hope, in providing controlled development in these areas, is that facilities and services will be retained and hopefully returned to rural areas so that they are increasingly sustainable in the medium to long term. Policy CCH2 can also go some way to mitigating for any negative effects, as new development will be required to install EV Charging Units to encourage electric car use in line with the Sustainable Transport Hierarchy for Planning<sup>12</sup>.

The rLDP will determine the location and scale of development over the next 15 year period, and so should fully consider the spatial implications of climate change. Development in areas currently at risk of flooding should be avoided and the likelihood of future extreme weather events and sea level rises as a result of climate change should also be fully considered. Policy CCH4 goes some way to mitigating this risk, however its wording could be strengthened to include consideration of the potential risk under climate change conditions such as increasing flood events and sea level rise over the Plan period. The protection and enhancement of Green Infrastructure Networks through Policy PSD3 is also important to reduce and mitigate for the effects of climate change. Green infrastructure has benefits such as include carbon sequestration and storage, heat amelioration and reduction of flood risk as well as mitigating climate change induced reductions in air and water quality. A number of rLDP policies also seek to encourage the development of large renewable energy projects, as well as incorporating renewable and low carbon energy into new development which will increase Carmarthenshire's contribution to a low carbon Wales.

A summary of the SA of the Specific Policies is provided in Table 18.

## **6.7 Mitigation and SA Recommendations – Specific Policies**

Table 18 summarises the assessment of the potential impacts of the Strategic Policies. It must be considered however, that this assessment however, does not consider any mitigation.

In implementing the rLDP, all policies should be read collectively and no one policy should be considered in isolation. For this reason, due to the 'protective' and prescriptive nature of some LDP policies, they can provide mitigation for potential negative effects in the implementation of other policies. Appendix 7 has identified the plan policies which mitigate any negative impacts and uncertainty of the Strategic Policies.

The full commentary including suggested mitigation are detailed in Appendix 7

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<sup>12</sup> Planning Policy Wales Version 10, Figure 8.

Table 18 Summary of SA of rLDP Specific Policies

SA Objective	SA1 Sustainable Development	SA2 Biodiversity	SA3 Air Quality	SA4 Climatic Factors	SA5 Water	SA6 –Material Assets	SA7 Soil	SA8 Cultural heritage and Historic Environment	SA9 Landscape	SA10 Population	SA11 The Welsh Language	SA12 Health and Well-being	SA13 Education and Skills	SA14 Economy	SA15 Social Fabric
SG1 Regeneration and Mixed Use Sites	Assessed separately under site assessment														
SG2 Reserve Sites	+	-	-	l	l	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	++	+
SG3 Pembrey Peninsula	+	-	-	-	-	0	-	l	l	+	0	+	0	+	+
RTC1 Carmarthen Town Centre	+	0	+/-	+/-	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+
RTC2 Protection of Local Shops	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+
RTC3 Retail in Rural Areas	+	-	+	+	0	+	-	0	l	+	+	+	+	+	+
HOM1 Housing Allocations	Assessed separately under site assessment														
HOM2 Housing within Development Limits	+	+	l	l	+	+	+	l	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
HOM3 Homes in Rural Villages	+	-	+	+	+/-	+	+	l	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
HOM4 Homes in Non-defined Rural	+	-	+	+	+/-	+	+	l	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
HOM5 Conversion or Subdivision of Existing	+	0	-	-	l	-	+	l	+/-	+	0	-	0	0	+
HOM6 Specialist Housing	+	-	0	0	l	+	0	l	0	+	+	+	0	+	+
HOM7 Renovation of Derelict or Abandoned	+	-	-	-	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+/-
HOM8 Residential Caravans	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	+	0	0	0	+	0
HOM9 Ancillary Residential Development	+	-	0	0	l	-	0	0	-	+	0	+	0	0	+
AHOM1 Provision of Affordable Homes	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	l	0	++	+	+	+	+	++
AHOM2 Affordable Homes Exception Sites	+	-	0	0	0	0	-	l	0	++	+	+	+	+	++
EME1 Safeguarding of Employment Sites	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+
EME2 New Employment Proposals	+	-	-	-	l	+	l	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+
EME3 Extensions and Intensification	+	-	-	-	l	+	l	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+
EME4 Rural Employment Exception Sites	+	-	-	-	l	+	l	l	0	+	+	+	+	++	+
EME5 Home Working	+	-	0	0	l	-	0	0	-	+	+	+	+	++	+
WLI The Welsh Language and New Development	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	++	+	+	+	+
INF1 Planning Obligations	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	+

SA Objective	SA1 Sustainable Development	SA2 Biodiversity	SA3 Air Quality	SA4 Climatic Factors	SA5 Water	SA6 –Material Assets	SA7 Soil	SA8 Cultural heritage and Historic Environment	SA9 Landscape	SA10 Population	SA11 The Welsh Language	SA12 Health and Well-being	SA13 Education and Skills	SA14 Economy	SA15 Social Fabric
INF2 Healthy Communities	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	++	+	+	+
INF3 Broadband and Telecommunications	+	-	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+
GTP1 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	+	-				+	-			+	0	+	+	0	+
VE1 Visitor Attractions and Facilities	+	-			-		-	?		+	0	+	+	++	+
VE2 Permanent Serviced or Self-catering Holiday	+	-			-		-	?		+	0	+	+	++	+
VE3 Touring Caravan, Camping or Temporary	+	-	-	-		-	-	?		0	0	+	0	++	+
VE4 Static Caravan and Chalet Sites	+	-	-	-		-	-	?		0	0	+	0	++	+
PSD1 Sustainability and High Quality Design	++	-	0	0	+	0	-	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+
PSD2 Masterplanning Principles	++		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+
PSD4 GI Trees Woodlands and Hedgerows	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+
PSD5 Development and the Circular Economy	++	0	+	+	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
PSD6 Community Facilities	++	-	+	+		+	-	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+
PSD7 Protection of Open Space	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	++	+	+	++
PSD8 Provision of New Open Space	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	++	+	+	++
PSD9 Advertisements	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+		+	++	0	+	+	+
PSD10 Extensions	+		0	0	0	0	-	0		+	0	0	0	0	0
PSD11 Noise Pollution	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+
PSD12 Light and Air Pollution	+	+	++	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+
PSD13 Contaminated Land	+		0	0	+	0	+		+	0	0	+	0	0	0
RD1 Replacement Dwelling in Open Countryside	+	-	-	-/+	0	-	?			0	0	+/-	-	+	-
RD2 Conversion and Reuse of Rural for Resi	+	-	-	-	0	-	?			0	+	+/-	-	+	-
RD3 Farm Diversification	+	0	+	+	0	0	0			+	+	0	+	+	+
RD4 Conversion and Reuse of Rural for Non-resi	+	0	+/-	+/-	0	+	0			+	+	0	+	+	+
RD5 Equestrian Facilities	+		-	-	0	-	0	0		0	+	+	+	+	-
NE1 Regional and Local Designations	+	++	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+
NE2 Biodiversity	+	++	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+

SA Objective	SA1 Sustainable Development	SA2 Biodiversity	SA3 Air Quality	SA4 Climatic Factors	SA5 Water	SA6 –Material Assets	SA7 Soil	SA8 Cultural heritage and Historic Environment	SA9 Landscape	SA10 Population	SA11 The Welsh Language	SA12 Health and Well-being	SA13 Education and Skills	SA14 Economy	SA15 Social Fabric
NE3 Corridors, Networks and Features	+	++	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+
NE4 Development within CMM SPG Area	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+
NE5 Coastal Management	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
NE6 Coastal Development	+	0	0	+/-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
NE7 Coastal Change Management Area	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	+
NE8 Landscape Character	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	++	+	0	+	0	+	+
BEH1 Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	+	+
CCH1 Renewable Energy	+	-	+	++	+	+	0		+/-	0	0	0	?	+	0
CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+
CCH3 Water Quality and Protection of Water	+	+	0	+	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
CCH4 – Flood Risk Management and Avoidance	+	+	0	++	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+
CCH5 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	+	+
CCH6 – Climate Change Woodland Planting	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+
SD1 Development Limits	++	+/-	+/-	+	0	+	+/-			+	+	+	+	++	++
TRA1 Transport and Highways Infra Improvement	+	-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	-			0	0	+/-	+	++	+
TRA2 Active Travel	+	-	++	++	+	++	-			+	0	++	+	+	+
TRA3 Gwili Railway	+	-	+			+	-	+		+	0	+	0	+	+
TRA4 Redundant Rail Corridors	+	-	+	+/-	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+		+	+
MR1 Mineral Proposals	+	-				0	-			0	0	0	0	+	0
MR2 Mineral Buffer Zones	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	++	0	0	+
MR3 Mineral Safeguarding	+	0	0	0	0	0	-		+	-	0	0	0	+	0
WM1 Waste Management Proposals	+	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+
WM2 Landfill Proposals	+/-	-	+/-	+/-		-			-	0	0		0	+	0
WM3 Agricultural Land Disposal of Inert Waste	+	-	0	0	0	+	+		0	0	0	0	0	+	0

## **6.8 SA of Proposed Allocations**

This section will be completed with an SA screening of all allocated sites.

## 7. Summary of the Sustainability Impacts of the Deposit LDP

Overall, the rLDP Deposit Plan would have significant benefits in terms of providing the housing and employment land required to support sustainable growth in Carmarthenshire. It performs well against the socio-economic objectives of the sustainability framework, with strategic options that look to improve access to good quality jobs, services and infrastructure across the County, with a view to addressing some of the disparity between rural and urban areas. The rLDP also aims to improve health and well-being across the County, with better housing, access to open space and active travel facilities.

As is the case with any development, some potential negative effects are predicted, in particular with regards to biodiversity, air quality and climatic factors. However, with suitable mitigation in place, this negative impact can be reduced. This SA of the rLDP Deposit Plan makes a number of recommendations that will provide or strengthen mitigation which can decrease the risk of these predicted. These are outlined in Appendices X and X. Some mitigation measures have already been implemented within the Strategy as a result of the SA appraisal, due to the iterative nature of both documents. This has ensured that sustainability has been fully considered at all parts of the plan making process.

### Cumulative, secondary, synergistic and indirect effects

The plan as a whole has also been appraised for cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects

## 8. Monitoring

The SEA Regulations (Article 17) require that the significant environmental effects of the Plan are monitored in order that any unforeseen adverse effects can be remediated. To avoid duplication between the monitoring carried out for the SEA and the LDP, some indicators have been combined for the two processes to aid clarity. The full LDP Monitoring Framework is set out in the Deposit Plan.

Monitoring helps understand the impacts of the implementation of the Plan and ensures evidence is kept up to date, which will assist in future Plan reviews. Monitoring needs to consider both positive and negative effects of the LDP. It must also examine cumulative, secondary and synergistic effects including over the lifespan of the Plan. The monitoring can be focused on significant environmental effects.

Targets are identified for each indicator, together with an indication of the point or level at which any deviation from the identified target will trigger the need for action to be taken. These actions would normally include an analysis of the reasons for missing the target and a review of the Policy in question. The SA Monitoring Framework is outlined in Table 19 below. The sources for each of the data sets referred to are listed in Appendix 8.

SEA monitoring activities and reporting will be incorporated within the LDP Annual Monitoring Report. Monitoring will commence once the LDP has been adopted.

Table 19 SA Monitoring Framework

SA Topic	SA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Target/Trend
SA1 Sustainable Development	1-1 To live within environmental limits	The Ecological Footprint of Wales	Reducing
	1-2 To ensure a strong, healthy and just society		
	1-3 To achieve a sustainable economy	Monitored via SA14	



	1-4 To remove barriers and promoting opportunities for behavioural change		
SA2 Biodiversity	2-1 To promote resilience of ecosystems by avoiding the damage or fragmentation of designated sites, habitats and protected species and to encourage connectivity.	Number of planning applications granted which have an adverse effect on the : a) integrity of Natura 2000 site b) integrity of designated site for nature conservation c) favourable conservation status of European protected species	No applications granted which have an adverse effect on a), b) or c)
	2-2 To protect, enhance and create appropriate wildlife habitats and wider biodiversity in urban and rural areas		
SA3 Air Quality	3-1 To maintain and improve the levels of the UK National Air Quality pollutants	Air Quality Indicators (by Local Authority). Modelled, population weighted average concentrations.	Reducing
		Number of breaches of EU/UK NO2 Air Quality objectives in Carmarthenshire.	Reducing
	3-2 To reduce levels of ground level ozone		
	3-3 To reduce the need to travel through appropriate siting of new developments and provision of public transport infrastructure	Total traffic on major roads (by Local Authority) • Cars	Reducing
SA4 Climatic Factors	4-1 To reduce the emission of greenhouse gases	Annual CO2 emissions estimates (by Local Authority)	Reducing
	4-2 To minimise the vulnerability of Carmarthenshire to the effects of climate change through making space for water, coastal retreat and shifting habitat distribution patterns	Number of applications permitted within C1 and C2 floodplain areas contrary to advice of DCWW/NRW	No applications permitted contrary to DCWW/NRW advice
	4-3 To encourage all new developments to be climate resilient		
	4-4 To encourage energy conservation and higher energy efficiency		
	4-5 To minimise energy consumption and promote renewable energy sources	a) Number of, and b) Installed capacity permitted renewable energy and low carbon technology developments.	Increasing
SA5 Water	5-1 To ensure water quality of rivers, lakes, groundwater and coastal areas is improved and ensure that the hydromorphological quality of the water bodies is maximised	Annual Bathing Water Quality classification for a) Pembrey b) Pendine bathing sites in Carmarthenshire	Maintain excellent water quality classification
		Number of water bodies at 'good' classification status or above for a) Ecological status b) Chemical status	a) Increase b) Increase
	5-2 To protect and maintain water resources in the public supply chain and ensure enough water is	Carmarthen Bay Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Water resource availability	No reduction

	available for the environment at all times of the year		
	5-3 To minimise diffuse pollution from urban and rural areas	Number of permitted sites that incorporate SUDS.	Increasing
	5-4 To increase water efficiency in new and refurbished developments	Number of houses built meeting the water efficiency threshold set by the government in Building Regulation Part G2.36(1).	Increasing
	5-5 To make space for water, and minimise and reduce flood risk	Number of applications permitted within C1 and C2 floodplain areas contrary to advice of DCWW/NRW	No applications permitted contrary to DCWW/NRW advice
		Number of properties (homes and businesses) at medium or high risk of flooding from rivers and the sea	
<b>SA6 – Material Assets</b>	6-1 Minimise the use of finite resources and promote higher resource efficiency and the use of secondary and recycled materials		
	6-2 Promote the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle	% Waste reuse/recycling/composting (by Local Authority)	Increasing
	6-3 Encourage needs to be met locally		
	6-4 Promote the use of more sustainable resources		
	6-5 Improve the integration of different modes of transport	Percentage of total traffic a) Bicycles b) Buses and Coaches c) Cars	a) Increasing b) Increasing c) Decreasing
	6-6 Promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport (e.g. cycling and walking)	Total Annual Bicycle Counts (Carmarthenshire Active Travel)	Increasing
<b>SA7 - Soil</b>	7-1 To promote the regeneration of contaminated land.	Area of contaminated land	Decreasing
	7-2 To avoid loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces and minimised soil erosion	Number of permitted developments that incorporate SUDS.	Increasing
	7-3 To reduce SO2 and NOx emissions and nitrate pollution from agriculture		
<b>SA8 – Cultural Heritage</b>	8-1 To protect historic and cultural assets and local distinctiveness from negative effects of development/regeneration and support their enhancement	Number of developments permitted adversely impacting upon buildings and areas of built or historical interest and their setting	No development permitted adversely impacting upon buildings and areas of built or historical interest and their setting
	8-2 To promote high quality design reflecting local character and distinctiveness	Number of applications refused on design grounds	For reference
<b>SA9.</b>	9-1 To protect and enhance landscape/townscape from		

	negative effects of land use change		
	9-2 To take sensitive locations into account when siting development and promote high quality design	Number of developments permitted which have an adverse impact on a Special Landscape Area	No developments permitted which have an adverse impact on a Special Landscape Area
	9-3 To encourage appropriate future use of derelict land		
SA10 - Population	10-1 Ensure suitable, affordable housing stock with access to education and employment facilities	Number of affordable dwellings permitted	
	10-2 Promote the retention of younger people	% persons aged a) 15-29 b) 30 – 44 residing in Carmarthenshire	Increasing
	10-3 Promote inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups in society	Percentage of people agreeing a) that they belong to the area; b) that people from different backgrounds get on well together c) that people treat each other with respect.	Increasing
SA11 – The Welsh	11-1 Encourage growth of the Welsh language and culture	% of people who can speak Welsh (by Local Authority)	Increasing
SA12 – Health and Well-Being	12-1 Create opportunities for people to live active, healthy lifestyles through planning activities	Percentage of adults reported as being a) overweight b) obese (by Health Board)	Decreasing
	12-2 Provide access to health and recreation facilities and services	Percentage of people satisfied/very satisfied with their ability to get to/access the facilities and services they need (by Local Authority)	Increasing
	12-3 Encourage walking or cycling as an alternative means of transportation	Total Annual Bicycle Counts (Carmarthenshire Active Travel)	Increasing
		Percentage of people surveyed method of travel to work (by Local Authority) (a) On foot (b) By bicycle (c) By Car	(a) Increasing (b) Increasing (c) Decreasing
	12-4 Promote access to Wales' natural and cultural heritage	Amount of open space lost to development (ha)	No open space lost to development
Percentage of people attending or participating in arts, culture or heritage activities at least three times a year.(by Local Authority)		Increasing	
SA13 – Education and Skills	13-1 Provide accessible educational and training facilities which meet the future need of the area		
	13-2 Increase levels of literacy (in both Welsh and English) and numeracy		

	13-3 Promote lifelong learning	Level of highest qualification held by adults of working age in Wales (by Local Authority).	
SA14 - Economy	14-1 To promote sustainable economic growth	Gross Value Added (GVA) per head (South West Wales value)	Increasing
	14-2 To provide good quality employment opportunities for all sections of the population	Percentage of population in part and full time or self-employment	Increasing
		Amount of employment land lost to non-employment uses	No loss of employment land
	14-3 To promote sustainable businesses in Wales	Number of new active businesses in Carmarthenshire	Increasing
		Number of active business closures in Carmarthenshire	Decreasing
SA15 – Social Fabric	15-1 Improve safety and security for people and property	Average annual crime level (Carmarthenshire)	Decreasing
		Probability of feeling safe (by local authority)	Increasing
	15-2 Promote the design of settlements that improve social fabric by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions	Probability of having a strong sense of community (by local authority area)	Increasing
		Percentage of people agreeing a) that they belong to the area; b) that people from different backgrounds get on well together c) that people treat each other with respect.	Increasing
	15-3 Promote the deliverability of affordable housing	Proportion of affordable housing as a percentage of new homes delivered	
	15-4 Improve accessibility to services, particularly for disadvantaged sections of society	Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/ access the facilities and services they need	Increasing

## 8 Consultation and Next Steps

This SA report will be available for public consultation alongside the revised LDP Deposit Plan for an 8 week period. A non-technical summary is also available, as well as this full version of the document. Copies of these documents are available from the Forward Planning Section of Carmarthenshire County Council or can be viewed on the Authority's website: [www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

The SA reports can also be inspected at the Council's Customer Service Centres and at Planning Offices in Carmarthen, Llanelli and Llandeilo as well as public libraries.

Responses to this consultation may be made online at [www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk) or forms may be downloaded from the website and are also available from the above locations or by contacting the Forward Planning Section directly.

Your views on the SA Initial Report should be sent in writing to:

Forward Planning Section,  
Environment Department,  
7/8 Spilman Street,  
Carmarthen,  
Carmarthenshire,  
SA31 1JT

Or via email: [forward.planning@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:forward.planning@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

**Carmarthenshire Revised Local Development Plan (LDP)**

**Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report of the Deposit LDP**

**Appendices**

**November 2019**

**Appendix 1 Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes**

**Appendix 2 Baseline Updated**

**Appendix 3 SA Framework**

**Appendix 4 SA of rLDP Strategic Policies**

**Appendix 5 Changes Suggested by Initial SA to Preferred Strategy**

**Appendix 6 SA of rLDP revised Growth Options**

**Appendix 7 S of rLDP Specific Policies**

**Appendix 8 Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring Framework**

**Appendix 9 Consultation responses to Initial SA**

## Appendix 1 Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

International: Plan, Policy or Programme
<p><b>Agenda 21: United nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs</b>  <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/outcomedocuments/agenda21">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/outcomedocuments/agenda21</a></p>
<p><b>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development UNEP 1992</b>  <a href="http://www.unep.org/Documents.multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=78&amp;ArticleID=1163&amp;l=en">http://www.unep.org/Documents.multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=78&amp;ArticleID=1163&amp;l=en</a></p>
<p><b>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change United Nations 1994</b>  <a href="http://unfccc.int/2860.php">http://unfccc.int/2860.php</a></p>
<p><b>The Kyoto Protocol United Nations 1997</b>  <a href="http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php">http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php</a></p>
<p><b>Convention on Migratory Species UNEP 1979</b>  <a href="http://www.cms.int/">http://www.cms.int/</a></p>
<p><b>Convention on Biological Diversity UNEP 1992</b>  <a href="http://www.biodiv.org/default.shtml">http://www.biodiv.org/default.shtml</a></p>
<p><b>The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands UNESCO 1971</b>  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/">http://www.ramsar.org/</a></p>
<p><b>EU Directive 2009/147/EC (on the Conservation of Wild Birds - ‘The Birds Directive’) The Council of the European Communities 30 November 2009</b>  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm</a></p> <p>The Bird’s Directive is the EU’s oldest piece of nature legislation and one of the most important, creating a comprehensive scheme of protection for all wild bird species naturally occurring in the EU. It was adopted as a response to increasing concern about the declines in Europe’s wild bird populations resulting from pollution, loss of habitats as well as unsustainable use.</p> <p>The Directive recognises that habitat loss and degradation are the most serious threats to the conservation of wild birds. It therefore places great emphasis on the protection of habitats for endangered as well as migratory species, particularly through the establishment of a network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) comprising all the most suitable territories for these species.</p>
<p><b>EU Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive - WFD) The Council of the European Communities 23 October 2000</b></p> <p>The overall aim of the Directive is to establish a framework for the protection and management of surface waters, including rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters and ground waters in the EU. The main objectives of the proposed Directive are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prevent further deterioration and to protect and enhance the aquatic environment;</li> <li>• achieve good ecological and chemical water quality for all surface waters and ground waters unless it is impossible or prohibitively expensive; and</li> <li>• promote sustainable water management based on long-term protection of water</li> </ul>

resources.
<p><b>EU Directive 92/43/CEE (the Habitats Directive) The Council of the European Communities 21 May 1992</b>  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm</a></p> <p>The Habitats Directive is one of the most significant pieces of legislation driving Europe's conservation policies adopted following the Berne Convention (1982). It aims to protect identified species and habitats of nature conservation importance at the European level, and led to the establishment of a network of Special Areas of Conservation. Together with the Special Protection Areas set up under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (1979), these sites make up the European network of protected sites known as Natura 2000 sites. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.</p>
<p><b>Proposal for a new EU Environment Action Programme to 2020 European Commission 2012</b>  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/index.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/index.htm</a></p>
<p><b>EU Directive 1999/31/EC (the Landfill Directive) The Council of the European Union 1999</b>  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm</a></p> <p>The Landfill Directive intends to help drive waste up the hierarchy through waste minimisation and increased levels of recycling and recovery. The Directive's overall aim is <i>"to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular the pollution of surface water, groundwater, soil and air, and on the global environment, including the greenhouse effect, as well as any resulting risk to human health, from the landfilling of waste, during the whole life-cycle of the landfill"</i>.</p> <p>The Directive has provisions covering location of landfills, and technical and engineering requirements for aspects such as water control and leachate management, protection of soil and water and methane emissions control. The Directive sets stringent targets on reducing the amount of biodegradable municipal waste that is sent to landfill:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2010 to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 75% of that produced in 1995;</li> <li>• By 2013 to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 50% of that produced in 1995; and</li> <li>• By 2020 to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 35% of that produced in 1995.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EU Directive 2008/98/EC (the Waste Framework Directive) The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union 19 November 2008</b>  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework/index.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework/index.htm</a></p>
<p><b>EU Directive 91/676/EEC (the Nitrates Directive) The Council of the European Union 1991</b>  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-nitrates/directiv.html">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-nitrates/directiv.html</a></p> <p>The Nitrates Directive concerns the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources with the intention of redirecting agriculture toward greater</p>



sustainability. The Directive aims to protect fresh, transitional/coastal and marine waters against pollution caused by nitrates. It requires Member States to identify waters, either actually or potentially affected by diffuse nitrate pollution. These include:

- surface waters, particularly those for the abstraction of drinking water, where nitrate concentrations exceed 50 mg/l nitrate;
- groundwaters actually or potentially containing more than 50 mg/l nitrate; and
- freshwater lakes, other freshwater bodies, estuaries, coastal waters and marine waters which are, or may in the future be, eutrophic.

Member States had to designate all areas draining into such waters as nitrate vulnerable zones by 19 December 1993 and establish Action Programmes to control the timing and date of application of manure and chemical fertilisers in these zones.

**EU Directive 2008/50/EC (the New Air Quality Framework Directive) The Council of the European Union 11 June 2008**

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/quality/legislation/existing\\_leg.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/quality/legislation/existing_leg.htm)

**EU Directive 91/271/EEC Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive**

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-urbanwaste/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-urbanwaste/index_en.html)

**EU Directive 2006/118/EC The Groundwater Directive**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:372:0019:0031:EN:PDF>

**EU Directive 2006/7/EC The Bathing Waters Directive**

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/GA/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32006L0007>

## **UK: Plan, Policy or Programme**

### **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017**

The Regulations implement Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive). The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites (Special Areas of Conservation)', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites.

A further objective is to preserve, maintain and re-establish sufficient diversity and area of habitat for wild birds in the United Kingdom and to avoid any pollution or deterioration of habitats of wild birds in exercising of all relevant functions.

There are a large number of sites of ecological / geological importance in the county and in this regard, Carmarthenshire has a number of sites considered to be of international importance for nature conservation. These Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated under European legislation.

#### **Special Protection Areas (SPA)**

- Burry Inlet (also a Ramsar site)
- Elenydd Mallaen

- Carmarthen Bay

### **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)**

- Afon Teifi
- Afon Tywi
- Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries
- Carmarthen Bay Dunes
- Cwm Doethie - Mynydd Mallaen
- Caeau Mynydd Mawr
- Cernydd Carmel
- Bristol Channel Approaches

More information about them and why they were designated can be found on the Natural Resources Wales website.

<https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/designated-sites/?lang=en>

### **Securing the Future - UK Government sustainable development strategy – UK Government 2005**

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/03/25/securing-the-future-pb10589/>

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy is based upon the following five guiding principles:-

#### **1 - Living within environmental limits**

Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.

#### **2 - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society**

Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunities for all.

#### **3 - Achieving a sustainable economy**

Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use is incentivised.

#### **4 - Promoting good governance**

Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people's creativity, energy and diversity.

#### **5 - Using sound science responsibly**

Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.

The 2005 strategy builds on the 1999 strategy and looks more closely at the international aspects and social elements of achieving sustainable development. One of the underpinning themes of the document is the recognition of environmental limits. The four agreed key priorities for achieving sustainable development are:-

- Sustainable production and consumption;
- Climate change;
- Natural resource protection; and
- Sustainable communities.

The UK Government intends to look at ways to encourage behavioural change and improving resource efficiency and reducing waste. The strategy recognises that climate change and energy generation represent significant challenges to achieving sustainable development and that everyone should be entitled to environmental justice.

#### **The UK Climate Change Programme DEFRA 2006**

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4000>

Defra's Climate Change Programme sets out the UK's policies and priorities for action on climate change in the UK and internationally and sets out the approach to strengthening the role that individuals can play in tackling climate change.

The Government is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions towards the long-term by 60 per cent by 2050 in the 2003 Energy White Paper.

Alongside high-level international and domestic commitments, the strategy sets out spending to support microgeneration technologies, developing carbon abatement technologies, supporting energy from renewables and combined heat and power (CHP), raising energy standards of new builds and refurbished buildings and delivering energy efficiency measures in low income households.

#### **The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Volumes 1&2) DEFRA 2007**

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/air-quality/approach/>

The Strategy:

- Sets out common aims and a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues for the UK government and devolved administrations;
- sets out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved;
- introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles; and
- identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives.

The primary objective of the strategy is to ensure that all UK citizens should have access to outdoor air without significant risk to their health, where this is economically and technically feasible. According to the strategy, the UK is projected to miss objectives on three of the nine pollutants (particles, ozone and nitrogen dioxide). In particular, critical loads for acidity and/or the fertilising effects of nitrogen are projected to be exceeded in over half the UK's natural and semi-natural habitats.

#### **Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000**

The CRoW Act provides for public access on foot to certain types of land, amends the law relating to public rights of way, increases protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and provides for better management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

There are 81 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the county (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park) covering 17,088 Ha, and ranging in size from small fields to large areas of mountain sides and long rivers. They cover approximately 7.2

% of the county. SSSI are the best wildlife and geological sites in the country. They include habitats such as ancient woodland, flower-rich meadows, wetlands as well as disused quarries and support plant and animal species which are not often seen in the wider countryside. SSSIs are statutorily protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000). Natural Resources Wales has responsibility for identifying, notifying and protecting SSSIs.

Carmarthenshire has six Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). LNRs are designated by local authorities and are places which support a rich variety of wildlife or geological features and which are important to local people, by enabling contact with the natural environment. The LNRs in the county are managed with the conservation of wildlife as the top priority. They are Pembrey Burrows and Saltings, Ashpits Pond and Pwll Lagoon, North Dock Dunes, Morfa Berwick (all in the Llanelli coastal area), Carreg Cennen and Glan-yr-Afon, Kidwelly.

The Act also places a duty on all highway authorities to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) for their area.

**Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)**

The Act covers protection of wildlife (birds, and some animals and plants), the countryside, the prevention of the spread of certain invasive species and the designation of protected areas including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) that are identified for their flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features.

**The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Wales) Regulations 2017**

This requires that certain types of project are subject to an assessment of their environmental impact before planning permission can be determined.

**The Environment Act 1995**

The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on the Council to periodically review and assess air quality within its area. The Air Quality Objectives are set out in the Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations 2010.

**The Flood and Water Management Act 2010**

This Act changes the way that coping with the increasing pressures posed by climate change, notably water management. Of particular reference is the potential proposal to commence Schedule 3 in Wales and bring forward the related Statutory Instruments in May 2018. The Council is a designated Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Act.

**The Environmental Protection Act 1990**

In relation to contaminated land, the County has a rich and diverse industrial legacy, including a wide range of industries such as mining, tin plate manufacturing, gas works, tanneries etc. All of these processes have the potential to have caused contamination of the ground, ground waters or other sensitive receptors. A Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy is in the process of being reviewed and updated by the Council.

**UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework**  
<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189>

<p><b>Marine &amp; Coastal Access Act 2009 UK Government 2009</b>  <a href="http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/fisheries/marine/marine-planning/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/fisheries/marine/marine-planning/?lang=en</a></p> <p>The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provides new powers to assist in achieving the vision set out in the UK High Level Marine Objectives. The new powers provided by this act include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine planning – A new system for marine planning that will cover all of the key marine activities; and</li> <li>• Marine Licensing – In Wales Marine Licensing powers were delegated to Natural Resources Wales in 2011. These licensing powers replace the licensing regimes that were previously covered under: Food and Environment Act 1985, Coast Protection Act 1949 and Environmental Impact Assessment (extraction of minerals and dredging (Wales) Regulations 2007.</li> <li>• Marine Conservation Mechanics – The Act provides the power to create Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) to assist in the conservation of marine plants and animals or geological/geomorphological features.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Water Framework Directive and Planning - Initial Advice to Planning Authorities in England and Wales EA; RTPI; WLGA; LGA February 2006</b>  <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/40195.aspx">http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/40195.aspx</a></p> <p>This guidance provides advice on the implementation of the Water Directive Framework in relation to development plan policy (and other matters). The WFD requires all inland and coastal waters to reach "good status" by 2015. It establishes a river basin district structure with ecological targets for surface waters and other environmental indicators.</p>
<p><b>Ancient Monuments &amp; Archaeological Areas Act 1979, UK Parliament 1979</b></p> <p>The means by which Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) are afforded legal protection. A key tool for protection of SAMs. The protection given by this falls short of protecting the settings and surroundings of monuments. In addition, the Act allows for certain damaging operations to continue under certain circumstances.</p>

<p><b>National: Plan, Policy or Programme</b></p>
<p><b>The Wales Act (2017)</b></p> <p>This Act received Royal Assent on the 31st January 2017. It provides the National Assembly for Wales with the power to legislate on any subject other than those which are reserved to the UK Parliament. The Wales Act 2017 implements elements of the St David's Day agreement which required legislative changes. It is aimed at creating a clearer and stronger settlement in Wales which is durable and long-lasting. In particular, the Wales Act amends the Government of Wales Act 2006 by moving to a reserved powers model for Wales.</p> <p>The 2017 Act also devolves further powers to the Assembly and the Welsh Ministers in areas where there was political consensus in support of further devolution. These include:</p>

- Devolving greater responsibility to the Assembly to run its own affairs, including deciding its name;
- Devolving responsibility to the Assembly for ports policy, speed limits, bus registration, taxi regulation, local government elections, sewerage and energy consenting up to 350MW (see below for additional detail);
- Devolving responsibility to Welsh Ministers for marine licensing and conservation and energy consents in the Welsh offshore region; and extending responsibility for building regulations to include excepted energy buildings;
- Devolving power over Assembly elections;
- Devolving powers over the licensing of onshore oil and gas extraction;
- Aligning the devolution boundary for water and sewerage services along the border between England and Wales; and,
- Establishing in statute the President of Welsh Tribunals to oversee devolved tribunals and allowing cross-deployment of judicial office holders.

In relation to the 2017 Act and the devolution of powers, specific reference is made to matters relating to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Previously not a devolved matter, this will change as part of the 2017 Act, with CIL being devolved with powers anticipated to be transferred to the Welsh Government in April 2018. In this respect, a Transfer of Functions Order will however be necessary to allow Welsh Ministers to modify existing secondary legislation.

#### **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

<http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=10103>

The key purposes of the Act are to:

- Set a framework within which specified Welsh public authorities will seek to ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (the sustainable development principle);
- Put into place well-being goals which those authorities are to seek to achieve in order to improve wellbeing both now and in the future;
- Set out how those authorities are to show they are working towards the well-being goals;
- Put Public Services Boards and local well-being plans on a statutory basis and, in doing so, simplify current requirements as regards integrated community planning, and
- Establish a Future Generations Commissioner for Wales to be an advocate for future generations who will advise and support Welsh public authorities in carrying out their duties under the Bill.

The Act sets out 7 well-being goals for Wales:

- A prosperous Wales.
- A resilient Wales.
- A healthier Wales.
- A more equal Wales.
- A Wales of cohesive communities.
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.
- A globally responsible Wales.

The LDP must have regard for the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

### **Planning (Wales) Act 2015**

<http://gov.wales/topics/planning/legislation/planning-wales-act-2015/?lang=en>

This Act aims to modernise and improve the planning system to facilitate the delivery of homes, jobs and infrastructure. It also seeks to:

- reinforce the role of the Welsh Government as the active stewards of the planning system in Wales;
- promote a cultural change in planning to help make it more positive and support appropriate development more effectively; and
- promote partnership working between Local Planning Authorities.

The below is also noted in terms of potential implications:

- Introduction of a National Development Framework (NDF) - this concentrates on land-use planning issues at a national level, identifying key locations for infrastructure development and setting the national framework for planning.
- Introduction of Sub-Regional Plans Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) – with specific reference made to the Cardiff, Swansea and the A55 corridor.
- Retention of Local Development Plans - however these will need to be reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with the National Development Framework (and SDPs where appropriate).
- Increased powers for the Welsh Ministers, whilst in some circumstances applicants will be able to apply directly to the Welsh Government.

The LDP will need to be reviewed and prepared in line with this Act as well other primary and secondary legislative documents.

### **Environment (Wales) Act 2016**

The Act ensures we have a joined-up legislative approach to enable the sustainable management of our natural resources.

Some of the specific provisions in the Act include:

- Helping to plan and manage Wales' natural resources at a national and local level, through a State of Natural Resources Report, a National Natural Resources Policy and area statements.
- Providing Natural Resources Wales (NRW) with a general purpose that aligns fully with the statutory principles for the sustainable management of natural resources.
- Providing NRW with powers to undertake land management agreements and experimental schemes.
- Providing public authorities with a reshaped requirement to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience of ecosystems.
- Placing statutory emission reduction targets and carbon budgeting to support their delivery.
- Enabling improvements to the existing scheme for single use carrier bags.
- Providing the Welsh Ministers with powers to take action to achieve higher levels of recycling for business waste, food waste treatment and energy recovery.
- Clarifying the law for a number of existing environmental regulatory regimes including marine licensing, shellfisheries management, land drainage and flood risk management.

### **The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015**

This legislation amends the 2005 Regulations in order to simplify the LDP procedures. The amendments are in response to the outcomes of the LDP process refinement exercise.

Those key amendments, that are of particular relevance to the LDP, include the following:

- Site allocation representations (also known as alternative site) stage – this created confusion and did not add value to the LDP process. The amended regulations abolish the need to consult on the alternative sites following the deposit consultation stage.
- The Regulations introduced a short-form revision process for use where it appears to the LPA that the issues involved are not of sufficient significance to warrant the full procedure.
- Allowance for the review of part or parts of the plan, prior to a revision taking place.
- The Regulations introduce a requirement that the LDP sub-title indicates the end of the period in relation to which the LDP has been prepared.
- Removes the requirement to publicise matters by adverts in the local paper.

Further amendments seek to assist with clarity and transparency in parts of the procedure. These include setting out how the candidate site process, review report process and the initial consultation report work.

#### **Draft Local Development Plan Manual – Edition 3 - 2019**

The Manual proposes a more integrated approach to incorporating the sustainability appraisal, explains changes relating to candidate and alternative site procedures, as well as the tests of soundness, and expands the advice on plan review and revision.

#### **The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.**

The measure gives the Welsh language official status in Wales. This means that Welsh should be treated no less favourably than the English language. It places a duty on some organisations to comply with one or more standards of conduct on their delivery of services through the Welsh language including areas such as policy making, operational activities and Welsh language promotion.

#### **River Basin Districts Surface Water and Groundwater Classification (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Direction 2009:**

<http://gov.wales/legislation/subordinate/nonsi/epwales/2009/3739275/?lang=en>

The Classification Directions set out the principles and standards for classifying water bodies for the Water Framework Directive (WFD). They apply to Wales and England and were developed by the UK Technical Advisory Group (UKTAG) to support the implementation of the WFD.

#### **Welsh Government - People, Places, Futures – The Wales Spatial Plan (WSP) (2008 Update):**

The Wales Spatial Plan (WSP) provides an overarching policy context for spatial planning and development in Wales by establishing cross-cutting national priorities. Carmarthenshire is situated within three of the six sub areas identified in the WSP.



**Welsh Government - One Wales: One Planet, The Sustainable Development Scheme of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) 2009**

It is stated that sustainable development is a core principle within the founding statute of the Welsh Assembly Government. and that there is a duty, under the Government of Wales Act 2006 (Section 79), that requires Welsh Ministers to make a scheme setting out how they propose, in the exercise of their functions, to promote sustainable development.

**Housing (Wales) Act 2014**

This is Wales' first ever housing Act. It aims to improve the supply, quality and standards of housing in Wales. The Welsh Government's priorities are stated as: more homes, better quality homes and better housing-related services.

**The Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agriculture Fuel Oil) (Wales) ['SSAFO'] Regulations 2010.**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2010/1493/made>

The Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (Wales) Regulations 2010 (SSAFO) form an integral part of the regulatory framework in Wales which is aimed at ensuring that the quality and quantity of water which we rely upon for so many aspects of our lives is sufficient. It also aims for efficient fertiliser use and therefore reduced financial losses for farmers by limiting reliance on costly manufactured fertilisers. The Regulations through the promotion of efficient use of resources also contribute to meeting our obligations as set out in a number of European Directives.

**Planning Policy Wales (Edition 9)**

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) is the national land-use planning policy document for Wales. It is used by Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to inform policies and land-use allocations in Local Development Plans (LDPs) and it is a material consideration for decision makers in determining individual planning applications. PPW sets out the land use policies of the Welsh Government and provides the context for land use planning in Wales.

**Planning Policy Wales: Edition 10**

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) is the national land-use planning policy document for Wales. It is used by Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to inform policies and land-use allocations in Local Development Plans (LDPs) and it is a material consideration for decision makers in determining individual planning applications. PPW sets out the land use policies of the Welsh Government and provides the context for land use planning in Wales.

The draft is published for consultation and takes into account the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The draft PPW has been restructured into policy themes which reflect the well-being goals and policy updated where necessary to reflect Welsh Government strategies and policies.

**Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016**

The Act has three main aims which are to:

- give more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled monuments;
- improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
- introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

The Act amends the two pieces of UK legislation — the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

**Towards Zero Waste – One Wales One Planet: The Overarching Waste Strategy for Wales (2010)**

This Strategy sets out a long term framework for resource efficiency and waste management up to 2050. It identifies the outcomes to achieve, sets high level targets and lays out the general approach to delivering these targets and other key actions. The Strategy identifies high level outcomes, policies and targets, and forms part of a suite of documents that comprise the national waste management plan for Wales.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 1: Joint Housing Land Availability Studies (2006):**

TAN 1 provides guidance for the undertaking of Joint Housing Land Availability Studies. These studies seek to monitor the provision of market and affordable housing, provide an agreed statement of residential land availability and also set out the need for action in situations where an insufficient supply is identified.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 2 Planning and Affordable Housing (2006) :**

This TAN provides guidance on the use of the planning system in delivering affordable housing. The guidance defines affordable housing for planning purposes and provides advice to local planning authorities on how to determine affordability. The need to work collaboratively is stressed, including the requirement for housing and planning authorities to undertake local housing market assessments in participation with key stakeholders.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 3 Simplified Planning Zones (1996) :**

This TAN sets out the procedures that should be followed when designating Simplified Planning Zones. A Simplified Planning Zone is one way in which an authority can help secure development or redevelopment of part of its area, providing certainty and allowing the developer or landowner to avoid delays in the planning applications process. The TAN provides advice on the selection of areas, extent of permission, exclusions and conditions and limitations during the process of designation.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 4 Retail and Commercial Development (2016)**

The TAN provides guidance on the role of land use planning in retail and commercial development, including:

- retail strategies, masterplanning and Place Plans;
- the tests of retail need and Sequential approach to development;
- retail impact assessments;
- primary and secondary retail and commercial frontages in centres;
- retail planning conditions;
- Local Development Orders; and
- indicators of vitality and viability in retail and commercial areas.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning Welsh Government (2009):**

TAN 5 provides advice about how the land use planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation. It provides an overview of all relevant legislation within the field and *“demonstrates how local planning authorities, developers and key stakeholders in conservation can work together to deliver more sustainable development that does not result in losses from the natural heritage but instead takes every opportunity to enhance it”*.

To note is the CPOs letter 1 March 2018 European Protected Species Licensing – notice of revised procedure.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities (2010):**

This TAN provides guidance on how the planning system can support sustainable rural communities. It provides advice on areas including sustainable rural communities and economies, rural affordable housing, rural enterprise dwellings, one planet developments, sustainable rural services and sustainable agriculture.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 7 Outdoor Advertisements Control (1996) :**

This TAN describes how outdoor advertisements may be controlled to protect amenity and public safety. It provides advice on the advertisement applications process including on the criteria for dealing with such applications, advertisement control, the use of advertisements in areas of heritage interest such as conservation areas, National Assembly of Wales direction making powers and appeals for advertisements.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 8: Renewable Energy (2005):**

TAN 8 outlines the land use planning considerations relating to renewable energy. It provides detail on how the planning system can achieve Government targets relating to renewable energy. The TAN also promotes energy efficiency and conservation. Since the publication of TAN 8 there have been some policy and legislative changes. [Annex A of the Chief Planning Officers \(CPOs\) letter 'Publication of Planning Policy Wales Edition 4, February 2011'](#) sets out these changes. It should be read alongside TAN 8.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 10 Tree Preservation Orders (1997):**

This TAN provides guidance on where local planning authorities are to make adequate provision for the preservation and planting of trees when granting planning permission through the process of making tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). It provides advice on the process of making TPOs and the consideration of protecting trees, particularly during the development process.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 11 Noise (1997) :**

This TAN provides guidance on how the planning system can be used to minimise the adverse impact of noise without placing unreasonable restrictions on development. It provides advice on the consideration of noise during the development plan and control (management) processes as well as noise exposure categories for different types of activity which should be taken into account during the consideration of proposals for residential development.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 12 Design (2016) :**

The purpose of this TAN is to equip all those involved in the design of development with advice on how 'Promoting sustainability through good design' and 'Planning for sustainable buildings' may be facilitated through the planning system. Good design requires a collaborative, creative, inclusive, process of problem solving and innovation - embracing sustainability, architecture, place making, public realm, landscape, and infrastructure. The TAN emphasises that a holistic approach to design requires everyone involved in the design process to focus from the outset on meeting a series of objectives of good design:

- Ensuring ease of access for all
- Promoting sustainable means of travel
- Ensuring attractive, safe public spaces
- Achieving environmental sustainability
- Sustaining or enhancing local character

**PPW Technical Advice Note 13: Tourism, Welsh Government (1997) :**

This TAN provides guidance on tourism related issues in planning including matters relating to hotel development, holiday and touring caravans and seasonal and holiday occupancy conditions.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 14 Coastal Planning (1998) :**

This TAN provides guidance on key issues relating to planning for the coastal zone. It identifies and describes the role of local planning authorities and the range of sectoral and regulatory controls over marine and coastal development. The TAN details a number of issues which must be taken into account because of their potential effects on physical processes and ground conditions, as well as the overall balance, sensitivity and conservation of the area. The TAN provides guidance around the planning considerations and issues to be included in development plans and in the determination of planning applications.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 15: Development and Flood Risk, Welsh Government (2004) :**

This TAN provides guidance which supplements the policy set out in Planning Policy Wales in relation to development and flooding. It provides advice on matters including the use of development advice maps to determine flood risk issues, how to assess the flooding consequences of proposed development and action that can be taken through development plans and development control (management) procedures to mitigate flood risk when planning for new development. The Development Advice Map (DAM) which supplements TAN 15 is published by Natural Resources Wales.

**Also to note is the Chief Planning Officers (CPOs) letter 23/8/16 CL-03-16 Climate change allowances for planning purposes.**

**PPW Technical Advice Note 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space (2009) :**

This TAN provides guidance regarding planning for sports, recreation and open space provision as part of new development proposals. It provides advice relating to this area including on the preparation of Open Space Assessments, the keeping of existing facilities,

the provision of new facilities and the planning for allotments and spaces for children's and young people's play. The TAN discusses development management issues regarding the design of facilities and spaces, and noise and accessibility. It also considers how planning agreements can help to ensure the provision and maintenance of facilities.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 18: Transport (2007) :**

This TAN describes how to integrate land use and transport planning. It explains how transport impacts should be assessed and mitigated. It includes advice on transport related issues when planning for new development including integration between land use planning and transport, location of development, parking and design of development.

Also, on walking and cycling, public transport, planning for transport infrastructure, assessing impacts and managing implementation.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 19 Telecommunications (2002) :**

This TAN outlines the planning procedures that should be followed when assessing telecommunications proposals. In so doing it takes account of the growth of the telecommunications industry and technology.

The TAN provides guidance on different forms of public communications systems and their developmental requirements and the implications for development plans and the determination of planning applications.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language (2017):**

This TAN provides guidance on the consideration of the Welsh language as part of the Development Plan making process. The TAN provides advice on incorporating the Welsh language in development plans through Sustainability Appraisals, procedures for windfall development in areas where the language is particularly significant, and signs and advertisements.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 21: Waste (2014):**

This TAN requires monitoring to identify whether:

- sufficient landfill capacity is being maintained;
- sufficient treatment capacity is being maintained, whether the spatial pattern of provision is appropriate to fill identified needs, and
- whether any further action is needed by local planning authorities to address unforeseen issues.

Reference should be made to the annual Waste Planning Monitoring Reports (WPMRs) for the SW Wales region.

**PPW Technical Advice Note 22: Sustainable Buildings, Welsh Government (2011)**

The TAN provides the national planning policy on sustainable buildings as well as guidance on the standards of sustainable building assessment, design solutions to meet these

standards and additional guidance on low carbon buildings. The TAN also provides guidance development of policies and strategic sites.

#### **PPW Technical Advice Note 23: Economic Development**

The TAN emphasises that LDPs will need to be informed by robust evidence and advises that a range of stakeholders should be engaged for their insights into the local economy. It recognises that economic issues are generally larger than local authority level, and that evidence is most appropriately collected at both regional and local scale. This will require collaboration with other planning authorities within an agreed regional grouping.

#### **PPW Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (2017):**

The TAN provides guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making on planning and listed building applications. It provides guidance on how the following aspects of the historic environment should be considered:

- World Heritage Sites;
- Scheduled monuments;
- Archaeological remains;
- Listed buildings;
- Conservation areas;
- Historic parks and gardens;
- Historic landscapes; and
- Historic assets of special local interest.

#### **PPW Minerals Technical Advice Note (MTAN) 2: Coal (2009):**

This sets out detailed advice on the mechanisms for delivering the policy for coal extraction through surface and underground working and also provides advice on best practice. It sets out how impacts should be assessed and what mitigation measures should be adopted, and seeks to identify the environmental and social costs of operations so that they are properly met by the operator.

#### **PPW Minerals Technical Advice Note (MTAN) 1: Aggregates (2004):**

It is stated that the overarching objective in planning for aggregates provision is: to ensure supply is managed in a sustainable way so that the best balance between environmental, economic and social considerations is struck, while making sure that the environmental and amenity impacts of any necessary extraction are kept to a level that avoids causing demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance. The MTAN is structured to reflect the following five key principles:

- To provide aggregate resources in a sustainable way to meet society's needs for construction materials;
- To protect areas of importance;
- To reduce the impact of aggregates production;
- To achieve a high standard of restoration and aftercare, and provide for a beneficial after-use; and
- To encourage the efficient use of minerals and maximizing the potential use of alternative materials as aggregates.

<p><b>Environment (Wales) Act 2016:</b></p> <p>The Environment (Wales) Act received Royal Assent on 21 March 2016. It delivers against the Welsh Government’s commitment to introduce new legislation for the environment. A key component of the Act is the duty it places on public authorities to ‘seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity’. In doing so, the Act requires public authorities to forward plan and report on how they intend to comply with the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty. The Act replaces the duty in section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) Act 2006 in relation to Wales, with a duty on public authorities to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity.</p>
<p><b>Welsh Government Strategy for Tourism 2013 – 2020, ‘Partnership for Growth:</b></p> <p>This identifies Destination Management as fundamental in helping to improve the visitor appeal of tourism destinations throughout Wales.</p>
<p><b>Visit Wales - Developing the Visitor Economy: A Charter for Wales 2009:</b></p> <p>This provides clear terms of reference for Destination Management arrangements in Wales and identifies a key role for local authorities in contributing to the preparation of local destination plans and the establishment of local destination partnerships.</p>
<p><b>Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013:</b></p> <p>The Act requires local authorities in Wales to produce active travel maps and deliver year on year improvements in active travel routes and facilities. It requires highways authorities in Wales to make enhancements to routes and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists in all new road schemes and to have regard to the needs of walkers and cyclists in a range of other highway authority functions.</p> <p>As part of its commitment to make it easier to walk and cycle, the Council has prepared maps that identify current walking and cycling routes. These maps were created following public consultation as well as its own research in 2015. The routes identified on the maps meet current Welsh Government standards for walking and cycling routes in Wales.</p>
<p><b>Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard:</b></p> <p>This provides guidance on the planning and design of outdoor sport, play and informal space.</p>

<p><b>Regional: Plan, Policy or Programme</b></p>
<p><b>The Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013 – 2030:</b></p> <p>The Strategy sets out the strategic framework for the region aimed at supporting the area’s development over the coming decades. The Vision is that by 2030, South West Wales will be “<i>a confident, ambitious and connected city region, recognised internationally for its emerging knowledge and innovation economy</i>”. The Strategy contains 5 Strategic aims.</p>
<p><b>Swansea Bay City Deal 2017</b></p>

The £1.3 billion Swansea Bay City Deal was signed in March 2017. It is claimed that the Deal will transform the economic landscape of the area, boost the local economy by £1.8 billion, and generate almost 10,000 new jobs over the next 15 years. There is reference to 11 major projects overall, with the following specific projects proposed for Carmarthenshire:

- Wellness and Life Science Village in Llanelli; and
- Creative industry project at Yr Egin in Carmarthen.

4 key themes of Economic Acceleration, Life Science and Well-being, Energy, and Smart Manufacturing. An enhanced Digital Infrastructure & next generation wireless networks and the development of workforce skills and talent will underpin each.

**Joint Local Transport Plan for South West Wales (2015-20):**

This sets out the vision, objectives and a long term strategy for a 20 year period and a five year programme of projects. The Plan encompasses the region which fall within the administrative areas of Carmarthenshire County Council, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Pembrokeshire County Council and the City and County of Swansea.

**The South West Wales Tourism Partnership (SWWTP)**

The SWWTP had responsibility for delivering the national tourism strategy at the regional level. Whilst wound up in 2014, Visit Wales continues to maintain its ongoing commitment to Destination Management through Regional Engagement Teams.

**Waste Planning Monitoring Report(s) for the South West Wales Region:**

These reports are produced in accordance with TAN21: Waste and set out to collate and assess available data on all waste arising's, landfill void and the management of residual waste in the region in order to monitor trends and ultimately monitor performance against the targets set out in Towards Zero Waste. It also assesses the progress of waste policy coverage in LDPs, as well as providing information on current local authority waste management / resource recovery schemes and future procurement.

**Dwr Cymru Welsh Water Water Resources Management Plan (2019)**

<http://www.dwrcymru.co.uk/en/My-Water/Water-Resources/Water-Resource-Management-Plan.aspx>

The Plan covers a 25 year period, from 2020 to 2050 (also termed the 'planning period') and considers what needs to be done to ensure a sustainable and affordable balance between the amount of water we take from the environment and the amount of water we need for our daily lives.

It is vitally important for a water company to understand its capability to supply water and the demand for water from customers and business within its supply area. The comparison is termed the Supply Demand Balance (SDB).

In relation to Carmarthenshire, it should be noted that the Tywi Gower zone is shown to be in surplus. However Pembrokeshire and Brecon Portis zones are shown to be in deficit.

**River Basin Management Plan Western Wales River Basin District (2015-2021), Natural Resources Wales 2015**



The River Basin Management Plan for the Western Wales River Basin District is prepared under the Water Framework Directive. It describes the current condition of the river basin district and what has been achieved since 2009; details the Programme of Measures for improving the water environment by 2021, provides the water body objectives and look forward to the planned review in 2021.

**Lavernock Point to St Ann’s Head Shoreline Management Plan 2 (2012)**

A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal erosion and flooding at the coast. It also presents policies to help manage these risks to people and to the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner.

This document is the second generation Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) for the shoreline between Lavernock Point (Vale of Glamorgan) in the east and St Ann’s Head (Pembrokeshire) in the west, including the counties of Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire.

The study area includes the Neath Estuary, the Tawe Estuary, the Loughor Estuary (Burry Inlet), the Three Rivers Estuarine Complex (Gwendraeth, Towy and Taf) and Milford Haven, as well as a number of smaller estuaries.

**Local: Plan, Policy or Programme**

**Carmarthenshire County Council - Corporate Strategy 2018 – 2023**

The Corporate Strategy sets out the Council’s strategic priorities and aspirations and outlines what it plans to do to achieve its vision for Carmarthenshire over the next five years. The vision is for a Carmarthenshire that enables people to live healthy and fulfilled lives by working together to build strong, bilingual and sustainable communities.

The new Corporate Strategy 2018-2023 - Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire, was adopted in June 2018 and refreshed in June 2019. This will be further considered as the LDP progresses through its preparatory process and within future iterations of the SA documentation.

**Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5-years (2018)**

The Council has identified almost 100 priority projects, schemes or services that it wants to deliver over the next five years to make Carmarthenshire “*the best place to live, work and visit*”. The Council will be investing in key areas as it strives to improve economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being in the county.

**Carmarthenshire County Council Well-being Objectives 2017 – 18**

Following consultation, the Council drafted a set of Well-being / Improvement Objectives. These were approved by Council on 8th March 2017 and re confirmed following the Local Government Elections of 2017. There are also Action Plans are in place.

These 14 objectives are as follows:

1. Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences;
2. Help children live healthy lifestyles;
3. Continue to improve learner attainment for all;
4. Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training;
5. Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty;
6. Create more jobs and growth throughout the county;
7. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes;
8. Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity);
9. Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities;
10. Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years;
11. A Council-wide approach to support Ageing Well in the County;
12. Look after the environment now and for the future;
13. Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity; and
14. Promote Welsh Language and Culture.

#### **Carmarthenshire Local Well Being Plan 2018-2023 – Public Service Board**

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 puts a well-being duty on specified public bodies across Carmarthenshire to act jointly and establish a statutory Public Services Board (PSB). The Carmarthenshire PSB was established in May 2016 and is tasked with improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Carmarthenshire. It must do so by undertaking an assessment of well-being in the County and then preparing a county Well-being Plan to outline its local objectives, the steps it proposes to take to meet them and how they contribute to the achievement of the well-being goals.

#### **Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2006-2021 (Adopted December 2014):**

The Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) provides the framework for all future development within the County until 2021 (excluding Brecon Beacons National Park). The LDP shapes future investment opportunities and infrastructural improvement programmes and guides the determination of any proposals or planning applications, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

A series of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) has been developed to elaborate and consolidate upon the policies and provisions of the Plan as follows:

1. Affordable Housing;
2. Planning Obligations;
3. Caeau Mynydd Mawr;
4. South Llanelli Planning and Development Brief;
5. Pibwrlwyd Planning and Development Brief;
6. Adaptation and re use of rural buildings for residential use;
7. Welsh language;
8. Leisure and Open Space – requirements for new developments;
9. Nature conservation and biodiversity;
10. Archaeology and development;
11. West Carmarthenshire Planning and Development Brief;
12. Llandeilo Northern Quarter Planning and Development Brief.

The LDP is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal – Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA-SEA) together with Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

On the 10th of January 2018 the Council resolved to prepare a revised LDP for Carmarthenshire. Once adopted the revised LDP will supersede the Adopted LDP.

### **Transformations: A Strategic Regeneration Plan for Carmarthenshire – 2015-2030**

The economic landscape is evolving with Carmarthenshire's position in the new Swansea Bay City Region for which the strategy has been adopted by the Council; *“by 2030, Carmarthenshire will be a confident, ambitious and connected component of a European City Region.”*

### **Affordable Homes Delivery Plan 2016 – 2020: Delivering more homes for the people of Carmarthenshire:**

This sets out the Council's five year vision for maximising the supply of affordable homes. Its purpose is to provide detail on how and where more homes will be delivered and what resources will be used and how more could potentially be accessed. It also outlines how an ambitious new build programme can be delivered.

The programme will initially deliver over 1000 additional affordable homes over five years, with a total investment exceeding £60m.

### **Carmarthenshire Destination Management Plan 2015 – 2020 (June 2015) – Carmarthenshire Destination Partnership**

The purpose of the Destination Management Plan (DMP) for Carmarthenshire is to clarify what is important to get right for the future, to shape policy and priorities, to steer resources and to form the basis for people, businesses and organisations to work together to achieve common goals.

The Vision of Carmarthenshire Destination Partnership is to “Develop a prosperous visitor economy in Carmarthenshire, based on its unique strengths and character, which generates higher spend and local income, enhances its image and reputation and improves the quality of life for local communities”

The objectives of the Destination Management Plan are as follows:

- Provide clear 'reasons to visit' and deliver compelling, unique, memorable and high quality visitor experiences.
- Create a strong positioning for the county in the context of the country.
- Harness the collective strengths of all businesses and organisations that have a role in supporting the visitor economy.
- Define Carmarthenshire's unique tourism offer and attract new and existing visitors to the town through innovative and cost-effective marketing.
- Improve access to and within Carmarthenshire to encourage better visitor flow, longer stays and higher spend.
- Ensure the highest standards of customer service.
- Maximise visitor spend and income retention to the local economy.
- Improve customer satisfaction to encourage longer and repeat visits, higher spend and levels of positive recommendation.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster a culture of continuous improvement, value for money, best practice, learning and sustainability.</li> <li>• Identifying measures of success and monitoring performance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Carmarthenshire Employment Sectoral Study (2017)</b></p> <p>The study details employment need by sector and how this will manifest itself over the short to medium term by means of the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• setting out the economic context for the County, including general economic characteristics as well as the key growth sector and growth areas;</li> <li>• providing a summary of the current supply of employment space in Carmarthenshire;</li> <li>• addressing the future requirements for employment space (e.g., estimates of future employment space requirements based on different growth scenarios);</li> <li>• discussing the “demand / supply balance” (e.g. a comparison of estimated land requirements with the current supply of employment space);</li> <li>• addressing policy and delivery issues (e.g. the policy and other measures that need to be considered to support the existing site portfolio and meet future business needs).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Carmarthenshire County Council – Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment:</b></p> <p>Emanating from the provisions of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) has been undertaken for Carmarthenshire to identify if there is a need for a Gypsy and Traveller site within the County. Undertaken in accordance with statutory guidance, the assessment was submitted to Welsh Ministers for scrutiny and approval.</p> <p>The Local Housing Authority received confirmation from the Welsh Minister that the content of the needs assessment was accepted on 28th March 2017.</p>
<p><b>Carmarthenshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2007-2017 (2008)</b></p> <p>The ROWIP process, is a crucial element for the direction and scale of future work on access to the countryside, providing a long-term view of policies and actions.</p>
<p><b>Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013)</b></p> <p>This document identifies the Risk Management Authorities within Carmarthenshire, the key requirements and contents of the strategy, and outlines the high level objectives and measures for implementing the strategy. In addition, this document identifies the potential sources which could fund the implementation of the measures. The document also discusses the context within which the strategy is required to achieve wider environmental benefits.</p>
<p><b>Flood Risk Management Plan for the Western Wales River Basin District</b></p> <p>Natural Resources Wales is required to prepare Flood Risk Management Plans for all of Wales covering flooding from main rivers, reservoirs and the sea. This statutory plan has been developed to describe what measures they propose to take that will help to manage the risk of flooding to people, the environment and economic activity across the Western Wales River Basin District.</p>

<p><b>Memorandum of understanding for protection of Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Site (2011)</b></p>
<p><b>Carmarthenshire County Council - Ageing Well Plan</b></p> <p>The Ageing Well in Wales initiative, which is led by the Commissioner for Older People, aims to make Wales a good place for everyone to grow older in. The initiative acknowledges that achieving this depends on people, communities and organisations taking action to improve the experience of older age, by focusing on the importance of ‘wellbeing’. Carmarthenshire’s Ageing Well Plan is structured according to the five priority areas of the Ageing Well in Wales programme.</p>
<p><b>Integrated Community Strategy (ICS) - Carmarthenshire’s Local Service Board (LSB)</b></p> <p>The Integrated Community Strategy (ICS) was developed by Carmarthenshire’s Local Service Board (LSB) through consultation with local communities, organisations and other groups. The ICS outlines the collective vision for Carmarthenshire and identifies five goals which LSB members agree to work towards in partnership. Reference is made to the preparation of a Well Being Plan by the Public Service Board.</p>
<p><b>Carmarthenshire County Council - Older People's Strategy 2015-2025</b></p> <p>Over the course of the next 15 years, Older People’s services will come under increasing pressure in Carmarthenshire, with over ten-thousand additional older people over the age of 75 living in the county, many of whom will require care and support. This strategy aims to look in more detail at these challenges and to set out a plan for delivering more sustainable services over the next ten years.</p>
<p><b>Carmarthenshire County Council - Welsh in Education Strategic Plan</b></p> <p>The purpose of Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) is to detail how the Council aims to achieve the Welsh Government’s outcomes and targets outlined in their Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES).</p>
<p><b>Carmarthenshire County Council – Social Care Annual Report 2015-2016</b></p> <p>There is a statutory requirement for the Director of Social Services to report annually to their Council on the delivery and performance as well as plans for the improvement of the whole range of Social Services.</p>

## Appendix 2 Baseline Information

### 1. Sustainable Development

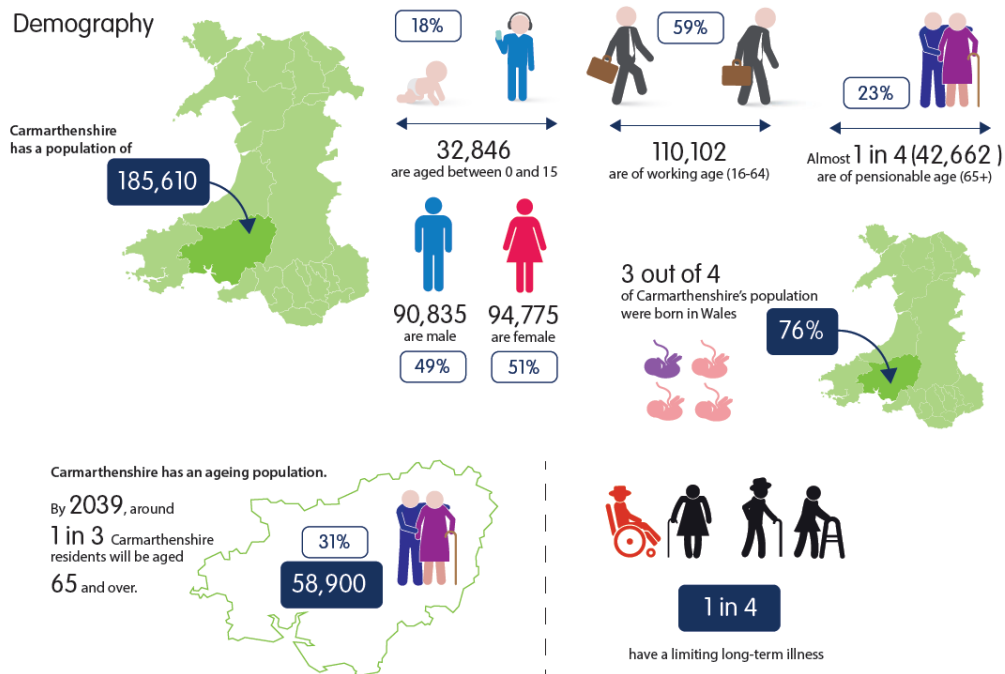
Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The concept can be interpreted in many ways, but at its core is an approach to development that looks to balance different, often competing, needs against an awareness of environmental, social, economic and cultural limitations.

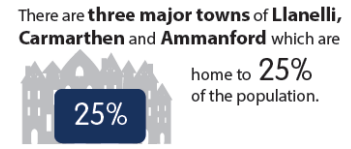
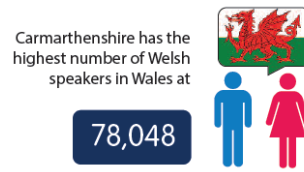
Although environmental considerations are central to the principle of sustainable development, it is also about ensuring a strong, healthy and just society, and meeting the needs of all people now and in the future. This includes promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and creating equal opportunities.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act places a duty on public bodies to carry out sustainable development and requires an improvement in the delivery of all four aspects of well-being: social, economic, environmental and cultural.

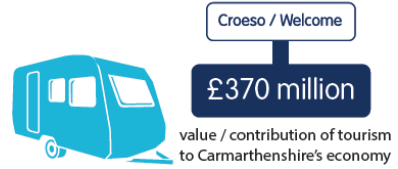
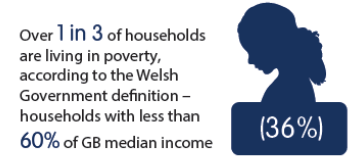
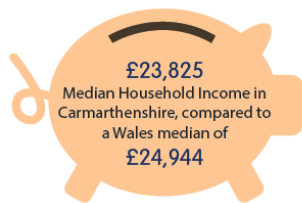
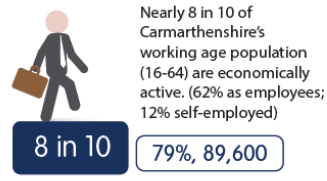
The Carmarthenshire Well-being Assessment (March 2017) looked at the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing in Carmarthenshire through different life stages and provides a summary of the key findings. The findings of this assessment form the basis of the objectives and actions identified in the Well-being Plan for Carmarthenshire. The Assessment can be viewed via the following link: [www.thecarmarthenshirewewant.wales](http://www.thecarmarthenshirewewant.wales)

From the Wellbeing assessment, the context of Carmarthenshire in terms of Well-being was described as follows:

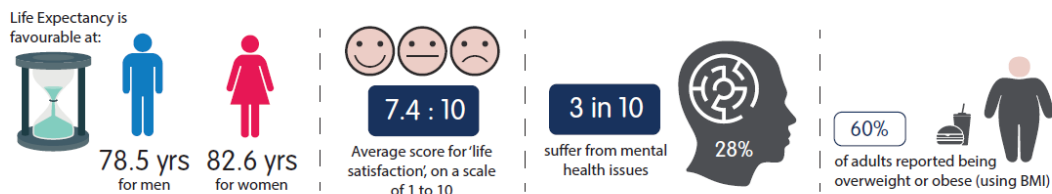




**Economy**



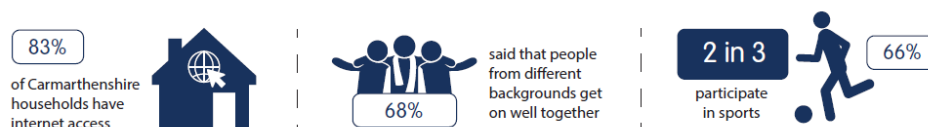
## Health and Well-being



## Environment



## Culture



The Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan outlines the Public Service Board's local objectives for improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the County and the steps it proposes to take to meet them. Carmarthenshire's Well-being Plan covers a period between 2018-2023, with objectives and actions identified to look at delivery on a longer term basis of up to 20-years.

1.3 The Draft Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan will focus on the delivery of four objectives:

- Healthy Habits**  
 People have a good quality of life, and make healthy choices about their lives and environment.
- Early Intervention**  
 To make sure that people have the right help at the right time; as and when they need it.
- Strong Connections**  
 Strongly connected people, places and organisations that are able to adapt to change.
- Prosperous People and Places**  
 To maximise opportunities for people and places in both urban and rural parts of our county.

### Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the LDP

Development would take place in a piecemeal manner, without a coordinated approach or consideration of cumulative effects on the environment. Although still subject to Planning Policy Wales and other national policy, at a local authority level,



development would not be directed to the most sustainable locations and there would be nothing in place to influence sustainable levels of growth.

## 2. Biodiversity and the Natural Environment

2.1 Biodiversity is, literally, the variety of life on earth. It embraces all living plants and animals and the ecosystems on which they depend. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains, rivers and in the sea.

2.2 At a local level, biodiversity greatly influences the character of our landscape. Carmarthenshire is justly renowned for its magnificent coast, quiet estuaries, steep wooded valleys and rugged uplands. Throughout much of the rest of the county there is a patchwork of woodlands and fields, bounded by the hedge-banks that are frequently of historic importance. The sea and seabed around the Carmarthenshire coast are also rich in species, some of which are of considerable economic importance.

2.3 This natural beauty of the county is a major factor on which the local tourism and recreation industries depend. Biodiversity is therefore fundamental to the physical, economic and spiritual well-being of all who live and work in Carmarthenshire.

### International Sites

2.4 Carmarthenshire has significant areas of land that are designated for their international importance for nature conservation. These include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC);
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) and
- Ramsar sites designated following the 1971 Ramsar convention on wetlands.

A list of these sites and the features for which they are designated is shown in Table 1 and are mapped in Figure 1. The most recent assessment of each feature's conservation status is also provided.

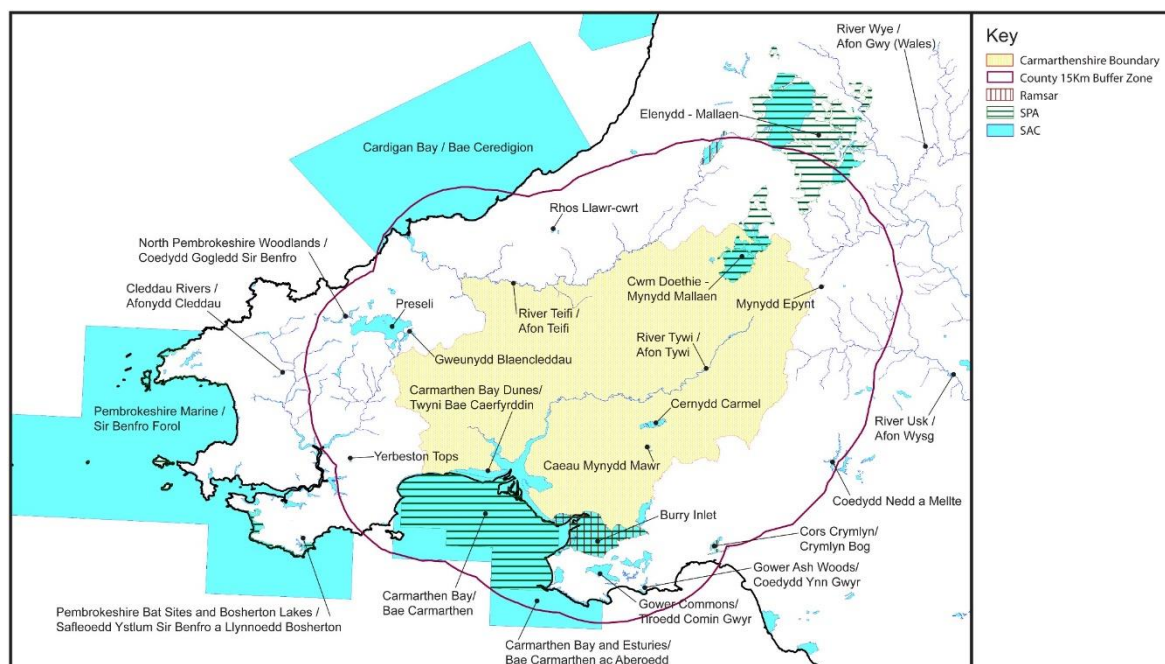


Figure 1 Location of European sites in relation to Carmarthenshire

Table 1 Designated sites within Carmarthenshire and within 15km buffer zone.

European Site	Size (hectares)	Qualifying Feature(s)	Conservation Status (Date of assessment)
Afon Tywi/ River Tywi SAC	363.45	Twaite shad	Unfavourable (May 2012)
		Otter	Favourable
		Sea lamprey	Unfavourable (Jan 2011)
		River lamprey	Unfavourable (Jan 2011)
		Brook lamprey	Unfavourable (Jan 2011)
		Allis shad	Unfavourable (Jan 2011)
		Bullhead	Unfavourable (Jan 2011)
Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC	25.06	<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> )	Unfavourable (Sept 2015)
		Marsh fritillary butterfly	Unfavourable (Sept 2015)
Cernydd Carmel SAC	361.14	Turloughs	Favourable (Sept 2011)
		Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Favourable (Sept 2016)
		European dry heaths	Destroyed: Partially (Sept 2016)
		Active raised bogs	Unfavourable (July 2016)
		<i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines	Favourable (July 2013)
Carmarthen Bay Dunes SAC	1206.32	Embryonic shifting dunes	Favourable (July 2007)
		Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	Favourable (July 2007)
		Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation	Unfavourable (Jan 2015)
		Dunes with <i>Salix repens ssp. argentea</i>	Unfavourable (Aug 2007)

		Humid dune slacks	Unfavourable (Jan 2015)
		Narrow mouthed whorl snail	Unfavourable (Sept 2016)
		Petalwort	Unfavourable (May 2016)
		Fen orchid	Unfavourable (Oct 2014)
Afon Teifi/ River Teifi SAC	715.58	Water courses of plain to montane levels with <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho- Batrachion</i> vegetation	Favourable (Sept 2012)
		Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of Isoeto-Nanojuncetea	Favourable (Sept 2003)
		Brook lamprey	Favourable (Oct 2013)
		River lamprey	Favourable (Oct 2013)
		Atlantic salmon	Favourable (Jan 2016)
		Bullhead	Unfavourable (Jan 2012)
		Otter	Favourable (March 2010)
		Floating water-plantain	Favourable (Sept 2012)
		Sea lamprey	Unfavourable (Jan 2016)
		Afonydd Cleddau/ Cleddau Rivers SAC	751
Active raised bogs	Unfavourable (Oct 2012)		
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Unfavourable (Nov 2012)		
Brook lamprey	Unfavourable: Recovering (Jan 2012)		
River lamprey	Unfavourable: Recovering (Jan 2012)		
Bull head	Unfavourable (Nov 2006)		
Otter	Favourable (Mar 2010)		
Sea lamprey	Unfavourable (Jan 2012)		
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC	66101.16	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Unfavourable: Declining (Nov 2006)
		Estuaries	Favourable (Nov 2006)
		Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Favourable (Nov 2006)
		Large shallow inlets and bays	Favourable (Nov 2006)
		<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Unfavourable (Oct 2006)
		Atlantic salt meadows	Unfavourable (Jan 2012)
		Twaite shad	Unfavourable (Nov 2006)
		Sea lamprey	Unfavourable (April 2005)
		River lamprey	Unfavourable (April 2005)
		Allis shad	Unfavourable (Nov 2006)

		Otter	Favourable (Mar 2010)
Carmarthen Bay SPA	95860.36	Common scoter	No condition assessment made, for site description refer to management plan.
Cwm Doethie-Mynydd Mallaen SAC	4122.29	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	Unfavourable.(Aug 2012)
		European dry heaths	Unfavourable: Recovering (Sept 2012)
Elenydd – Mallaen SPA	30022.14	Breeding Merlin	Favourable (June 2000)
		Breeding Red kite	Favourable (June 2000)
		Breeding Peregrine	Favourable (June 2006)
Burry Inlet SPA	6627.99	Pintail	Favourable (March 2004)
		Northern Shoveler	Favourable (March 2004)
		Teal	Favourable (March 2004)
		Wigeon	Favourable (March 2004)
		Dunlin	Favourable (March 2004)
		Red knot	Favourable (March 2004)
		Oystercatcher	Favourable (March 2004)
		Curlew	Favourable (March 2004)
		Grey Plover	Favourable (March 2004)
		Shelduck	Favourable (March 2004)
		Redshank	Favourable (March 2004)
		Turnstone	Not Assessed
Cardigan Bay/ Bae Ceredigion SAC	95860.36	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Not Assessed
		Reefs	Not Assessed
		Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	Favourable (Nov 2006)
		Bottlenose dolphin	Favourable (Jan 2007)
		Sea lamprey	Unfavourable (April 2005)
		River lamprey	Unfavourable (April 2005)
		Grey seal	Favourable (Jan 2007)
North Pembrokeshire Woodlands / Coedydd Gogledd Sir Benfro SAC	314.48	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	Unfavourable recovering.(May 2010)
		Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Unfavourable (June 2016)
		Barbastelle bat	Favourable (Aug 2012)
Yerbeston Tops SAC	90.7	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caeruleae</i> )	Unfavourable (Sept 2017)
		Marsh fritillary butterfly	Unfavourable (Sept 2017)
Rhos Llaur-cwrt SAC	45.8	Marsh fritillary butterfly	Unfavourable: Recovering.(Aug 2012)
		<i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i> (moss)	Unfavourable (Oct 2005)

Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes / Safleoedd Ystum Sir Benfro a Llynnoedd Bosherton SAC	122.59	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara spp.</i>	Unfavourable (Dec 2011)
		Greater Horseshoe Bat	Favourable (Aug 2012)
		Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Unfavourable: Declining (Aug 2012)
		Otter	Favourable (March 2010)
Gower Ash Woods / Coedydd Ynn Gwyr SAC	233.15	<i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines	Unfavourable (May 2016)
		Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Unfavourable (Jun 2016)
Pembrokeshire Marine SAC	138069.45	Estuaries	Unfavourable (Nov 2006)
		Large shallow inlets and bays	Unfavourable: Declining (Nov 2006)
		Reefs	Unfavourable (Jul 2008)
		Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time	Unfavourable (Dec 2006)
		Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Unfavourable: Declining (Nov 2006)
		Coastal lagoons	Favourable (Nov 2006)
		Atlantic salt meadows	Unfavourable (Oct 2006)
		Submerged/partially submerged sea caves	Favourable (Nov 2006)
		Grey seal	Favourable (Nov 2006)
		Shore dock	Favourable (Feb 2006)
		Sea lamprey	Unfavourable: Declining (Apr 2005)
		River lamprey	Unfavourable (Apr 2005)
		Allis shad	Not Assessed
		Twaite shad	Not Assessed
Otter	Favourable (Mar 2010)		
Gower Commons / Tiroedd Comin Gwyr SAC	1776.72	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Unfavourable (Sept 2016)
		European dry heaths	Unfavourable (Sept 2008)
		Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caeruleae</i> )	Unfavourable (Sept 2016)
		Marsh fritillary butterflies	Unfavourable (Sept 2009)
		Southern damselfly	Unfavourable (July 2017)
River Wye / Afon Gwyr SAC	2234.89	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation	Unfavourable (Jan 2012)
		Transition mires and quaking bogs	Unfavourable: Declining (July 2012)

		White clawed crayfish	Unfavourable (Sept 2016)
		Sea lamprey	Unfavourable (Jan 2012)
		Brook lamprey	Unfavourable (Jan 2012)
		River lamprey	Unfavourable (Jan 2012)
		Twaite shad	Unfavourable (Jan 2012)
		Atlantic salmon	Unfavourable (Jan 2012)
		Bullhead	Unfavourable (Dec 2016)
		Otter	Favourable: Recovered (March 2010)
		Allis shad	Unfavourable (Jan 2012)
Gweunydd Blaencleddau SAC	151	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Unfavourable (July 2016)
		Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils	Unfavourable (July 2016)
		Blanket bogs	Unfavourable (Jul 2016)
		Transition mires and quaking bogs	Unfavourable (July 2016)
		Alkaline fens	Unfavourable (July 2017)
		Marsh fritillary butterfly	Unfavourable (July 2016)
		Southern damselfly	Unfavourable (July 2016)
Preseli SAC	2705.9	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Unfavourable (Jun 2012)
		European dry heaths	Unfavourable (Jun 2012)
		Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i>	Unfavourable: Declining (Aug 2012)
		Alkaline fens	Favourable (Dec 2004)
		Southern damselfly	Unfavourable (July 2011)
		Marsh Fritillary butterfly	Unfavourable (Sept 2011)
		Slender green feather moss	Favourable (Feb 2006)
Mynydd Epynt SAC	43.4	Slender green feather moss	Favourable.(Aug 2009)
River Usk. Afon Wysg SAC	1008.26	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation	Unfavourable.(Jan 2012)
		Sea lamprey	Unfavourable (Nov 2012)
		Brook lamprey	Unfavourable (Nov 2012)
		River lamprey	Unfavourable (Nov 2012)
		Twaite shad	Unfavourable (Jan 2012)
		Atlantic salmon	Unfavourable (Jan 2012)
		Bullhead	Unfavourable (Jan 2012)
		Otter	Favourable: Recovered (Mar 2010)
Allis shad	Unfavourable (Jan 2012)		
Burry Inlet SPA/Ramsar	2,200	Burry Inlet is a large estuarine complex located between the Gower Peninsula and Llanelli in South Wales. It includes extensive areas of intertidal	No condition assessment made, for site description refer to management plan.

		sand and mud flats, together with large sand dune systems at the mouth of the estuary. The site contains the largest continuous area of saltmarsh in Wales (2,200 ha). The Burry Inlet regularly supports large numbers of wildfowl and waders.	
Bristol Channel Approaches SAC	584,994	Harbour porpoise	Favourable.

### Sites of Special Scientific Interest

2.5 There are 81 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the county (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park) covering 17,088 Ha, and ranging in size from small fields to large areas of mountain sides and long rivers.

2.6 They cover approximately 7.2 % of the county. SSSI are the best wildlife and geological sites in the country. They include habitats such as ancient woodland, flower-rich meadows, wetlands as well as disused quarries and support plant and animal species which are not often seen in the wider countryside.

2.7 SSSIs are statutorily protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000). The Natural Resources Wales has responsibility for identifying, notifying and protecting SSSIs.

### Local Nature Reserves

2.8 There are six Local Nature Reserves in Carmarthenshire: Pembrey Burrows and Saltings, Ashpits Pond and Pwll Lagoon, North Dock Dunes, Carreg Cennen, Glan-yr-Afon, Kidwelly, and Morfa Berwig, Bynea. There are also a number of Nature reserves throughout the County managed by other organisations.

### National Nature Reserves

2.9 The following National Nature Reserves are also situated in Carmarthenshire:

- Carmel;
- Allt Rhyd y Groes;
- Dinefwr; and
- Waun Las (National Botanic Garden of Wales farm)

### Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

2.10 There are currently no Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) designated within Carmarthenshire.

### Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

2.11 The Carmarthenshire LBAP has been produced by a partnership of organisations concerned with the conservation of the County's biodiversity. In line with national guidance,



the broad aim of the Carmarthenshire LBAP is to conserve and enhance biodiversity in Carmarthenshire by means of local partnerships, taking account of both national and local priorities.

2.12 The broad aims of the Carmarthenshire LBAP are as follows:

- To maintain and enhance the biodiversity of Carmarthenshire through the preparation and implementation of individual action plans, covering a range of selected habitats and species which reflect both national and local priorities;
- To develop effective local partnerships to co-ordinate and deliver biodiversity action in Carmarthenshire;
- To raise public awareness of the importance of conserving and enhancing Carmarthenshire's biodiversity; and,
  - To monitor progress in achieving local biodiversity targets and to report on such progress to a national biodiversity database.

2.13 The LBAP contains a series of action plans covering the nationally threatened or declining species and habitats in the County, as well as species and habitats of local concern. The LBAP focuses on local action that meets the objectives for each habitat and species within the Plan.

2.14 The Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) has drawn up nine habitat groupings and it was agreed that the Carmarthenshire LBAP will follow these groupings. These are: Woodland, Upland Habitats, Freshwater, Wetlands, Farmland, Lowland Grassland and Heathland, Brownfield/Urban, and Coastal and Marine habitats and species.

2.15 Species have been grouped in with habitats as far as possible as often the main action to conserve species is achieved through habitat management. However a number of species will have individual action plans which can be downloaded through the following link:  
<http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/biodiversity/local-biodiversity-action-plan/>

### **Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the LDP**

As the current LDP allocations are built out and housing land supply falls, development pressure will begin to encroach onto open countryside in a sporadic and uncoordinated manner. Designated sites and protected habitats and species should be safeguarded through other legislation. However, each development proposal that could impact on a European site would require a separate Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA), which would need to look at all potentially affected European sites and cumulative impacts. This would not only significantly delay the planning application process, but could lead to inconsistent assessments and lack of appreciation of potential in-combination effects.

### **3. Air Quality**

3.1 The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on the Council to periodically review and assess air quality within its area. There are key pollutants that should be considered, and they are set out in legislation. Each of the key pollutants has a standard that should not be breached. The standards (or objectives) have been set at levels based on current scientific information which are designed to protect health and the environment. The Air Quality Objectives are set out in the Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations 2010.

#### **Why is air quality important?**

3.2 Air Quality is the leading cause of the environmental burden of disease in Europe. In February 2016 it was reported that 40,000 additional deaths per year are attributable to poor air quality<sup>1</sup>, with a health cost of £20 billion per annum.

#### **Who does what in Wales?**

3.3 Natural Resources Wales regulates emissions to air from larger industrial operations (Part A1 under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR)), such as power stations, refineries and incinerators, to meet the requirements of the Industrial Emissions Directive 2010. Inherent in this is the need to prevent, or minimise, emissions from the sites we regulate by applying the national and European standards set to protect health and the environment. We are also required to produce an annual Pollution Inventory for emissions.

3.4 Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 NRW also has a duty to report on the state of air quality in Wales as part of the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) and to consider more local environmental priorities in Area Statements. Welsh Government is the competent authority, under the Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations 2010, for implementing the requirements of the 2008 directive on ambient air quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFÉ).

3.5 Under the Environment Act 1995 Local Authorities have responsibility for the assessment and management of local air quality, designating Air Quality Management Areas and implementing action plans where there is a failure to meet the required standards. Local Authorities also regulate emissions to air from smaller industries (Part A2 and B under EPR)<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Current State**

3.6 Air quality in Wales has improved, with statutory emissions controls and a decreasing industrial base leading to a reduction in industrial emissions. However ambient air quality targets for nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons are still being breached in Wales. Although industry remains a significant source of pollutants other sources, generally smaller or more diffuse and subject to less or no regulation, have now become more prominent.<sup>1</sup>

The Air Pollution in the UK Compliance Assessment Summary 2017<sup>2</sup> summarises the state of the UK's Air Quality annually, and the compliance of each air quality zone against EU Directives. For the South Wales zone, annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> levels were shown to be above the limit value for human health. Ozone was also shown to exceed the long term objective limit value for human health.

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<sup>1</sup> Local Evidence Pack: Carmarthenshire 4/10/2013 (Natural Resources Wales)

<sup>2</sup> <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/annualreport/>

## Air Pollution in Carmarthenshire

3.8 The Council submits regular air quality reports to Welsh Government on Carmarthenshire’s air quality. Further information on air quality reports can be downloaded from the Defra website. All Local Authorities in Wales update details about their monitoring locations and sampling results on the Welsh Air Quality Forum website<sup>3</sup>.

3.9 The Council has identified that the key pollutant most relevant to Carmarthenshire is Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). The main source of NO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Carmarthenshire is road traffic. The Council has developed a monitoring network that follows some of our busiest roads and most congested streets.

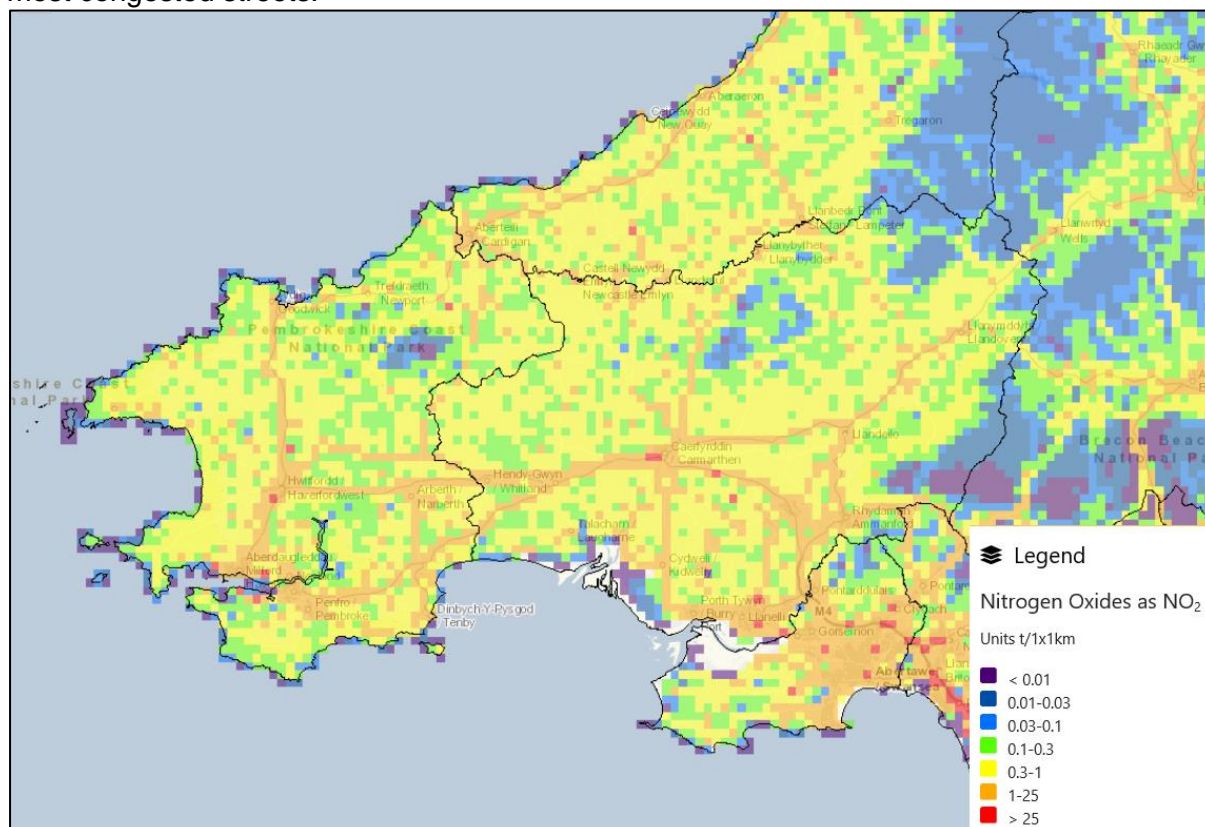


Figure 2 Modelled NO<sub>2</sub> levels across Carmarthenshire (Source National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory 2016)

## Llandeilo AQMA

3.10 An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was designated for part of Llandeilo in 2011. This is because standards for NO<sub>2</sub> in the area are being breached. Although NO<sub>2</sub> levels in the area are not sufficiently high to be causing immediate health effects, they are at levels that could result in health issues over the long term, for people who already suffer from respiratory conditions, such as asthma, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) etc. The Council is working closely with colleagues at external agencies to help identify and implement solutions to improve air quality in the area.

<sup>3</sup> <https://airquality.gov.wales/>

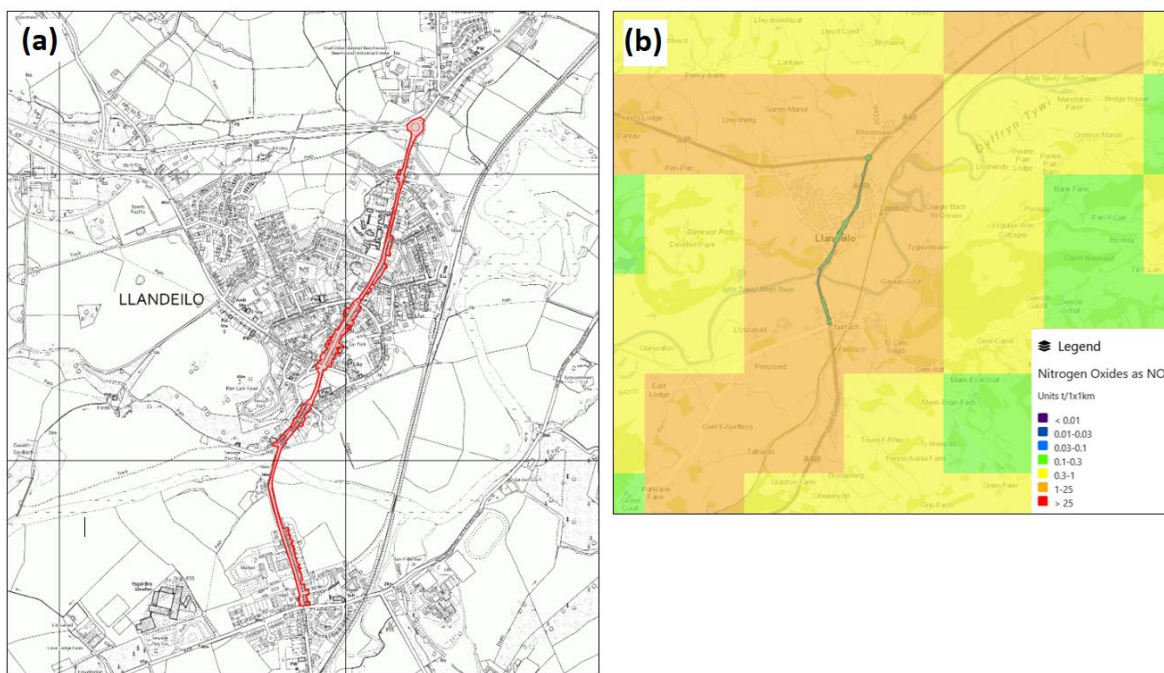


Figure 3 (a) Map of Llandeilo AQMA with (b) modelled NO<sub>2</sub> levels (Source National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory 2016)

### Carmarthen AQMA

3.11 An AQMA was designated for a specific area of Carmarthen in August 2016. The reason is due to emissions from road traffic sources. Levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), currently breach legal levels in localised hotspots within the AQMA, and the Council is working with partners within and outside of the Council to reduce these levels where it can. Although NO<sub>2</sub> levels in the area are not sufficiently high to be causing immediate health effects, they are at levels that could result in health issues over the long term, for people who are exposed for sufficient periods of time and who already suffer from respiratory conditions, such as asthma, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) etc. The Council is in the process of formulating an Action Plan, which will identify measures that could help improve Air Quality in the area.

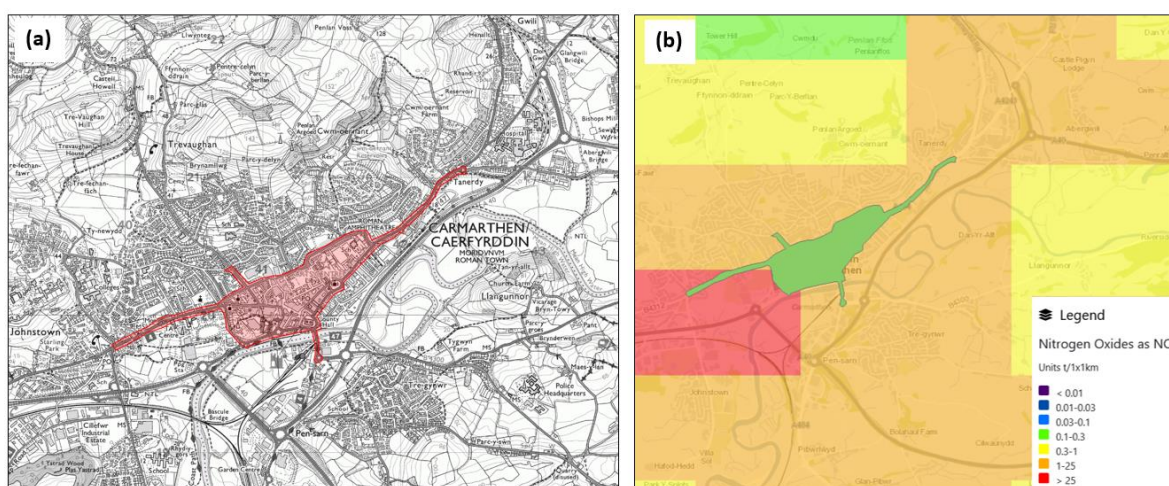


Figure 4 (a) Map of Carmarthen AQMA with (b) modelled NO<sub>2</sub> levels (Source National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory 2016)

### Llanelli AQMA

3.12 An AQMA was designated for a specific area of Llanelli in August 2016. The reason is due to emissions from road traffic sources. Levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), currently breach legal levels in localised hotspots within the AQMA, and the Council is working with partners within and outside of the Council to reduce these levels where we can. Although NO<sub>2</sub> levels in the area are not sufficiently high to be causing immediate health effects, they are at levels that could result in health issues over the long term, for people who are exposed for sufficient periods of time and who already suffer from respiratory conditions, such as asthma, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) etc. The Council is currently in the process of formulating an Action Plan, which will identify measures that could help improve Air Quality in the area.

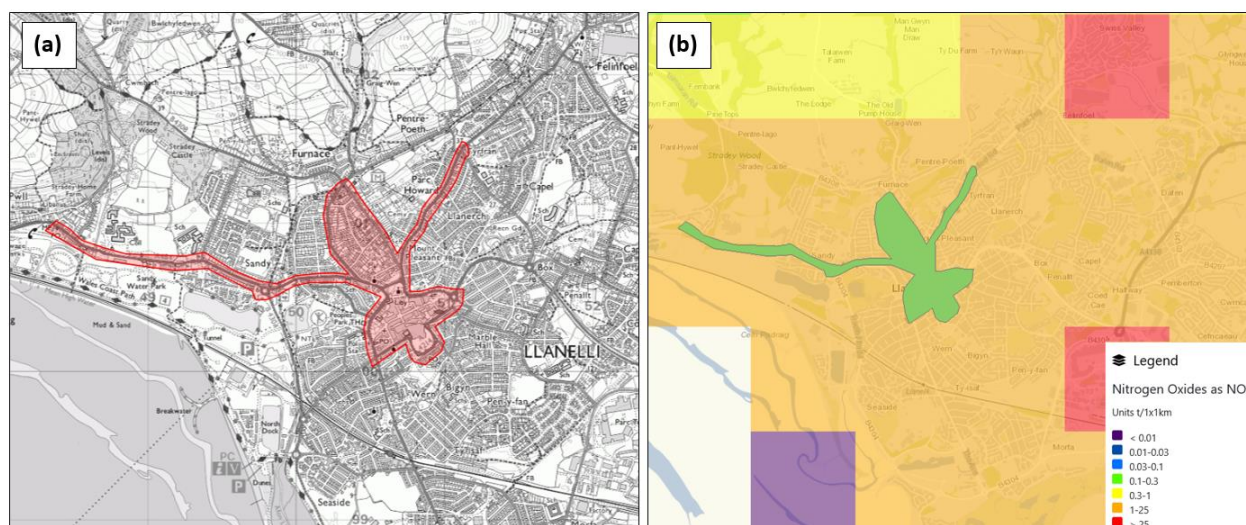


Figure 5 (a) Map of Llanelli AQMA with (b) modelled NO<sub>2</sub> levels (Source National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory 2016)

3.13 A range of air pollution emissions data and maps, with emissions broken down by sector is available from the web site of the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (<http://www.naei.org.uk/index.php>).

### Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the LDP

Although new developments would have to comply with legislation controlling air pollution, development would take place in a piecemeal manner, without a coordinated approach or consideration of cumulative effects on the environment and air quality.

## 4. Climatic Factors

4.1 The former Carmarthenshire Climate Change Strategy, the current LDP and the Well Being Assessment for Carmarthenshire (2017) all recognise the vulnerabilities (and opportunities) that face the County in relation to climate change.

### Climate Change

4.2 Rising sea levels are anticipated to impact not only the 5,587 properties in Carmarthenshire already at risk of tidal and rising river level flooding, but additional properties along the county's coastal and river communities. Conversely potential impacts such as a rise in grassland productivity and extended tourist seasons are also likely to impact Carmarthenshire. It is important to harness the positive and mitigate the negative consequences all of these issues for the economic, environmental, cultural and social well-being of individuals and communities affected (Wallingford, 2012).

4.3 A horizon scanning approach allows for such scenarios to be explored in spatial terms. For example, settlements and commercial interests along the Carmarthenshire coastline may be increasingly susceptible to flooding from the sea. In addition, increased flooding within river valleys is likely to put increased numbers of properties and transportation infrastructure under threat from both out-of-bank flows and surface water run-off. Climate change may also create a shift in agricultural activity/productivity and vulnerable members of the community may be at increased risk from the increased likelihood of extremes of temperature.

The total carbon footprint of Wales is estimated at just over 34 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO<sub>2e</sub>). At the current population levels, this equates to 11.11 tCO<sub>2e</sub> per capita. Carmarthenshire's carbon footprint is 11.36 tCO<sub>2e</sub>, which is above the Welsh average.

4.4 In 2016, 941 megawatts of domestic electricity and gas were consumed within Carmarthenshire. However, this represented a decrease by 4.9% since 2012. In addition in 2015, total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Carmarthenshire were 1212.7 kilotonnes. This represents an 8.3% since 2011. Most recent figures (2016) show that total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for Carmarthenshire were 1,162 kilotonnes (Figure 6). Total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per head in Carmarthenshire are estimated at 6.6 tonnes. This figure has also decreased by 8.3% since 2011.

Carmarthenshire has three large industrial installations which currently collectively emit approximately 57 kilotonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum (Figure 7). However, this is comparatively low compared to vehicular use of A roads and the electricity use of the industry and commercial sector, which emits 260 kilotonnes and 160 kilotonnes respectively (Figure 6).

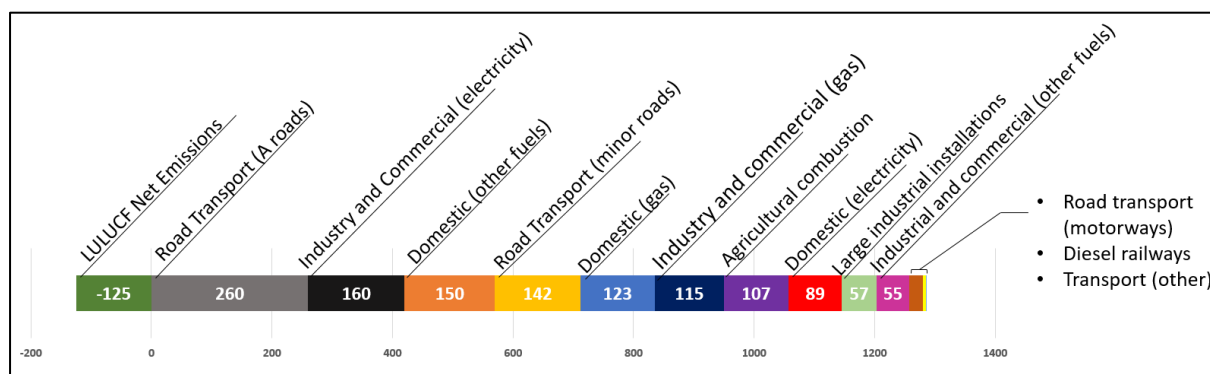


Figure 6 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Carmarthenshire by sector for 2016 in kilotonnes. Data from <http://naei.beis.gov.uk/>

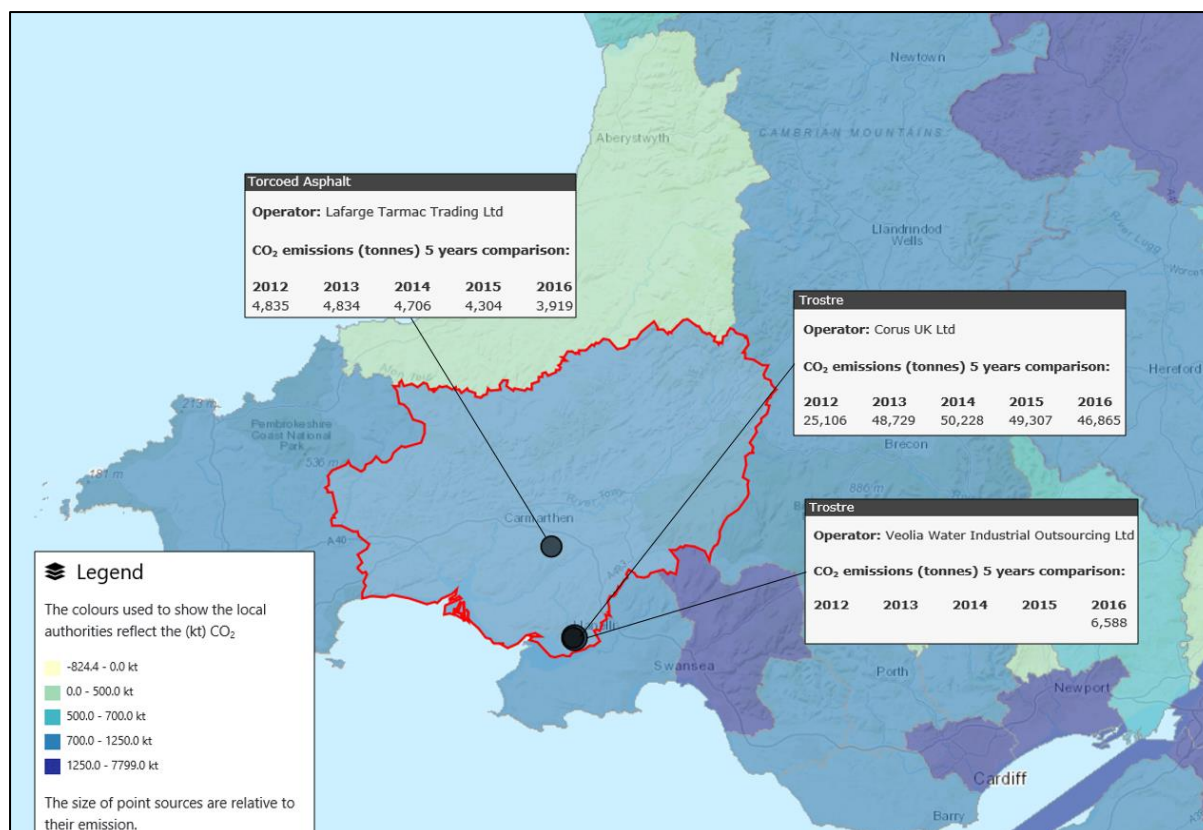


Figure 7 Total carbon emissions for 2016 by local authority. Points show large industrial installations and details of their carbon emissions from 2012-2016. Data from <http://naei.beis.gov.uk/>

4.5 The climate change risk assessment for Wales (January 2012) presents the findings of an assessment of climate change risks for Wales, which has been completed as part of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA).

4.6 From the results of this assessment, the potentially most significant threats for Wales from climate change appear to be:

- Changes in soil conditions, biodiversity and landscape as a result of warmer, drier summers.
- Reductions in river flows and water availability during the summer, affecting water supplies and the natural environment;
- Increases in flooding both on the coast and inland, affecting people, property and infrastructure;
- Changes in coastal evolution including erosion and coastal squeeze, affecting beaches, intertidal areas and other coastal feature;
- Changes in species including a decline in native species, changes in migration patterns and increases in invasive species;
- Increases in the risk of pests and diseases affecting agriculture and forestry. The risk to livestock is a particular concern.

4.7 The potentially most significant opportunities identified for Wales from climate change appear to be:

- Increases in grass yields, allowing a potential increase in livestock production; and
- Increases in tourist numbers and a longer tourist season.

4.8 As a largely rural county, Carmarthenshire may be disproportionately affected by both positive and negative impacts of climate change as explored in the Climate Change Risk SA – SEA Scoping Report – Appendix B

Assessment for Wales. By 2050 winter rainfall is predicted to increase by 14% and summer rainfall to decrease by 16% which may increase the likelihood of flooding in the county, particularly in inland rural areas already subject to flooding as a result of surface run off water. Even modest flooding events can significantly impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of the individuals affected for many years after the actual flooding event and the worst effects of flooding are often felt by the more vulnerable in society.

## Renewable Energy

Under European Union targets<sup>1</sup>, the UK has a legally-binding target to generate 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. The UK Renewable Energy Strategy<sup>2</sup> sets out the UK Government’s vision to ensure that this target is met. The Welsh Government is committed to playing its part by delivering an energy programme which contributes to reducing carbon emissions as part of its approach to tackling climate change<sup>3</sup>. Current government policy and guidance is centred on reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in an attempt to slow down climate change, and producing electricity from renewable sources is considered to be part of the solution. The planning system has an important role to play in supporting, encouraging and facilitating renewable energy schemes.

The Welsh Government’s targets for renewable energy were set out in TAN 8: Renewable Energy 2005. TAN 8 provides advice on areas including onshore renewable energy technologies, design and energy and describes how renewable energy should be accounted for as part of development plans, development management and monitoring processes. Seven Strategic Search Areas (SSAs) were identified as being suitable for large scale (over 25MW) onshore renewable wind energy (Figure 8).

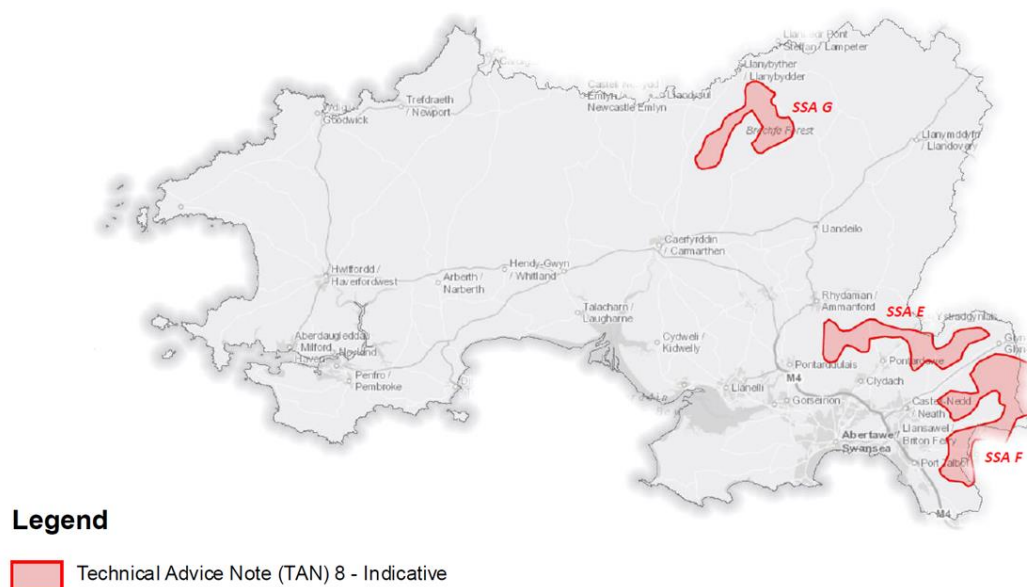


Figure 8 Strategic Search Areas in the South West Area as identified in TAN 8: Renewable Energy. Source South West Area Statement, NRW.

SSA G: Brechfa Forest lies within Carmarthenshire, and has been identified for large-scale wind power. Within SSA:G, Brechfa Forest West Wind Farm (BFWWF) is fully operational, with 28 turbines generating 57.4MW. In addition, Brechfa Forest East Wind Farm (BFEWF) gained planning consent in 2013, consisting of 12 turbines (3 turbines on 3rd party land) with the potential to generate 24-36MW. NRW is currently working on the best way forward for



realising this development. Alltwalis Wind Farm is also operates within the SSA, having an installed generating capacity of 23MW from 10 turbines.

As well as Brechfa, the County also has a small part of the Pontardawe Strategic Search Area (SSA E) within its area. Mynydd y Betws windfarm currently operates within the SSE: E, generating 34MW from 15 turbines.

## Ecological Footprint

4.9 Put simply, an ecological footprint can be defined as a measurement of sustainability. The ecological footprint is essentially an accounting system that recognises the impact of every good and service purchased by taking into account all of the energy and resources used to make the product. The added value of measurement is the emphasis placed on exploring where reductions can be made through policies which influence consumption patterns and behaviour.

4.10 The chart below depicts the ecological footprint of Wales by theme<sup>4</sup>. It can be clearly noted that Housing (20%), Food (28%) and Transport (11%) take up a sizable proportion of the overall figure. These are all issues that a land use plan can make a contribution towards addressing. The ecological footprint per person for Wales according to 2015 figures was 3.28 global hectares which is approximately 1.2 to 1.8 times the global average<sup>5</sup>.

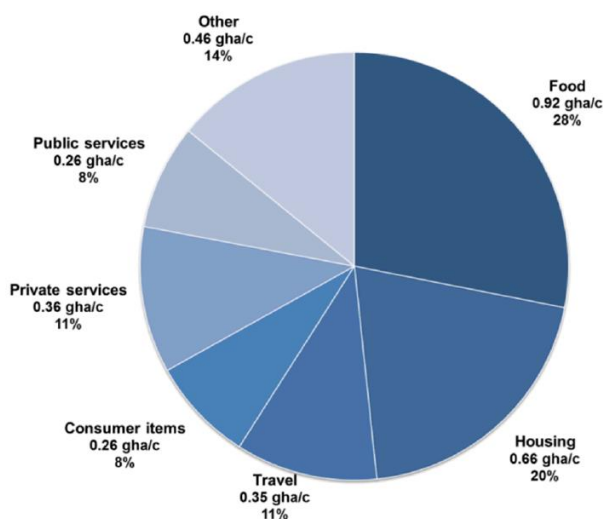


Figure 9 Ecological footprint of Wales by consumption theme<sup>4</sup>

Carmarthenshire's ecological footprint is estimated at 3.36 global hectares per person, which is above the Welsh average (Figure 10). This variation at a local level is influenced by a number of factor including income, demographics, patterns of household expenditure and the energy performance of housing stock.

<sup>4</sup> <https://gweddill.gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/150724-ecological-footprint-of-wales-report-en.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Global average figure of 2.7 gha/c in 2007 published by the Global Footprint Network (GFN). Note that the GFN methodology is different to the one we have used, so the results cannot be directly compared. GFN's figure for the UK in 2007 is 4.9 gha/c.

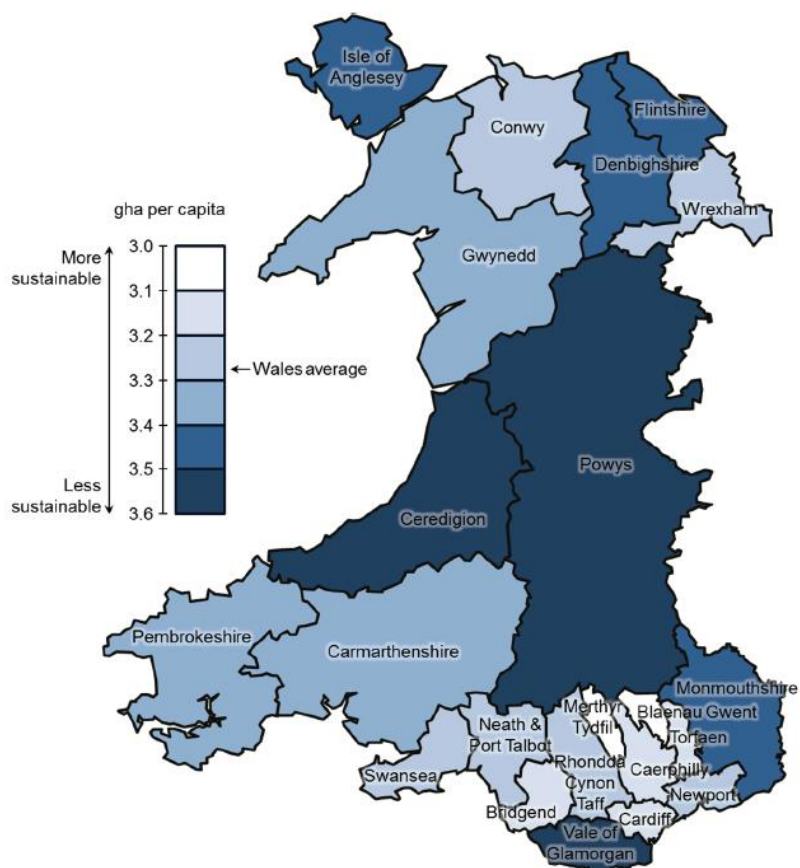


Figure 10 Ecological footprint of Wales by region<sup>4</sup>

### Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the LDP

With no LDP in place, development would be piecemeal and uncoordinated. Strategic planning in the form of the LDP allows resilience to be built into developments in terms of the materials, design, and siting (e.g. in relation to flood risk) to reduce the risks from the effects of climate change. Furthermore, measures which can help reduce the risks of climate change, such as promotion of renewable energy and sustainable use of resources can be co-ordinated.

## 5. Water

### Water Framework Directive

5.1 The Water Framework Directive (WFD) establishes a framework for the protection of surface waters (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) and groundwaters. Its purpose is to prevent deterioration and improve the status of aquatic ecosystems, promote sustainable water use, reduce pollution of groundwater and contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts.

5.2 The Directive requires the water quality/quantity of our rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuaries and coastline is assessed using ecological (fish, invertebrates, plants etc.) and chemical (nutrients, pesticides, etc.) monitoring.

5.3 Waterbodies are assigned a status of health which is represented by colours on the map. Water bodies, that are classified as 'Bad', 'Poor' or 'Moderate' are failing the EU Water Framework Directive standards and these waterbodies will need to improve to at least 'Good' ecological status by 2027.

5.4 Overall water quality in the County has been improving with the majority of rivers reaching moderate to good ecological status under the water framework directive. Many of the waterbodies within the wider Tywi catchment, in the east of the county are moderate quality due to a legacy of historic metal mining. This often coincides with areas of extensive conifer plantations in the steeper slopes of the upland, many of these are also designated acid sensitive catchments due to their low natural buffering capacity.

5.5 More intensive agriculture in the valley bottoms have often compromised gains in water quality. This is especially true in catchments dominated by intensive dairy production. In addition to their regulatory role NRW locally is actively working with stakeholders to improve ecological and water quality across all water bodies including the Carmarthen Bay and estuaries.

5.6 Our EU designated bathing waters are monitored from May to September for contamination from faecal indicator organisms. Bathing waters are classified annually according to the quality of the water (Excellent, Good, Sufficient, Poor). At the end of the 2015 season the beaches were classified and all designated bathing waters in Wales met the sufficient standard or above. As of 2018, Carmarthenshire is home to one Blue Flag beach in Cefn Sidan Beach.

5.7 The following maps and charts have been extracted from the Local Evidence Pack: Carmarthenshire 4/10/2013 as produced by Natural Resources Wales and provide further information in relation to Water Framework Directive Classifications for the County. Further reference should be had to the content of the Pack in relation to Water Quality considerations. Updated maps have also been provided displaying the results from Cycle 2 of the WFD monitoring (2015).

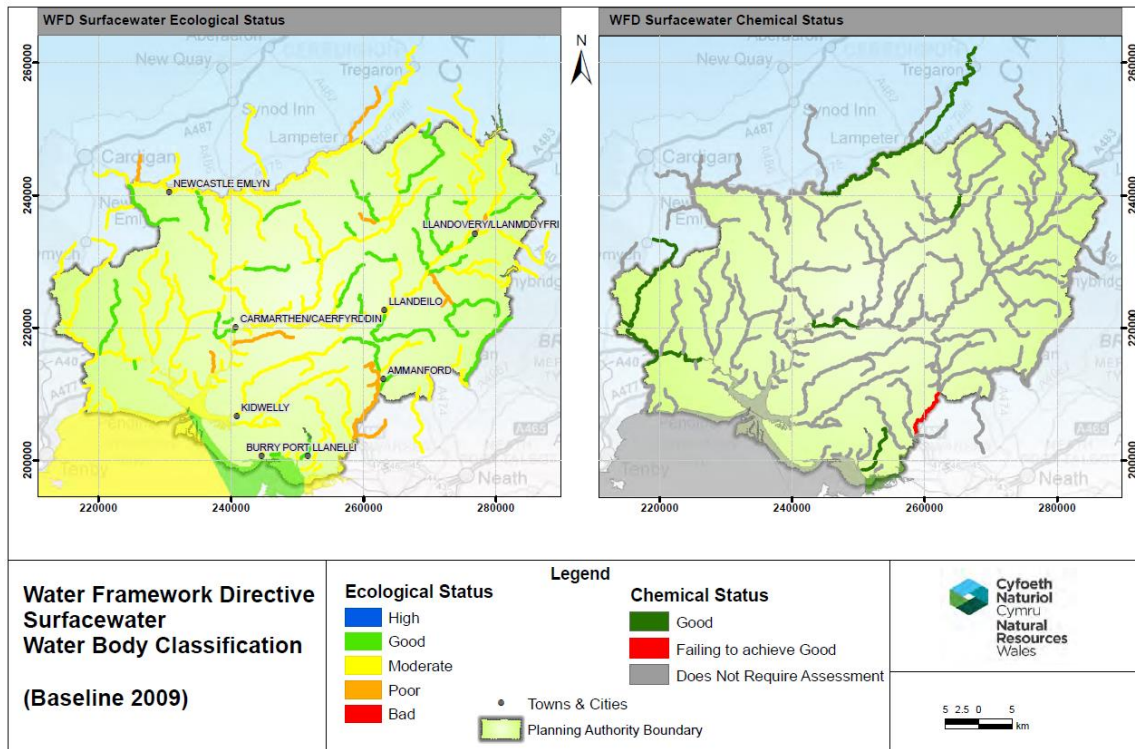


Figure 11 Water Framework Directive Surfacewater (River, transitional and coastal) Water Body Classification Cycle 1 (Baseline 2009)

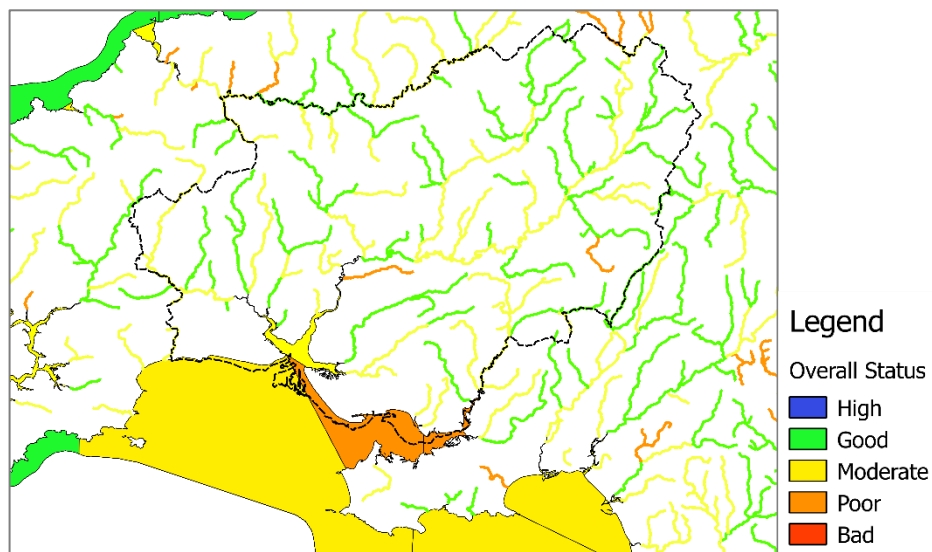


Figure 12 Water Framework Directive Surfacewater (River, transitional and coastal) Water Body Classification Cycle 2 (2014 – 2019)

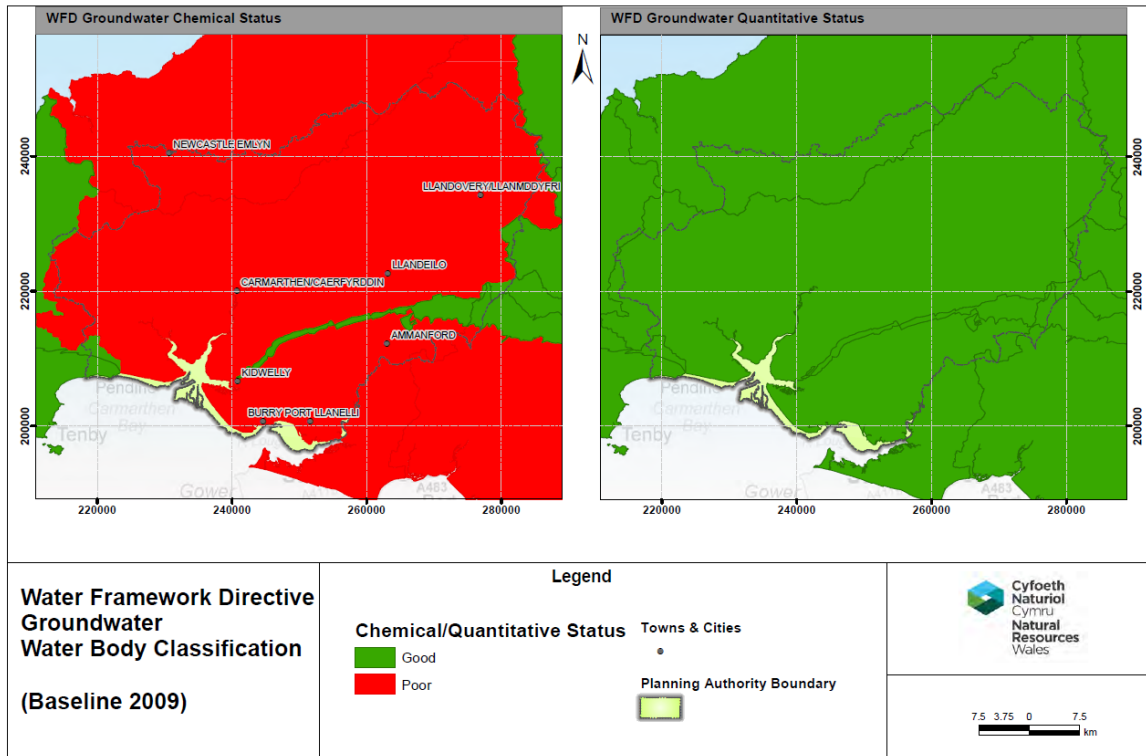


Figure 13 Water Framework Directive Groundwater Classification Cycle 1 (baseline 2009)

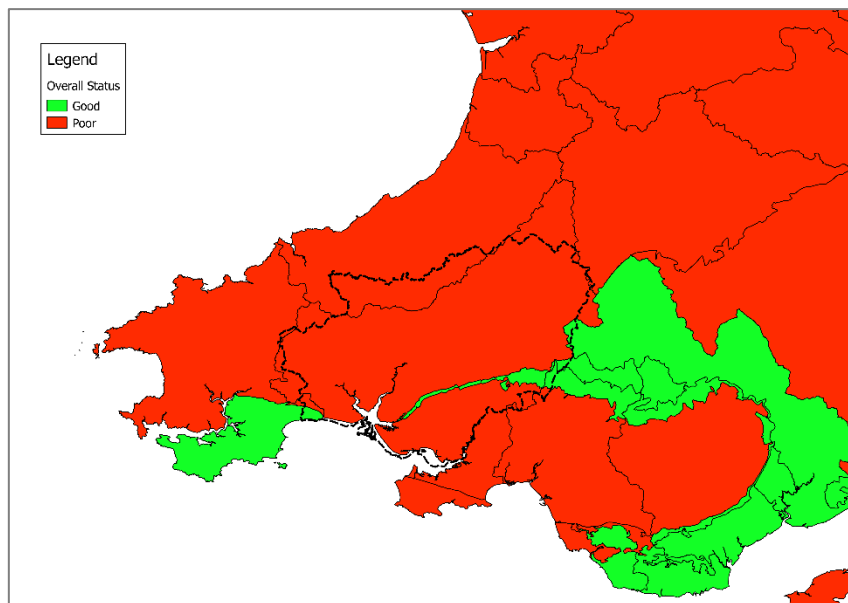


Figure 14 Water Framework Directive Groundwater Classification Cycle 2 (2014 – 2019)

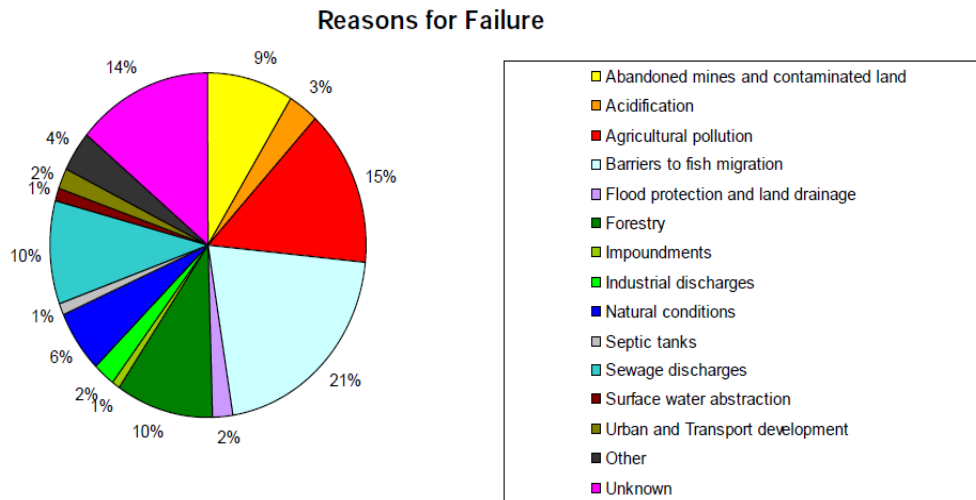


Figure 15 Water Framework Directive: Reasons for Failure for Water Bodies in Carmarthenshire 2009

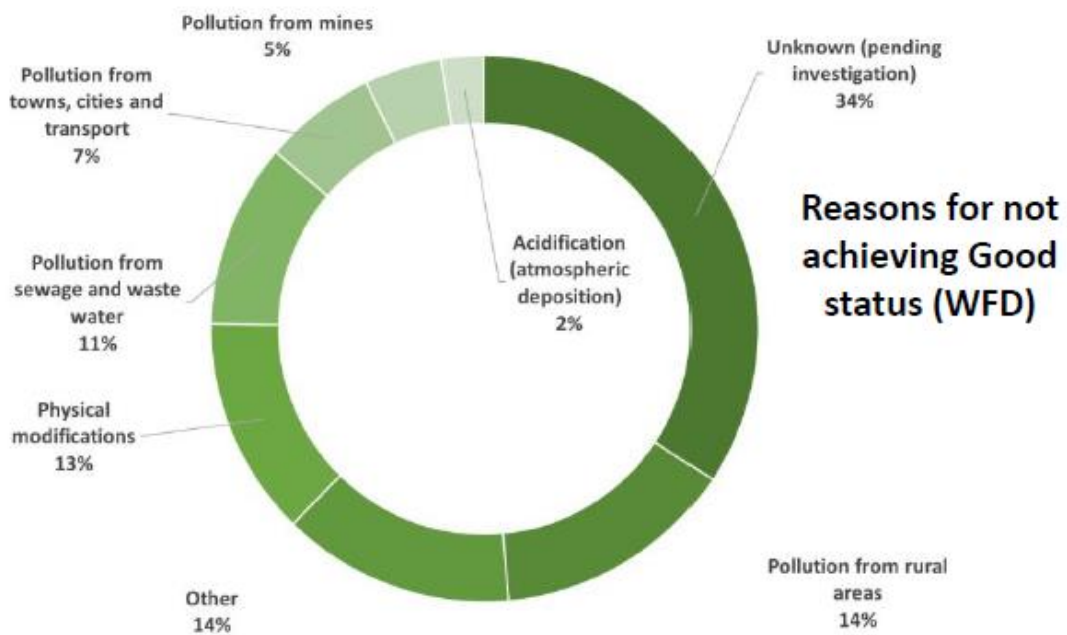


Figure 16 Water Framework Directive: Reasons for failure in the South-west area (taken from <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/area-statements/south-west-wales-area-statement/?lang=en>)

## Water Supply

5.8 The Dwr Cymru Welsh Water Resources Management Plan (2014) covers a 25 year period, from 2015 to 2040 (also termed the 'planning period') and considers what needs to be done to ensure a sustainable and affordable balance between the amount of water we take from the environment and the amount of water we need for our daily lives.

5.9 It is vitally important for a water company to understand its capability to supply water and the demand for water from customers and business within its supply area. The comparison is termed the Supply Demand Balance (SDB).

5.10 The Tywi Conjunctive Use System is the largest WRZ in South West Wales, extending in the east from the Vale of Glamorgan to west of Carmarthen and stretching northwards past Llanwytrd Wells.

5.11 In relation to Carmarthenshire, the Tywi Gower zone is shown to be in surplus. However Pembrokeshire is shown to be in deficit (Figure 17).



Figure 17 Water Resource Zone Supply Demand Position - Red indicates deficit, Green indicates surplus

## Flood Risk

5.12 Flood risk within Carmarthenshire affects a range of settlements and parts of the County through both fluvial and tidal inundation. Interactive flood risk maps are available on the website of Natural Resources Wales (<http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/flooding-and-water/>).

Llanelli is the community with the highest flood risk in the Carmarthen Bay and Gower flood risk management catchment and is one of the top 50 highest risk communities in Wales. The community covers a large geographic area and is densely populated. The primary risk is from the watercourses that intersect the town. The rivers Dafen, Lliediand Dulais all pose

flood risk, these watercourses have been significantly altered as the town has developed. Flood walls and embankments help to mitigate the risk of flooding in some places.

The river Taf is predominantly a rural catchment, the main areas of flood risk are in Whitland and St Clears, these communities have a long history of flooding. Flood alleviation schemes in the towns have afforded some protection though flood risk still remains. In the vast river Towy catchment, many of the dispersed communities have some risk of flooding and the communities of Llandovery and Llandeilo are noted as having the highest flood risk.

5.13 The map below shows the different flood risk if there were no flood defences. These are: Flood Zone 3 – High probability of flooding. Land assessed as having a greater than 1% probability of flooding (or from the sea of greater than 0.5%) in any year. Flood zone 2 – Medium probability of flooding – 1% - 0.1%. Or annual probability of sea flooding (0.5% - 0.1%) in any year.

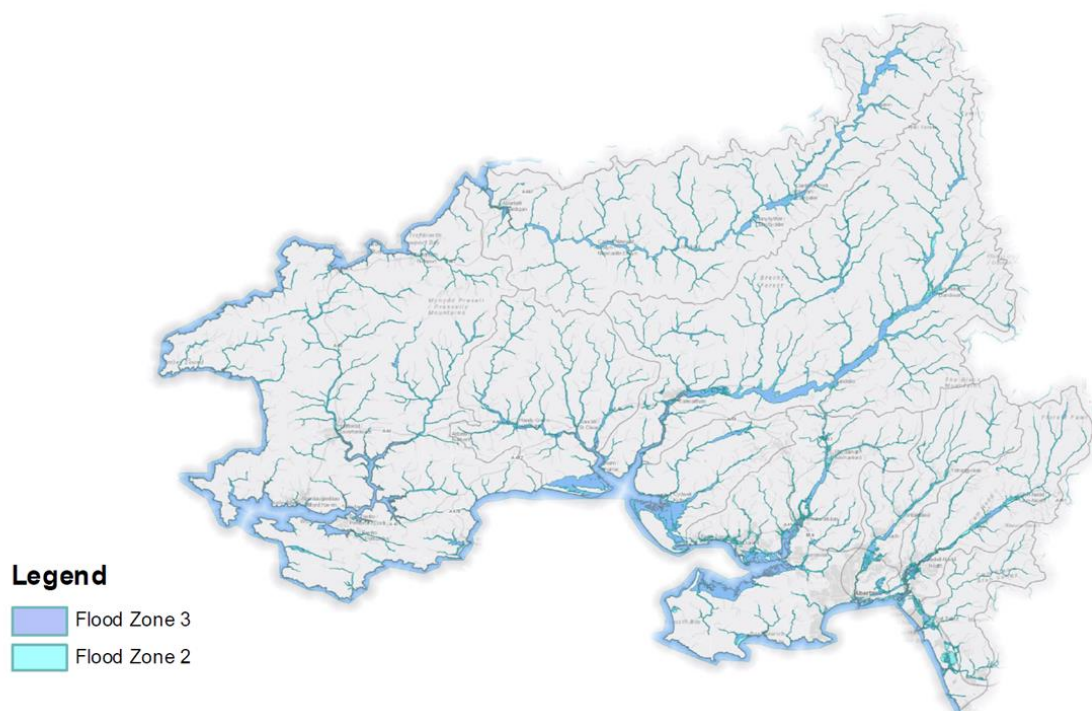


Figure 18 Flood risk zones 2 and 3 for the South West Area. Source: <https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/>

### Drainage Infrastructure

Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) has a duty under Section 94 of the Water Industry Act 1991 to accept wastewater from new development when connection to the mains sewer system is viable. To this end, if additional capacity is required in the existing systems they are legally obliged to provide it through their normal funding mechanisms.

There are well documented issues with the sewerage infrastructure draining into the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Site (CBEEMS) in the Burry Inlet. This area is one of the most heavily designated waterbodies in Wales and must achieve the requirements set by European Directives including the European Habitats Water Framework (WFD) and Shellfish Directives (SD). The CBEEMS is currently failing to achieve the required standards under both the WFD and SD, while the sewerage system has not met the standards required under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD). There is a potential issue under the HRA if it is assumed that either DCWW can simply accept any associated increases in wastewater irrespective of limitations in capacity, or that such capacity issues can



simply be resolved by NRW consenting options which avoid adverse effects on European sites.

There are issues with the capacity of the drainage infrastructure network throughout the County and measures may be required to ensure that there is sufficient capacity within the waste water infrastructure network. This is particularly important for the Llanelli Coastal area, in order to reduce the number of combined sewer overflow discharges taking place into the CBEEMS. The responsibility for the sewerage infrastructure in the County rests with DCWW as the statutory sewage undertakers, and will need to be addressed in DCWW's long term Asset Management Plans (AMP). The AMP5 Improvement Scheme ran from April 2010 to March 2015, the current AMP, AMP 6, runs from April 2015 to March 2020 and AMP7 will run from April 2020 to March 2025. If developers wish to accelerate the process of achieving necessary reinforcement works mechanisms are in place to allow for this.

Table 2 below summarises the growth allocations provided for in the Plan against the receiving treatment works they connect to. The Works shaded in yellow discharge into the CBEEMS.

*Table 2 Receiving wastewater treatment works for the allocations in the rLDP*

WWTW	Number of Dwellings

Because of the previous issues with the Llanelli WWTW, the Council has since 2009 taken a precautionary approach to processing planning applications for new development in the catchment of the Llanelli WWTW, entering into joint agency agreement or Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with Swansea Council, DCWW, Environment Agency Wales (EAW) and Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) now Natural Resources Wales (NRW) regarding a common approach to ensuring water quality in the CBEEMS.

The agreed approach centres on removing surface water from the waste water treatment infrastructure and thereby increasing the capacity for the treatment of foul water (e.g. via planning conditions on new development seeking Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and achievement of a betterment/ enhancement factor). The Council has also part funded an improvement scheme at Llannant WWTW, which has facilitated the removal of sufficient phosphorous.

The joint agency agreement (MoU) remains referenced in the Plan as it represents a commitment to joint working, which is necessary for the adequate provision of drainage infrastructure. The MoU will need to be updated to reflect changes in circumstances since the original MoU was agreed.

### **Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the LDP**

If the LDP was not in place, the WFD would still have to be adhered to. However without the Plan, development would be ad-hoc piecemeal and it would be difficult to coordinate, monitor and provide the necessary supporting infrastructure. The in-combination effects of development may not be assessed and the utility providers may find it hard to plan for growth and expansion in their networks without a 15 year LDP to inform them where future development is proposed. This may result in delays in bringing development forward and negative impacts on water quality, for example in the CBEEMS.

## 6 Material Assets

### Highways and Transportation

6.1 Carmarthenshire is located on the A40, A477 and A48 trunk roads with connections to the west providing links to the Irish ferry ports, which with the M4 forms part of the Trans-European Network. The east-west link is further emphasised by the West Wales railway line which extends from Swansea (and the wider rail network) through to Pembrokeshire via Carmarthen and Llanelli. The West Wales line also forms part of the Trans-European Network linking to and from the Irish Ferry Ports in Pembrokeshire. The Heart of Wales railway line extending from Swansea through eastern parts of the County through to Shrewsbury offers additional transport benefits albeit based on a limited service.

6.2 The principal highway network within the Plan area includes the A48 trunk road leading to and from the M4 motorway and its connections through South East Wales and beyond. The A40 and A483 trunk roads offer links through the County to Mid and North Wales as well as to the Midlands and the North of England. Further access to the north of the County and beyond into Central and North Wales is provided via the A484 and the A485. The County is also served by a number of A-roads as well as numerous B-classified roads each representing important components of the highway network (Figure 19).

6.3 The following table illustrates the length (km) of the road network in Carmarthenshire, which in itself represents some 44% of the regional network, and illustrates the amount of the County accessed by B and lower classification roads, which is in part a reflection of the rural extent of the County and emphasises the challenges to delivering a sustainable integrated strategy for the area.

<b>Carmarthenshire Road Network – Road Length (km)</b>	
M4	5
Class A (Trunk)	147
Class A (County)	247
Class B and C	1,579
Minor Surfaced	1,496
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,474</b>

Source: Adopted Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan

6.4 In relation to car availability within Carmarthenshire as at 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011 only 18.8% of households within the County did not have access to a car or van whilst 43.5%, 27.6% and 10.2% had access to one, two or three (or more) cars or vans respectively<sup>6</sup>.

6.5 In terms of traffic volumes the County has in recent years seen a year on year increase since 2012 with the 2016 levels now at a level (2.00) which surpasses that of 2007 (1.94)<sup>7</sup>. Some 38% of this volume utilises the County's Trunk Road Network, with 34% of the volume through 'minor' classified roads, reflecting the rural nature of large parts of the County<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> People and vehicle licensing and ownership – Welsh Government 2012

<sup>7</sup> Volume of road traffic by local authority and year (StatsWales)

<sup>8</sup> Volume of road traffic by local authority and road classification (StatsWales)

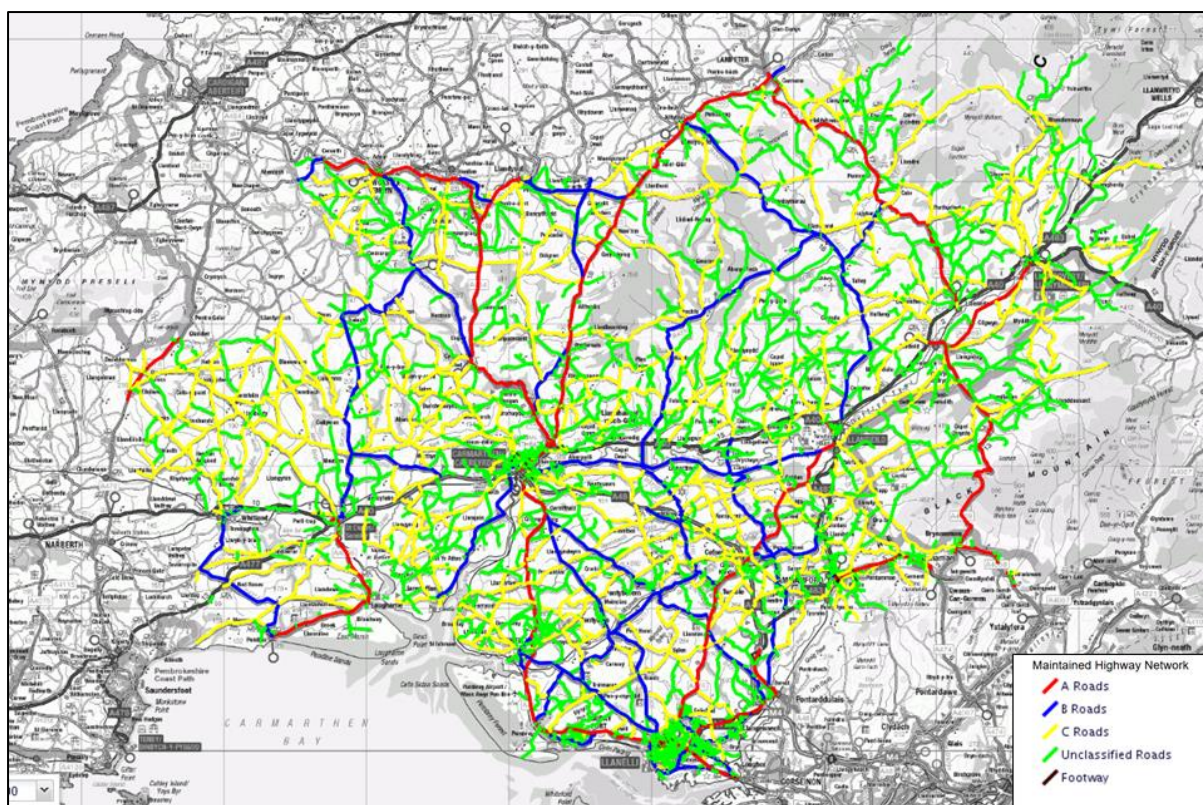


Figure 19 Carmarthenshire Road Network<sup>9</sup>

## Waste

6.6 Carmarthenshire falls within the South West Wales regional area for waste management. Industrial & commercial waste makes up the most significant proportion of the total controlled waste stream within the region – 252,000 tonnes of residual (non-recycled) waste produced in 2012. Controlled waste includes municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial waste, construction and demolition waste, hazardous waste and the controlled fraction of agricultural waste. 135,000 tonnes of residual construction and demolition waste was produced in 2012. More up to date data is available for municipal solid waste, of which 161,000 tonnes of residual waste was produced in the 2016/17 period. In terms of hazardous waste, the rates produced have generally remained at a similar level in recent years. Whilst Wales does not have any hazardous waste landfill sites, the country is well served by other types of facilities that deal with such waste. There is no recent data available for agricultural waste.

6.7 The proportion of municipal waste recycled or composted in Carmarthenshire for 2016/17 was 66.2%. This is above both the average for the SW West Wales region, 64.3% and the average for Wales of 63.8% (*StatsWales*). The reliance upon landfill for residual waste has been steadily decreasing over recent years from 30,022 tonnes in 2012/13 to 3,960 tonnes in 2016/17. However, in the most recent surveys, this has increased slightly to 17,523 tonnes, largely due to changes in the recycling market (Figure 20). This general trend towards increasing recycling rates and decreasing waste to landfill is an encouraging sign, and is in accordance with national targets as set out in the national waste strategy *Towards Zero Waste*.

<sup>9</sup> Data source Carmarthenshire County Council: <http://geodiscoverer/>

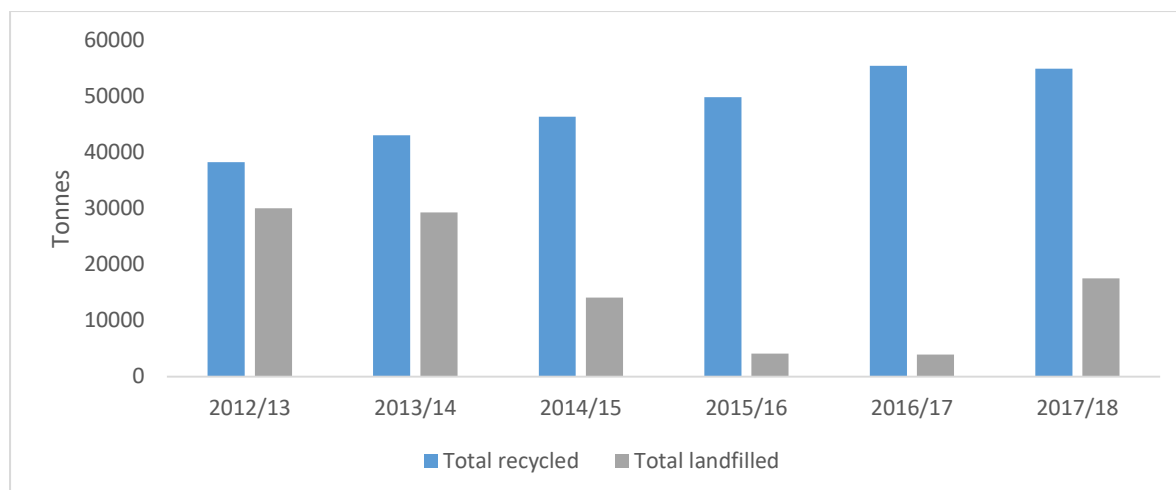


Figure 20 Annual management of waste management by method (in tonnes). Source: Stats Wales

6.8 According to Natural Resources Wales (2012), the SW Wales region has the highest preparation for re-use, recycling & composting rates for industrial & commercial waste (67%). However landfill was found to be the second highest method of waste management (21%). For commercial & industrial waste, Natural Resources Wales (2012) found that landfill was the predominant waste management method in SW Wales (57%) with recycling being second (31%).

6.9 Due to the decreasing amounts of waste going to landfill, the remaining void space for the region lies above the threshold set out in TAN21 (7 years). However, parts of the SW Wales region are reliant on utilising areas outside the region to cater for residual waste (including contracts with facilities abroad). There is a noticeable lack of alternative facilities to deal with residual waste within the region and this is an issue that will need to be monitored closely over the coming years.

### **Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the LDP**

If the LDP was not in place, National Policy and Legislation will require that proposed developments push waste up the hierarchy and regional collaboration between authorities. However identification of a residual waste facility if and when required would be difficult with a development plan in place.

## 7 Soils

### Soil Quality

7.1 In Wales as a whole, there is a high incidence of sensitive habitats exceeding critical loads with respect to acidification (acid deposition) and eutrophication (nutrient enrichment). Critical values represent levels above which pollutants are considered to cause significant harm with respect to acidification and eutrophication (National Assembly for Wales 2007b). It should be noted that the trends identified for acidification rates of sensitive habitats is likely to be associated with the fact that soils in upland areas have a poor neutralising capacity and are therefore more vulnerable to the effects of acidification (National Assembly for Wales 2007b).

7.2 In Wales, the area of habitats with exceedance of critical loads for eutrophication has decreased by less than 10% (98% to 90.3%) between 1995 and 2013, but the magnitude of the average exceedance has declined by 44%, from 15.8 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> in 1995 to 8.9 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> in 2013<sup>84</sup>. In Wales, the percentage area of habitats with exceedance of acidity critical loads (see NO<sub>x</sub>) has decreased from 90% in 1995 to 74% in 2013. Over the same time period the magnitude of the average acidity exceedance has reduced by 65% (from 1.36 keq ha<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> to 0.45 keq ha<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>).<sup>10</sup>

7.3 Data on critical loadings of nutrient nitrogen loads by nitrogen deposition (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology 2004) indicate that the degree of breaching of critical loads in soils is predicted to reduce, however that critical loadings will still be breached in parts of Carmarthenshire in 2010. Similarly, critical loadings by acid deposition in soils are predicted to decrease by 2010, though areas will remain where critical loads are still exceeded.

7.4 Soils are an important carbon sink, and therefore soil conservation can contribute to buffering the predicted effects of climate change.

### Geology

7.5 The solid and drift geology of the County can be split into a number of broad categories:

- The Silurian series - present in the northernmost part of the County.
- Surrounding the Silurian series is the Ordovician series which constitutes the dominant strata of the County.
- Old Red Sandstone is present and extends in a broad band from west to east in the central areas of the county.
- Carboniferous Limestone is present around Pendine and in a narrow band from Kidwelly in the south and extends eastwards to the north of Ammanford and into the Brecon Beacons National Park.
- Millstone Grit Series is also present in a narrow band and overlies the carboniferous limestone series.
- The middle and lower coal measures are present in the South East of the County.
- Alluvium is present in the River valleys of the Tywi, Teifi and Loughor as well as the low-lying coastal areas around Pendine, Pembrey and Llanelli.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/the-state-of-natural-resources-report-assessment-of-the-sustainable-management-of-natural-resources/?lang=en>

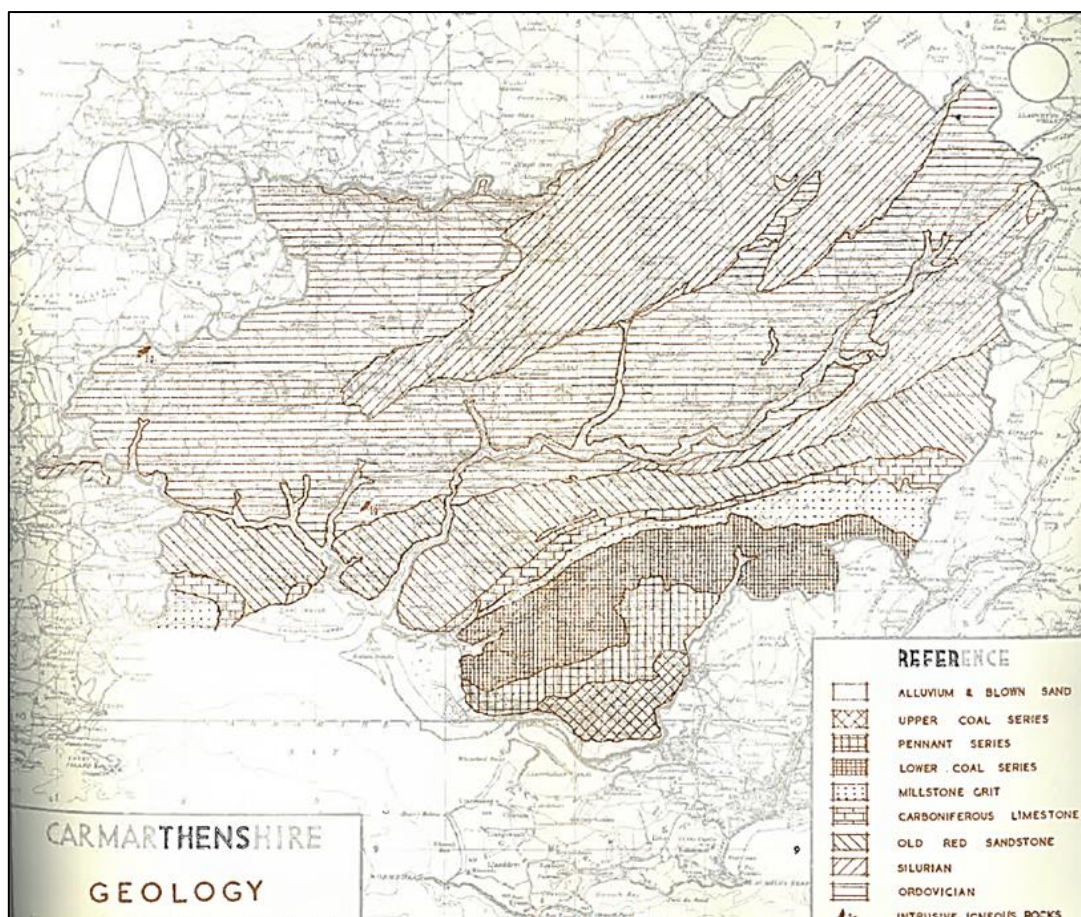


Figure 21 Geology of Carmarthenshire

### Geodiversity and Geoconservation

7.6 The importance of conserving sites which reflect the geodiversity of the UK landscape and natural environment is now recognised as being of major importance in the context of sustainable land-use planning and development. Such sites can provide access to key bedrock, superficial deposits and soil units which contain instructive evidence of previous periods of environmental change, including climate and land-use change; many chart the history of local mineral extraction and associated industrial development; others were, and remain, the only source for building stones that contribute to our architectural heritage.

### Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS)

7.7 RIGS are currently the most important places for Earth Science conservation outside statutorily protected land such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). RIGS form a network within a county or region of geological sites that are considered worthy of protection for their Earth Science importance. They are identified by locally developed criteria which may emphasise the local educational, historical and recreational resource rather than its national scientific significance which is the remit of SSSI status. RIGS form a network of second tier sites that supports the SSSI sites but which do not have statutory protection. However, the designation of RIGS is one way of recognising and therefore protecting important Earth science and landscape features through the local authority planning system for the future.

### RIGS within Carmarthenshire

7.8 The British Geological Survey (BGS) has provided RIGS data for Carmarthenshire as part of the South Wales RIGS audit. The data identifies 32 RIGS sites within the SE part of the County. Further sites are known to have been evaluated in other parts of the County by the

South West Wales RIGS Group. The BGS will be consulted as part of the LDP review process in respect of any changes/updates to RIGS.

### **Hydrogeology**

7.9 Groundwater is a significant resource supplying base-flows to local rivers and wetlands. Historically it has been exploited for drinking water and commercial purposes. The carboniferous limestone formations comprise a major aquifer that bears water that can be used to supply large abstractions for public or other purposes.

7.10 Carboniferous limestone at Pendine is used for public water supply abstraction.

7.11 The Old Red Sandstone and Millstone Grit rock formations are minor aquifers and are locally important sources of groundwater, although faulting may reduce the effectiveness of these rocks as aquifers. The coal measures in the southeast of the county also constitute a minor aquifer.

7.12 The alluvium deposits along the Rivers Teifi, Tywi and Loughor are minor aquifers. In the Teifi, the alluvium gravel deposits are used extensively for public supply and agricultural purposes.

### **Agricultural Land Classification**

7.13 According to the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) data available, there is no land of the highest grades (Grade 1 and Grade 2) present within Carmarthenshire. A patchwork of Grade 3 land is situated towards the south and southeast of the county following the Tywi river valley, stretching from Llandovery in the east, through Llangadog, Llandeilo and Carmarthen. The majority of land in Carmarthenshire is classified as Grade 4 land, with a small proportion of Grade 5 land situated towards the northeast of the County.

### **Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the LDP**

Minerals Technical Advice Notes 1 and 2 require mineral resources to be safeguarded on LDP Proposal Maps and that areas where coal working would not be acceptable should also be mapped. In the absence of the LDP, these resources would not be mapped or safeguarded.

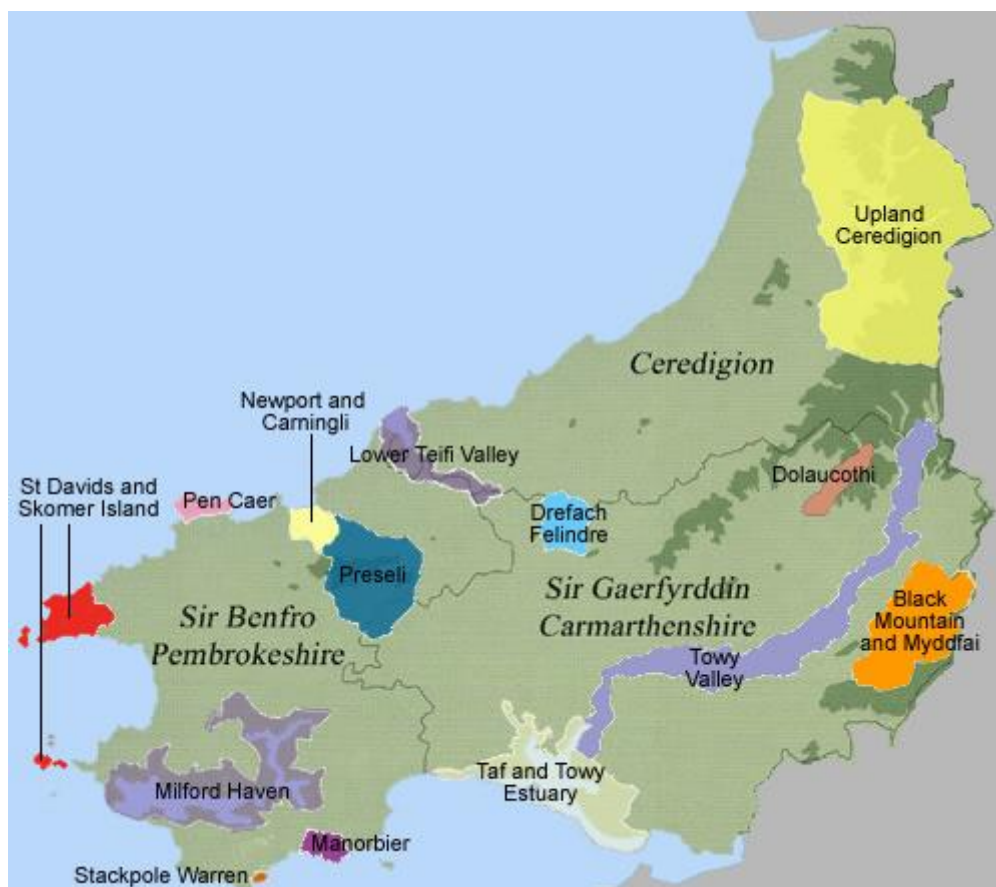
## 8. Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment.

8.1 Given the often large distances between regional centres in Carmarthenshire, towns and villages have historically developed distinctive local identities and cultures, based around industrial and agricultural heritage.

### Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest

8.2 There are seven Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest that fall wholly or partly within Carmarthenshire:-

- Tywi Valley, Myddfai and Black Mountain
- Tywi Valley
- Preseli
- Dolaucothi
- Taf and Tywi Estuary
- Drefach / Felindre
- Lower Teifi Valley



Source: Dyfed Archaeological Trust (<http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/>)

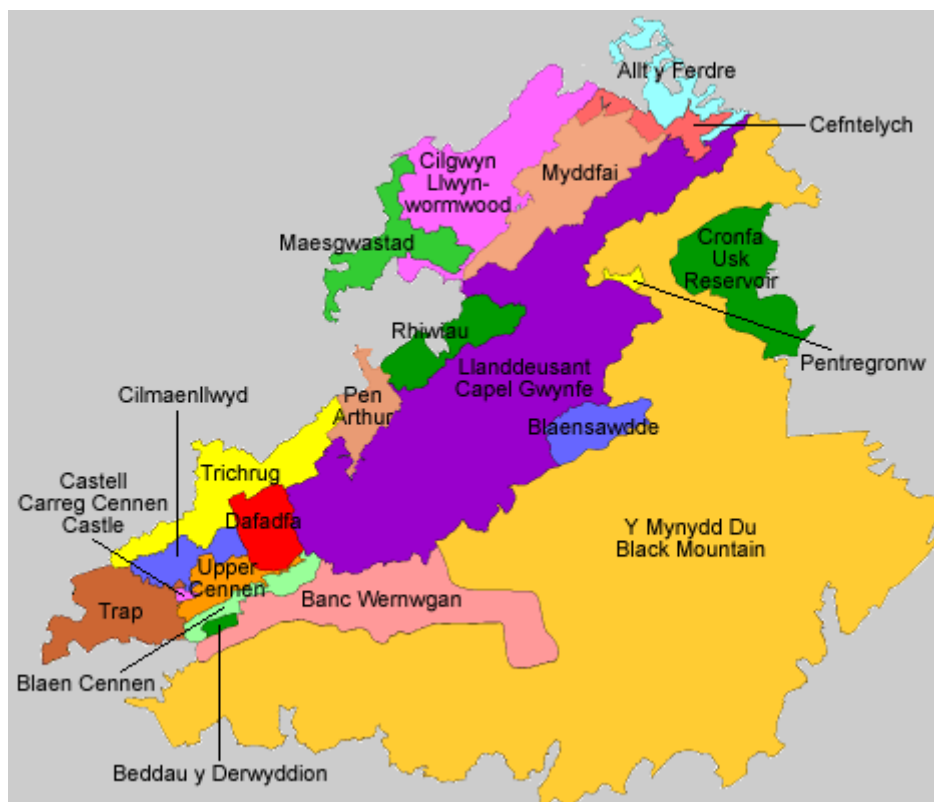
8.3 PPW states that: “In preparing their development plans, local planning authorities should take account of the register of historic parks and gardens in Wales and they should develop locally specific policies that will contribute to their protection and enhancement. Similarly local planning authorities should also take into account areas included in the register of historic landscapes in Wales and where it is considered appropriate to do so, develop locally specific policies that will contribute to their conservation<sup>11</sup>.”

<sup>11</sup> Planning Policy Wales (Edition 9) – Paragraph 6.4.12  
SA – SEA Scoping Report – Appendix B  
July 2018



8.4 Further details in respect of the above Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest and their historic landscape characterisations is set out below.

### Tywi Valley, Myddfai and Black Mountain



Source: Dyfed Archaeological Trust (<http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/>)

8.5 **Trap** character area consists of enclosed land of small irregular enclosures and pockets of larger regular enclosures. The settlement pattern is of dispersed houses and farms with a cluster of 19th century and modern dwellings at Trap.

**Upper Cennen** character area lies in the upper Cennen valley which has heavily wooded steep slopes, and enclosed land with dispersed farms on flatter land.

**Beddau y Derwyddon** character area is a small area of rough and improved pasture surrounded by a dry-stone wall separating unenclosed moorland from lower lying enclosed and settled land.

**Dafadfa** character area is situated on gentle north-facing slopes and consists of improved pasture divided into fairly regular medium-sized fields. The settlement pattern is one of widely dispersed farms. Farmhouses and outbuildings are mostly 19th century in date and stone-built.

**Blaensawdde** character area lies in the upper Sawdde valley at the foot of the Black Mountain. It consists of large dispersed farms, small- to medium-sized fields and woodland. Farmhouses mostly date to the 18th- and 19th-century and are associated with a wide range of outbuildings.

**Cilgwyn-Llwynwormwood** character area contains several former estates. Some of the mansions survive, but the main influence on the historic character by the estates was the creation of a 'parkland' landscape.

**Rhiwiau** character area lies across a ridge. Though formerly enclosed, many of the old banks and hedges are now derelict and the landscape has an open appearance. There are no settlements.

**Pen Arthur Plantation** character area lies across a high ridge and the valley sides of the Afon Sawdde. It comprises of 20th century forestry which has been planted over former fields. Dwellings survive in small clearings in the plantation.

**Trichrug** character area lies across a ridge which rises out of an area of rich farmland. Though formerly enclosed, many of the hedges and dry-stone wall boundaries have broken down and the area is now a patchwork of improved pasture, rough grazing, moorland and conifer plantations.

**Myddfai** character lies in an open valley and consists of dispersed farms and fairly regular fields of pasture. The village of Myddfai with its medieval church provides a focus for the area.

**Llanddeusant-Capel Gwynfe** character area consists of rolling enclosed farmland, dispersed farms and scattered deciduous woodland which fringes open moorland of the Black Mountain.

**Cefntelych** character area lies across a low ridge and consists of improved pasture which has been divided into large fields. Hedges to the fields are now mostly derelict, giving an unenclosed appearance to the landscape.

**Maes-gwastad** character area lies across the valley bottom of the Afon Brân and comprises of large fields of improved pasture which are divided by well-kept hedges, dispersed farms, but very little woodland or trees.

**Pentregronw** character area lies on steep southwest-facing slopes on the edge of the Black Mountain. Though formerly enclosed by dry-stone walls and banks, this area is rapidly reverting to moorland. A deserted farmstead is situated here.

**Allt y Ferdre** character area lies across hills and very steep valley sides. It is entirely composed of woodland, both old deciduous and 20th century conifer plantations.

**Glasfynydd Forest - Usk Reservoir** character area consists of a large 20th century conifer plantation and a 20th century reservoir. Both were established over what was mainly unenclosed moorland.

**Banc Wernwgan - Foel Fraith Quarries** character area occupies the northern edge of the Black Mountain. The land is unenclosed moorland. The remains of the limestone quarrying industry are obvious elements of the historic landscape.

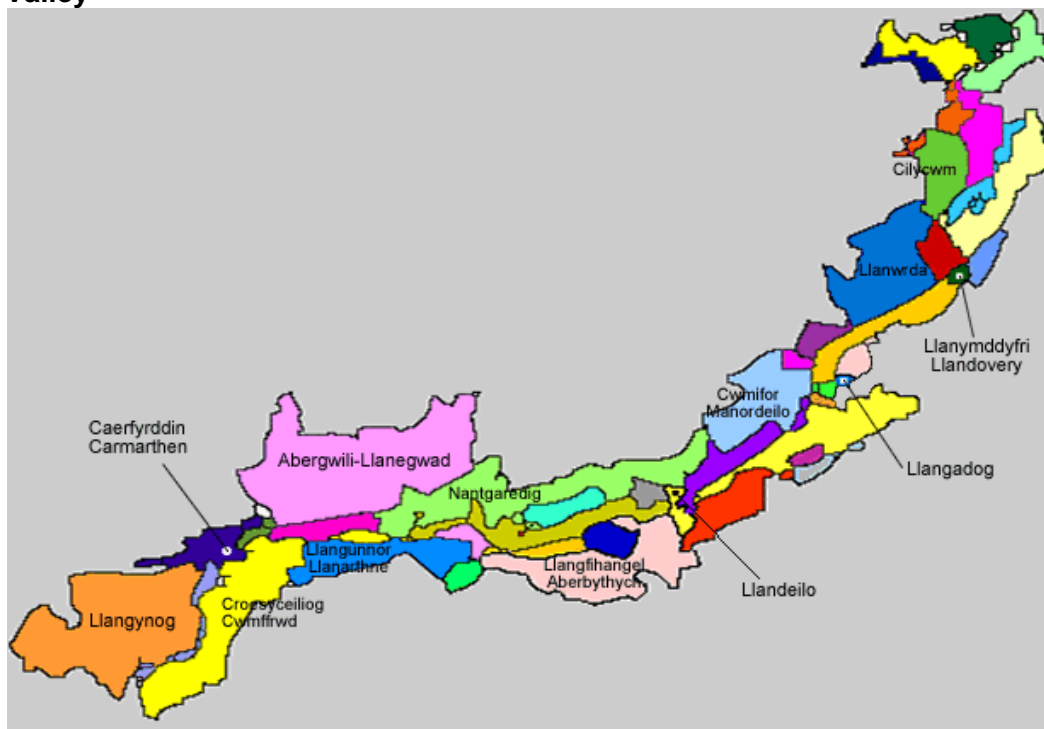
**The Black Mountain - Y Mynydd Ddu** character area is entirely open moorland. It includes the summits of Bannau Sir Gar/Fan Brycheiniog at over 800m, but it mostly consists of rough grazing and blanket peats between 250m and 600m.

**Cilmaenllwyd** character area consists of dispersed farms and cottages, and fairly regular fields of improved pasture. Boundaries comprise banks and hedges. Farmhouses and other buildings mostly date to the 19th century.

**Blaen Cennen** character area lies on the northern fringe of the Black Mountain and consists of dispersed farms and pasture fields.

**Carreg Cennen Castle** character area comprises of a craggy limestone hill on the summit of which is located the substantial remains of a medieval castle.

## Tywi Valley



Source: Dyfed Archaeological Trust (<http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/>)

**8.6 Llangynog** Llangain character area consists of rolling landscape of small irregular fields, woodland and plantations on steep valley sides and dispersed farms, with small scale modern residential development close to Carmarthen.

**Tywi Tidal Flood Plain** character area is subjected to regular flooding and consequently has few historic landscape components apart from drainage ditches and fences, and navigation aids in the channel of the Tywi.

**Carmarthen** character area comprises the whole of the county town, including the historic core, 20th century housing development and infrastructure.

**Ystrad Tywi: Carmarthen-Llandeilo** character area comprises of the flood plain of the River Tywi. Widely dispersed farms on islands of marginally higher ground, and distinctive hedgerow trees lend a parkland appearance to the landscape.

**Abergwili - Llanegwad Parish** character area lies on the northern side of the River Tywi and essentially consists of small irregular fields of improved pasture, deciduous woodland on steep valley sides and dispersed stone-built farms.

**Morfa Melyn** character area is that small portion of the flood plain of the River Tywi upstream of Carmarthen that is subjected to occasional tidal inundation. It essentially consists of open pasture, with few boundaries.

**Llangunnor - Llanarthne Parishes** character area lies on north-facing slopes on the south side of the Tywi valley and consists of small fields, woodland and dispersed small farms.

**Abergwili** character area consists of a village of mainly 18th- and 19th-century houses along the A40 road (now bypassed), the medieval church, the modern Bishop's Palace of St David's, the old palace (now Carmarthen Museum) and its parkland grounds, and modern residential development.

**Croesyceiliog - Cwmffrwd** character area is enclosed into medium-sized fields of improved pasture. Small stands of woodland are mainly confined to steep slopes. The ancient settlement pattern of dispersed farms is supplemented by more recent linear development along main roads that radiate out from Carmarthen.

**The National Botanic Garden of Wales** character area encompasses the old gardens and parkland of Middleton Hall. This landscape is currently undergoing restoration and renewal, including the construction of a large glasshouse.

**Llanarthne** character area is centred on Llanarthne village, which has an old core based on the medieval parish church, but contains much modern development, and includes the surrounding rich farmland and dispersed farms.

**Llanfihangel Aberbythych** character area essentially consists of rolling enclosed farmland, woodland on steep valley sides and dispersed farms. 19th- and 20th century residential development is restricted to small hamlets and linear development along main roads.

**Nantgaredig - Derwen Fawr** character area lies across low rolling hills on the north side of the Tywi valley and consists of large dispersed farms in a landscape of small- to medium-sized fields. Modern linear and nucleated development is concentrated along the A40 road which passes through the area.

**Llangathen** character area is centred on Llangathen church and associated settlement, and Aberglasney house and gardens which are currently being restored. The overall landscape is of enclosed pasture and dispersed farms.

**Golden grove/Gelli Aur** character area includes the mansion, gardens and park of Gelli Aur, conifer plantation, parts of which encroach across the former park, and the estate village of Llanfihangel Aberbythych.

**Allt Pant Mawr** character area consists of the heavily wooded slopes of the south side of the Tywi valley. Interspersed with the woodland are smallholdings and cottages set in a distinctive system of small fields.

**Dinefwr Park** character area essentially consists of the 18th- and 19th-century house, gardens and park of Dinefwr together with the castle. The house and most of the park are owned by the National Trust and retain many of their historic elements.

**Ystrad Tywi: Llandeilo - Llangadog** character area comprises the flood plain of the river. There are no settlements and no woodland, though the plain is divided into a rather loose field system of medium- to large-sized enclosures.

**Cwmifor - Manordeilo** character area lies across low rolling hills on the northern side of the Tywi valley. It consists of ancient settlement pattern of dispersed farms, enclosed pasture and small stands of woodland, with 19th- and 20th-century linear and nucleated settlement along the A40 road.

**Llandeilo** character area is urban in character. The historic core of the town which consists mainly of 18th- and 19th -century buildings is grouped close to the A483 road and around the parish church. Later 19th-century and 20th-century development lies outside the core.

**Allt Tregyb** character area lies on north-facing slopes of the Tywi valley and consists of deciduous woodland interspersed with small irregular fields and dispersed small farms, smallholdings and cottages.

**Felindre** character area comprises of a small nucleated settlement of mostly 19th and 20th century houses, outside of which lie several loosely dispersed smallholdings in an enclosed strip field system.

**Carreg-Sawdde Common** character area consists of an unenclosed common, in the centre of which lies a cluster of 19th- and 20th-century buildings - encroachments on to the common land.

**Llangadog**, character area, is centred on the medieval church, Church Street and a small 'square'. Buildings on the square are imposing and 18th- and 19th-century in date. Later 19th-century residential development and 20th century housing and light industrial units lie on the outskirts of the town.

**Cefngornoeth** character area lies across a low, hilly ridge on the north side of the Tywi valley, and consists of dispersed farms, irregular fields and small stands of woodland.

**Ystrad Tywi: Llangadog-Llandoverly** character area consists of the flood plain and lower slopes of the Tywi valley. Large dispersed farms and a regular field system characterise the area. Distinctive trees lend a parkland appearance to the landscape.

**Abermarlais** character area is based on the old house, gardens and park of Abermarlais. The house has now gone and the park and gardens decayed. Situated between old deciduous woodland and conifer plantations, the open feel of the park still remains.

**Llansadwrn - Llanwrda** character area contains the two 19th century villages of Llansadwrn and Llanwrda which are set in a landscape of small fields and dispersed farms on low, rolling hills on the northern side of the Tywi valley.

**Llandovery** is an urban character area and consists of the historic core of town which includes the medieval castle and 18th- and 19th-century buildings, together with the outlying parish church, Llanfair-ar-Bryn medieval church and modern development.

**Maesllydan** character area developed out of an open field system. Pasture enclosed into regular fields contains traces of ridge and furrow cultivation. Settlement is predominantly of large dispersed farms.

**Llwynhowell** character area comprises substantial farms distributed along the lower slopes of the River Tywi set in a landscape of small irregular fields of improved pasture, and deciduous woods.

**Cilycwm** character area consists of the small village of Cilycwm and dispersed large farms. These are set in a landscape of irregular fields. The hedges to many fields are overgrown lending a wooded aspect to the area.

**Rhandirmwyn** character area lies in the upper valley. Dispersed farms and 19th century lead mining communities are the dominant settlement types. Fields are small and irregular. Woodland, overgrown hedges and conifer plantations lend this area a heavily wooded aspect.

**Cwm-y-Rhaeadr** character area consist of very steep valley sides. Most of the valley sides have been planted with conifer plantations, but a little open moorland is present. The area lies above the rich farmland of Cilycwm character area.

**Nant-yFfin** character area lies in the upper, steep-sided valley of the Tywi and its tributaries. Historic landscape components consist of dispersed farms - 19th century stone buildings - small irregular fields and deciduous woodland.

**Craig Ddu** character area consists of very steep, craggy valley sides and a high moorland plateau. The valley sides are cloaked with deciduous woodland interspersed with rough grazing and moorland.

**Dinas** character area lies in the upper Tywi valley and consists of steep valley sides covered in dense deciduous woodland, with open moorland on craggy slopes and a high plateau.

**Craig y Bwch** character area comprises of unenclosed upland on the eastern side of the Tywi valley. From the steep valley sides, the area levels out onto an undulating plateau of rough grazing.

**Carn Goch** character area consists of a low hill of open moorland on which lie the massive stone-built ramparts of a major Iron Age fort and a smaller satellite fort.

**Fforest** character area occupies a long ridge between the Tywi and Brân valleys. The field pattern of earth banks and hedges has now largely broken down, and wire fences provide stock-proof barriers. Land is improved or rough grazing, with scrubby woodland on steep slopes.

**Dryslwyn** character area consists of the earthwork and masonry remains of the medieval castle and town of Dryslwyn which lie on a low hill within the Tywi valley.

**Bethlehem** character area lies on the south side of the Tywi valley and comprises of a landscape of small, irregular fields, small stands of deciduous woodland and dispersed farms.

**Garn-wen** character area lies on northwest-facing slopes above the Tywi valley. It consists of irregular fields which run out onto high ground above, and two large farms, Garn-wen and Tan-y-lan.

**Cynghordy** character is located on the western valley side of the Afon Brân and the eastern valley side of the Afon Tywi, the area comprises of small, irregular pasture fields, woodland, and dispersed farms.

**Llanwrda Parish** character area lies across rolling hills to the north of the Tywi valley and consists of small irregular fields, dispersed farms and scattered woodland.

## Preseli



Source: Dyfed Archaeological Trust (<http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/>)

8.7 The Preseli Historic Landscape transcends administrative boundaries with the following characterisation areas most directly contained either in whole or within part within Carmarthenshire.

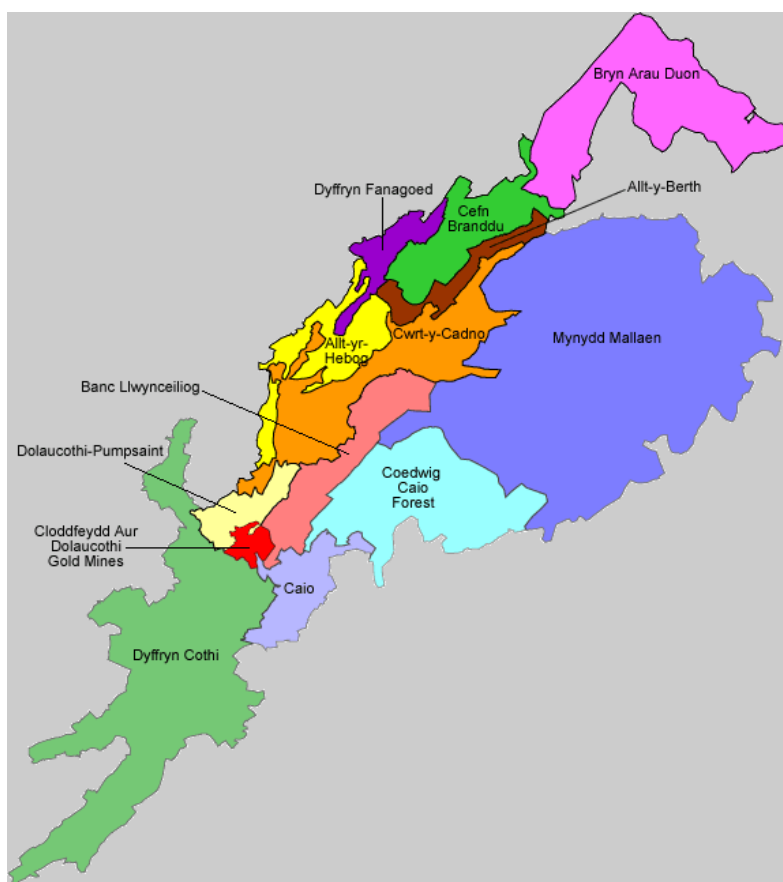
**Llangolman** historic landscape character area consists of irregular fields, dispersed farms and cottages, narrow lanes and woodland on steep valley sides. Buildings are of varied character and range from large farmhouses through to single storey cottages. Stone is the traditional building material. Boundaries are of earth or earth and stone, and are topped with hedges. Pasture is the predominant agricultural land-use.

**Carn Wen** historic landscape character area consists of a small unenclosed hill of scrubby land. The remains of a quarry abandoned in the late 20th-century are a prominent landscape element. There are no settlements, trees or roads in this area.

**Glandy Cross** historic landscape character area is centred on the A478 road. A system of fairly regular fields with dispersed farms and cottages lies either side of this road. Late 20th-century linear housing and other buildings have developed at Glandy Cross and Efailwen. Prehistoric ritual and funerary monuments, including Meini Gwyr stone circle, are a characteristic of this area.

**Pentre Galar** historic landscape character area was open common land until it was enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1812. The regular field system, dispersed farms and roads all date to this period. Stone is the principal building material. Boundaries are of earth banks topped with hedges. Land-use is improved pasture with tracts of rougher ground.

## Dolaucothi



Source: Dyfed Archaeological Trust (<http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/>)

**8.8 Dolaucothi - Pumpsaint** character area lies across the valley floor of the Cothi and consists of Pumpsaint village, and the park and gardens attached to the former Dolaucothi House. The village mostly consists of 19th century buildings erected in a distinctive style by the Dolaucothi estate in the 1850s.

**Cwrt-y-cadno** character area lies in the upper Cothi valley. It is a landscape of dispersed farms, small fields and woodland. Many of the farms were built by the Dolaucothi estate in the 1850s in a distinctive 'pattern-book' style.

**Dolaucothi Gold Mines** character area consists entirely of the remains of the gold mining industry dating from Roman times to the 20th century. The National Trust own the site, and they have re-erected examples of mine buildings as visitor attractions.

**Caio** character area is centred on the village of Caio. However, the main components of this landscape comprise dispersed farms and irregular fields of pasture which are divided by earth banks and hedges.

**Caio Forest** character area consists of a large 20th century conifer plantation which has been established over unenclosed moorland.

**Banc Llwynceiliog** character area lies on the upper valley side of the Afon Cothi. Old enclosures of banks and hedges have now broken down and the area is essentially open improved pasture. Linear earthworks of Roman aqueducts which run along the valley side are prominent landscape elements.

**Mynydd Mallaen** character area comprises of a high moorland plateau which is surrounded by lower lying farms and fields and flanked by forestry.

**Dyffryn Fanagoed** character area lies across the floor and lower slopes of a high, open valley, and consists of dispersed farms, the buildings of which are mostly 19th century, and small irregular fields.

**Allt-yr-hebog** character area comprises of ancient deciduous woodland and conifer plantations on the steep sides of the upper Cothi valley.

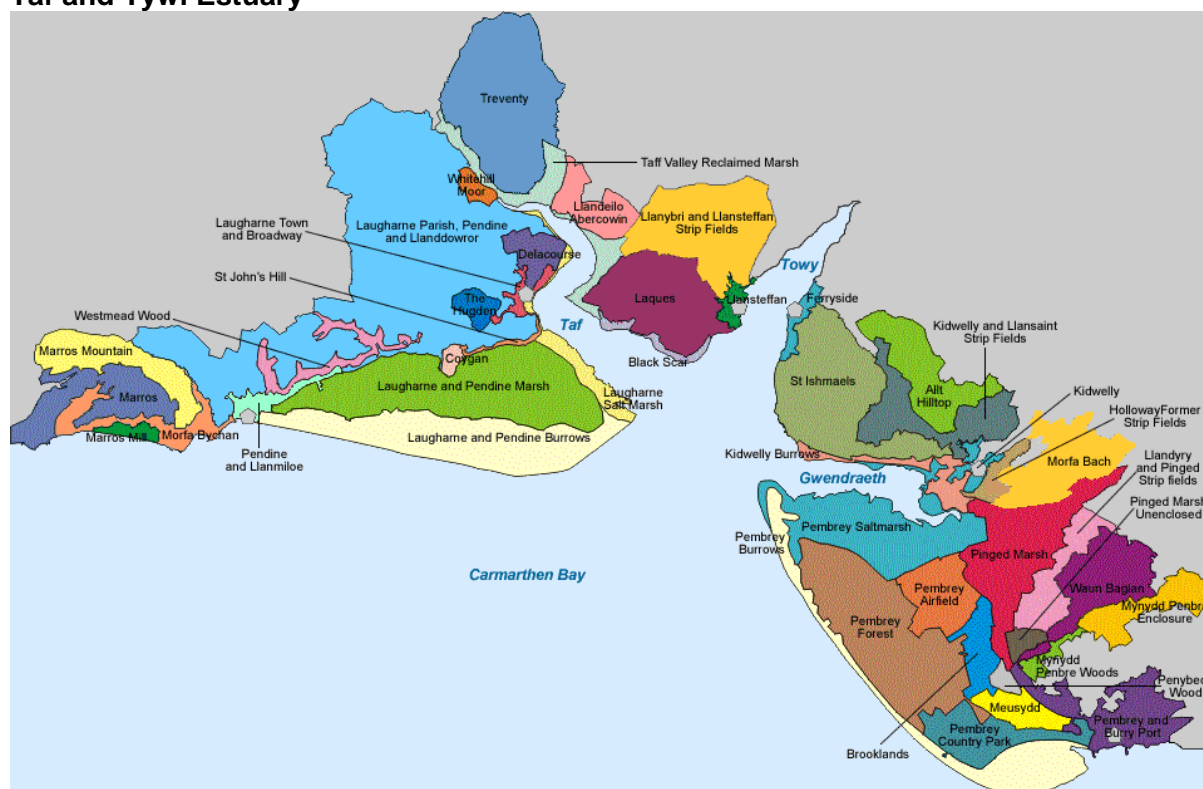
**Allt-y-Berth** character area consists of deciduous woodland and a little moorland on steep, craggy slopes of the upper Cothi valley.

**Cefn Branddu** character area lies over a high rounded ridge. Old boundary banks have now broken down and the area is now essentially unenclosed improved pasture and moorland with bracken and deciduous woodland on the steep flanking slopes.

**Bryn Arau Duon** character area consists of a large 20th century forestry plantation that has been established across high moorland.

**Dyffryn Cothi** character area lies across the floodplain and lower valley sides of the Cothi and its tributaries. It is characterised by dispersed farms and fields of pasture. Former parkland spreads across the valley floors close to Edwinsford and Glan yr Anell.

### Taf and Tywi Estuary



Source: Dyfed Archaeological Trust (<http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/>)

8.9 The following sets out the landscape description, further details of the characterisation can be found via: <http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/>

8.10 This littoral area of estuaries, coastal lowlands, sand dunes and intertidal sand bars lies across the north east side of Carmarthen Bay, on the South Wales coast. Behind the long expanses of sand dunes on the north east side of Carmarthen Bay, on the east and west sides of the estuary mouths of the Rivers Taf, Tywi and Gwendraeth, lie large areas of low lying marsh land. The whole area contains diverse evidence of activity from the prehistoric to the recent past and includes the Hugden medieval open field system on the low coastal ridge west of Laugarne.



8.11 The present coastline is a changing one, owing to continuing sand movement, but sea walls and drains, fronted by tidally inundated morfeydd or salt marshes, safeguard the reclaimed land. Archaeological evidence, the study of relict and active features in the present landscape, and the use of aerial photographs, cartographic and documentary sources, have been successfully combined to reconstruct the evolution of this largely man-made landscape.

8.12 The geological inheritance of a line of former sea cliffs with a raised beach at their base form the northern boundary of the western, or Laugharne Marsh and the Gwendraeth estuary. Although now quarried away, caves in the limestone of Coygan Bluff on this former coastline have produced Upper Palaeolithic material, and excavation of the hillfort there prior to quarrying yielded a long occupation sequence from the Neolithic to the early medieval. More research is required to establish the position of the coastline in the Roman and medieval periods, but there is no doubt that the castle towns of Kidwelly and Laugharne were much more open to the sea than at present.

8.13 Many of the finds of prehistoric and medieval date from Laugharne Burrows cannot now be provenanced, but the position of shell middens within both dune systems, which have produced medieval pottery is crucial to the chronology of coastal change and enclosure. They would benefit from modern excavation.

8.14 The former Witchett Brook divided Laugharne Marsh into East and West Marsh, the latter used as saltmarsh pasture in the Middle Ages before any sea walls were built, and there may also have been medieval settlement on the slightly raised sites of some of the present day farms on East Marsh. Although partly within the present Ministry of Defence range at Pendine, traces of 17th century sea walls survive and the successive enclosures of the early 19th century are well preserved. Access from Coygan quarry to the river at Laugharne was provided by a tramway and small creek, Railsgate Pill, still well-preserved, evidence for the now vanished era of coastal trade which persisted in the small estuary ports until the Second World War.

8.15 The enclosure of Pembrey Marsh was, like Laugharne, made possible by the development of sheltering seaward sand dunes. Its industrial history and legacy is more complex with a remarkable series of early canals leading to shipping places and quays. These were developed to export the anthracite coal of the South Carmarthenshire coalfield, from the early 18th century onwards. They led across lands enclosed from the sea inland of Pembrey Burrows by the late 17th century, if not earlier. Earthwork traces of cultivation and drainage techniques in both Marshes are evident both from the air and on the ground on farmlands seen by improvers, such as Charles Hassall in the early 19th century, as test beds for modern agricultural techniques. This contrasts with the remarkable survival, in the Hugden belonging to Laugharne Corporation, of a medieval open field system, still communally apportioned and unenclosed, which has been included within the boundaries of this area.

8.16 Twentieth century changes are more evident on Pembrey Burrows, now covered in a forestry plantation of the 1920s. A variety of industrial uses in the early 20th century culminated in a wartime airfield and a Royal Ordnance Works, one of whose surviving structures is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Sport and leisure activities are, and have been, an important feature of 20th century uses of the area, from the land-speed record attempts by the Campbells, and Parry Thomas in 'Babs' in the 1920s along Pendine Sands, to the creation of a Country Park in Pembrey Burrows in the 1980s. Carmarthen Bar was notorious for its shipwrecks, a number of which are prominently visible and accessible at low tide, while others are revealed periodically by the ever-shifting sands. Finally, Laugharne must not be forgotten

for its literary associations with the poet Dylan Thomas and his insights of life in a small Welsh community during the mid-20th century<sup>12</sup>.

## Drefach / Felindre



Source: Dyfed Archaeological Trust (<http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/>)

8.17 **Drefach – Felindre** is an industrial historic landscape character area based on the woollen industry. Stone-built mills, workers' houses, owners' houses, churches and chapels clustered in several villages attest to the rapid expansion of this industry in the late 19th century and early 20th century.

Deciduous woodland on steep valley sides above the industrial settlements of Drefach and Felindre characterises the **Dyffryn Bargoed and Dyffryn Esgair** historic landscape character area.

The **Afon Teifi: Newcastle Emlyn – Llandysul** historic landscape character area comprises the rich pasture of the floodplain. There are no houses but two 18th century stone bridges are included.

Small regular fields created by an Act of Parliament in 1855 and deciduous woodland characterise the relatively small **Coed Mawr** historic landscape character area.

Dispersed farms within a landscape of pasture fields with deciduous woodland on steeper slopes and a few late 19th century woollen mills and workers' houses close to the Afon Teifi characterise the **Llangeler** historic landscape character area.

Although small farms, cottages and other buildings testify to its 19th century origins, the **Saron –Rhos** historic landscape character area is overwhelmingly characterised by modern linear housing development stretching for several kilometres along the main A484 road.

The **Bwlch-Clawdd – Cwmbach** historic landscape character area appears to have developed during the late 18th century when farms and small fields were established on open moorland. Most buildings in the area are modern. Two Bronze Age round barrows and the early medieval Clawdd-Mawr dyke are included in this area.

<sup>12</sup> Historic landscape Characterisation – Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
SA – SEA Scoping Report – Appendix B  
July 2018

An 1866 Act of Parliament enclosing open moorland into fields created much of today's **Rhos Penboyr** historic landscape character area. Small farms, coniferous plantations, a World War 2 'stop line' and three wind turbines have been subsequently established.

The **Wauanfawr** historic landscape character area largely results from an 1866 Act of Parliament enclosing moorland in regular fields and bisecting it with straight lanes. Small farms were later established. Two Bronze Age round barrows survive from a much earlier age.

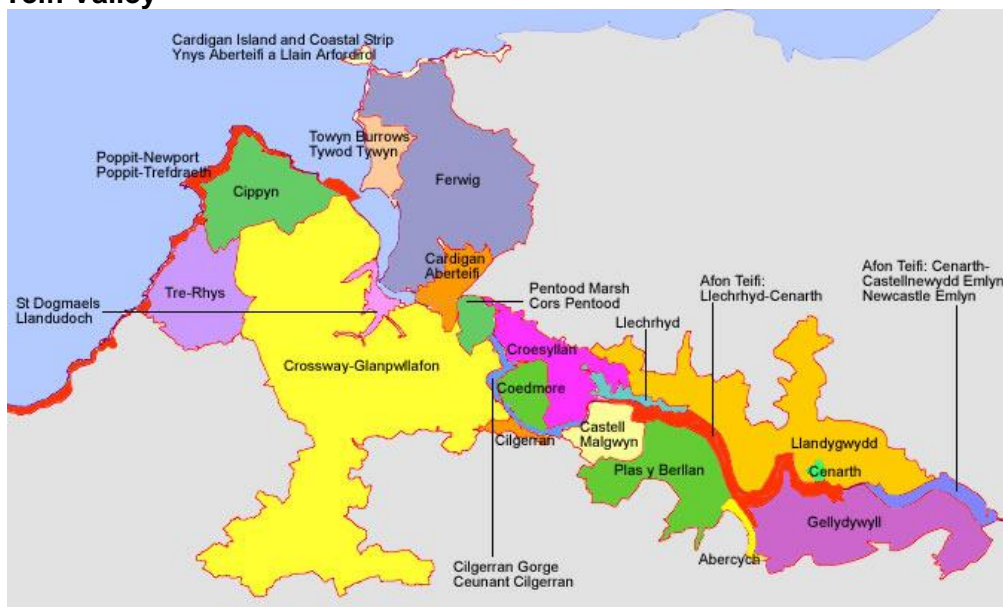
A close distribution of small farms in a landscape of fields bounded by hedges on banks characterises the **Penboyr** historic landscape character area. Apart from a few modern houses, almost all the buildings in this area date to the 19th century.

Dispersed farms, fields and deciduous woodland on steep valley sides, with a scatter of late 19th century workers' houses close to Drefach-Felindre characterise the **Bwlchydomen-Pentrecagal** historic landscape character area.

**Rhyddgoed** is a relatively small historic landscape character area and consists of regularly shaped fields and dispersed farms. Most buildings date to the 19th century.

**Henllan** is a small but complex historic landscape character area comprising a 19th century village focused on an old railway (now a tourist line) and a World War 2 prisoner of war camp, now largely converted to other uses, surrounded by deciduous woodland and farmland.

### Lower Teifi Valley



Source: Dyfed Archaeological Trust (<http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/>)

8.18 The Lower Teifi Valley Historic Landscape transcends administrative boundaries with the following characterisation areas the most directly related to or contained within Carmarthenshire. Pasture fields separated by overgrown hedges on the floodplain characterise the **Afon Teifi: Cenarth – Newcastle Emlyn** historic landscape character area. There are no buildings or other structures.

The older part of **Cenarth** historic landscape character area lies to the south of the historic bridge over the Teifi and comprises a loose cluster of mainly 18th and 19th century stone buildings. Most modern development lies to the north of the bridge.

Fields, dispersed farms, deciduous woodland and coniferous plantations, much on fairly steep north-facing slopes, characterise the **Gellydywyll** historic landscape character area. Farms are generally large, and include the 19th century model farm of Gelligatti.

The **Afon Teifi: Llechrhyd – Cenarth** historic landscape character area consists of fields and overgrown hedges across approximately 7 km of floodplain. A timber yard and a walled garden are the only structures in this character area.

Dispersed farms set in a landscape of pasture fields and deciduous woodland on the north side of the Afon Teifi characterise the **Llandygwydd** historic landscape character area. Older buildings range from Georgian gentry houses to cottages. All are stone-built and most date to the 19th century. **Abercych** is a 19th century industrial linear village spaced along a minor road on a steep valley side. Older buildings date to the 19th century and are stone-built. Modern housing infills the gaps between these older structures.

## Registered Parks and Gardens

8.19 The following Registered Parks and Gardens are situated in Carmarthenshire:

Registered Park and Gardens	Grade	Reasons for Designation
Llanmiloe House	II	Well preserved Edwardian garden with much original planting.
Laugharne Castle & Castle House	II	Castle garden is unusual example of picturesque garden laid out in a medieval castle. Contains remains dated to Tudor period. Main garden restored to early nineteenth layout & contains early nineteenth century gazebo with views over Taff. Castle: Guardmanship Ancient Monument; Scheduled Ancient Monument; Listed Buildings: castle; (grade I), walls (grade II), gazebo (grade II). Castle House: listed building (grade II*).
Maesyrcrugiau Hall	II	Remains of extraordinary Edwardian summerhouse in neglected contemporary garden with some pre-1891 features.
Middleton Hall	II	Survival of late eighteenth-century landscaped park in fine countryside, with main feature of lakes. The house and pleasure garden have gone. Ruined structures remain & present. There is unusual double-walled kitchen garden & preserved ice house. The core of the park now converted into National Botanic Garden of Wales. Listed building: stables (grade II)
Aberglasney	II	Survival of structure and trees of formal gardens and informal woodland garden of long established country mansion. Most important feature is arcaded court with raised walk around probably dating to early seventeenth century. Also two walled gardens, a pond, gatehouse, yew tunnel walk & remains of woodland walks. Archaeological excavation revealed phase of building work on gardens in seventeenth century. Aberglasney undergone major programme of rebuilding & restoration work in late 1990s. Listed buildings: Aberglasney & arcaded terrace walks enclosing walled garden (grade II*); NE courtyard range, former stables, cart-shed, SE courtyard range, former bakehouse, cowsheds, former small coach house, baliffs house, gatehouse & former domestic
Derwydd	II	A small late nineteenth century garden with surviving iron work, topiary, walled garden, walks, croquet lawn, incorporating earlier features including a pre-1809 terrace. Listed building: Derwydd (grade II*)
Dolaucothi	II	Early nineteenth-century parkland with remnants of possible lime avenue. Walled garden partially intact. A few specimen trees. Listed building: Dolaucothi (grade II); lodge (grade II)
Edwinsford	II	Vestiges of parkland including oak avenue possibly about 1635. Fine bridge linking utilitarian area, including walled garden,

		coach house, gardener's cottage to the mansion. Many of the buildings were topped with lead ornaments that depicted their function, now gone. Family associations with Sir Joseph Banks, who spent several summers at Edwinsford. Listed building: Edwinsford (grade II*); bridge (grade II)
Glynhir	II	Early to mid-nineteenth century garden, including fine dovecot, canal, walled garden, ice house and woodland garden with picturesque walks; picturesque bridges over waterfall on the river Loughor (Llwchwr) now disappeared. Listed buildings: house (grade II); dovecot (grade II)
Golden Grove	II*	Golden Grove was for long time one of the most important estates in West Wales. Its park & gardens contain many ancient trees. It retains good quality formal terraces & an outstanding arboretum associated with the Victorian House. The walled garden is of great interest in being associated with an earlier house & it contains a lake & canal which were probably in existence in the mid-seventeenth century. Listed buildings: house and stable block (grade II)
Pantglas	II	Much of the Victorian gardens (including a lake), constructed to complement the Italianate mansion built around 1853, remains intact although the house has gone. Listed buildings: house (grade II); bridge (grade II); utility courtyard (grade II)
Plas Dinefwr	I	An outstandingly beautiful & picturesque eighteenth-century landscaped park, incorporating the remains of a medieval castle. Site also includes a small lake, two walled gardens & fine sweeping drives. Lancelot (Capability) Brown is known to have visited the site & to have admired it. Listed buildings: Old Dynevor Castle (grade I); Plas Dinefwr (grade II*); inner & outer courtyard ranges (grade II*); low stone wall & gates to ha-ha (grade II); fountain in small formal garden (grade II); Dairy Cottage (grade II); Dovecot (grade II)
Taliaris	II	The essential layout of park & appears to have been little altered in the last two hundred years, although there is evidence for some change in land use. Listed building: house (grade I)
Parc Howard	II	Early to mid-twentieth century purpose-built municipal park, including fine gates, railings & bandstand. Mature shelter belt & small sunken garden. Listed buildings: mansion (grade II); bandstand (grade II); two sets of gates, gate piers & railings (grade II)
Stradey Castle	II	The parkland, which was probably enclosed in late sixteenth to early seventeenth century, retains park-like feel, although reduced in size. There is a fine terraced garden associated with the mid-nineteenth century mansion. Within the park are some interesting water features, a good range of trees, including some early introductions & woodland walks. A fine walled garden & nursery area are associated with the seventeenth century house, whose site was turned into a garden in mid-nineteenth century. Listed building: Castle (grade II*)
Llechdwnni	II	The survival of an unusual & early walled garden & formal pool, associated with one of the former most historic houses in the

		south of the country. The large garden has a long terrace, terminated at each end by projecting round gazebos. Listed building: old house (grade II)
Paxton's Tower	II*	The tower, built as a memorial & eye catcher, forms a spectacular picturesque landmark overlooking the Tywi valley & is visible for miles around. It was the only folly designed by the well-known architect S. P. Cockerell. Listed buildings: Paxtons's Tower (grade II*); Tower Lodge (grade II)
Llwynywormwood	II	Late eighteenth or early nineteenth-century landscaped park created out of rolling countryside. There are scenic drives which maximized the picturesque views, not only of the park, house, stream and a lake, but also of the Brecon Beacons beyond. Listed building: barn (grade II)

Source: Register of Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales - Cadw

## Scheduled Monuments

8.20 There are also 366 Scheduled Monuments (SM) in Carmarthenshire; ranging from Prehistoric to Post-Medieval/Modern features of cultural heritage interest.

8.21 Reference is also had to the content of the Historic Environment Records (HER) across the county as compiled and maintained by Dyfed Archaeological Trust. Reference is had to the HER records via: <http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/>

## Conservation Areas

8.22 There are Conservation Areas in the following settlements in Carmarthenshire:-

- Abergorlech
- Cenarth
- Cwmdu
- Kidwelly
- Laugharne
- Llanboidy
- Llanddarog
- Llandeilo
- Llandovery
- Llanelli
- Llangadog
- Llangathen
- Llansaint
- Llansteffan
- Newcastle Emlyn
- St Clears
- Talley

8.23 The following areas within Carmarthen Town are also designated as Conservation Areas:-

- Carmarthen Town
- Lammas Street

- North Carmarthen
- Parcmaen Street/St Davids
- Picton Terrace/Penllwyn Park
- Pontgarreg and St Davids Hospital
- Priory Street
- The Parade/Esplanade
- The Quay/Towyside
- Water Street

**Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the LDP**

With no Development Plan in place, proposals would only have to comply with national legislation with regards to consideration of the implications for historic environment. This would likely have a detrimental impact on matters of local cultural heritage

## 9. Landscape

9.1 The Brecon Beacons National Park is one of the most important landscape and nature conservation designations in the country. The National Park is an important geological resource, as well as also being important for biodiversity, and cultural heritage. The management of development in the National Park is covered by a separate National Park Development Plan Document, and as such is not part of the Carmarthenshire LDP.

### Special Landscape Areas

9.2 The County contains many areas of high and outstanding landscape quality. Following guidance from Natural Resources Wales, and using Landmap information, the LDP identifies Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). It was established that the landscapes in Carmarthenshire that are considered to be of greatest importance, and which are worthy of the protection that the designation of SLAs provides, are the:

- River valleys
- Upland landscapes
- Coastal landscapes

9.3 The SLAs have been grouped according to these landscape types and are described below.

### River Valleys

9.4 **Tywi Valley** – The SLA includes the entire river valley apart from the Tywi estuary, which forms a part of the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SLA. The Tywi Valley SLA consists of the valley floor and associated slopes, and includes number of different landscapes. The upper Tywi Valley, north of Rhandirmwyn is typically narrow, rising steeply on either side to the more rugged upland landscapes of Mynydd Mallaen and the North Eastern Uplands, both of which are SLAs in their own right. The upper Tywi Valley is characterised by small fields, hedgerows, woodland, traditional farms, narrow roads, and the river itself, often bordered by trees, but in places by open meadows.

9.5 Moving down stream towards Rhandirmwyn and Llandovery, the mid Tywi valley opens out more, but the valley continues to rise up to the open hill land. The landscape is well wooded with a significant number of hedgerow and other individual trees. Here there is more open flat agricultural land, some small settlements - Rhandirmwyn and Cilycwm, both dominated by traditional buildings and vernacular architecture. These are harmonious unspoilt rural landscapes.

9.6 The lower Tywi valley down stream of Llandovery consists of the wide level flood plain, together with its northern and southern slopes which provide outstanding views over the valley and from the north towards the Brecon Beacons. Although dominated by agricultural land and larger fields than in the mid and upper valley, the flood plain also has a significant number of mature hedgerow and fields trees, and the valley slopes, particularly the steeper southern slopes are well wooded. Historic parklands and castles are also a feature of this part of the valley, e.g. Gelli Aur and Dinefwr Park, and Dinefwr and Dryslwyn castles. The castles in the valley have imposing locations on limestone outcrops, over-looking the valley. Traditional farms in the valley have typically expanded and often now include large agricultural buildings. Most of the settlements in this part of the valley have also grown with an element of modern



building around a more traditional core. Inappropriate development continues to threaten the conservation of this outstanding landscape, hence the reason for its designation.

**9.7 Bran Valley (north of Llandovery)** - The SLA consists of the flood plain and the valley side. The A483(T) and the Heart of Wales railway line run along this valley making it an important gateway into Carmarthenshire and it is known for the views into the county that these routes provide when travelling from Powys. The railway includes the viaduct at Cynghordy which is a well known landscape feature, and is visible from the main road, giving this area a strong sense of place. The main road is a feature of the area, while not particularly busy there is a fairly constant stream of traffic and the noise associated with this.

9.8 There are few settlements other than Cynghordy and here there is some parkland. The rest of the valley is a mix of agricultural land with hedgerows and trees on the flood plain and flatter areas and significant amounts of woodland on the valley slopes creating an attractive balance. The area includes a number of well wooded tributaries to the Bran.

**9.9 Llŵchwr Valley** - The Llŵchwr valley on the Carmarthenshire/Swansea boundary has a wide and level flood plain with steeply rising valley sides. The flood plain is open and is characterised by large irregular fields and some drainage channels. In contrast the slopes on the Carmarthenshire side support an attractive mix of woodland and agricultural land, the woodland often being associated with watercourses that run down the slopes. Small irregular fields with a mix of outgrown and cut hedge boundaries are also a feature of these slopes. There is little access to the flood plain other than for farming purposes, there is no settlement in it other than Pontarddulais to the south, and Ammanford to the north. The slopes are sparsely settled with scattered farms. The railway runs along the valley (mostly in Swansea), the track making a strong line in the landscape in contrast to the meandering river. Pylons cross the valley in the south but are partly masked by the wooded slopes to the west.

**9.10 Cwm Cathan** - Cwm Cathan is an impressive and steep sided river valley running from the upland area of Mynydd Betws to the lowland Llŵchwr valley. It is well wooded with semi-natural broadleaved woodland - including area of birch woodland, as well as semi-improved grasslands as well as scrub and bracken areas. The variety of vegetation here provides texture in this landscape, and creates a network of semi-natural habitats across the area. Some hedgerows are becoming lines of trees and these also contribute to the enclosed and well-wooded appearance of the area. Holly-rich hedges are a feature. This is an intimate enclosed, unspoilt and natural landscape, and not without views of the surrounding areas. With narrow twisty roads and being sparsely settled, this quiet area feels some distance from Ammanford.

**9.11 Teifi Valley** - The source of the Teifi is in Ceredigion, and the middle course of this river flows along the Carmarthenshire county boundary between Lampeter and Llechryd. Within Ceredigion the Teifi valley is also recognised as a SLA. The Carmarthenshire section of the Teifi runs through a well wooded valley. As the river flows west so the flood plain becomes broader. The valley immediately west of Lampeter is noted for the number of hedgerow and field trees it contains, although there is less woodland in this part of the valley than further downstream.

9.12 As the river flows through Maesycrugiau it becomes very narrow and gorge like. The river and its valley dominate this landscape and the area feels secluded. This section of the valley is well wooded. There is little new development in this section of the valley. Small farms and traditional houses including road side cottages are the dominant types of settlement.

9.13 The Teifi valley between Maesycrugiau and Llechryd is characterised by a particularly attractive balance between woodland (mostly broadleaved) with some conifer woodland) and open fields, notably in the flood plain, with mature trees. The river is frequently visible and with the roads that run either side of the river and this gives the area a feeling of movement in each direction. Views are restricted to the valley floor and its slopes, so there is a sense of being within the valley at all times. Development consists of scattered farms, some small settlements along the roads, and also includes the larger settlements of Newcastle Emlyn and Pentrecwrt.

9.14 **Cothi Valley** - The Cothi Valley can be described in four parts.

9.15 As the Cothi runs between Mynydd Mallaen and the North Eastern Uplands Special Landscape Areas the valley is upland in character. The slopes rise up from 160m to just over 400m on Mynydd Mallaen. The valley sides are well wooded with an attractive and balanced mix of broadleaves and some conifers, as well as enclosed and unenclosed grazing, and fridd. Where there are field boundaries these tend to be fairly weak, with some hedge lines becoming lines of trees. Fences are not un-common where hedges have disappeared. In contrast the valley floor is more intensively farmed, with frequent views of the fast flowing river throughout the area. Farms tend to be positioned at the base of the steep valley sides, at the break of slope. Towards Pumsaint the landscape has an estate character to it - visible in some of the building styles. The road is narrow, the farms scattered and vernacular styles dominate the building design. There is very little new development in the area.

9.16 The Llansawel Basin contains the confluence of the Cothi with a number of other rivers - the Marlais, Melindwr and Twrch. The narrow upland valleys in the surrounding area opens out in this section into a much larger river basin creating a much more open lowland landscape. Shingle banks are a feature of this section. The area combines gently rolling land with flatter valley bottom land, the majority of which is improved agricultural land, with a small amount of woodland. The hedgerows and hedgerow trees create the impression of a significant amount of tree cover. At the Glan yr Rannell Hotel there are some elements of a planned parkland landscape. Llansawel is the largest settlement and there are numerous scattered farms.

9.17 Between Edwinsford and Brechfa the Cothi valley is well wooded, and downstream of Abergorlech it passes through the Brechfa Forest. This section of the valley is more enclosed than the Llansawel Basin. The lower lying pasture land here is characterised by well-developed hedgerows, and hedgerow and field trees. There are few views of the river itself as its banks are frequently tree lined. The B road runs through the area and passes through the small settlements of Abergorlech and Brechfa.

9.18 Down-stream of Brechfa the valley is narrower and more V-shaped than the river upstream of the village - rather more like an upland river. It appears that the Cothi changed its course, having previously followed what is now the Gwili valley to the west of Brechfa. South of Brechfa the deeply incised valley rises steeply, to the hills on either side. The valley slopes are a mix of bracken, woodland, new woodland planting and farmland. There are views of the river at a number of places along the valley, particularly where the road and footpath run close to it. Farmland and woodland dominate the lower lying land. This area provides a clear contrast with the more open Mid Cothi valley to the north, and the Llansawel Basin and the Tywi Valley to the south, as the river and more gorge-like, and the valley sides steeper. This section of the valley is sparsely settled with few farms. The course of the river is varied, and includes open and shallow areas as well as cuttings through dark rocks. Much of the river bank in this stretch is wooded.

**9.19 Lower Taf Valley** - The SLA includes the river valley from the railway crossing east of Whitland to the estuary, so effectively the lower reaches of the Taf. Much of the area is secluded, and there is little access to. Settlements are restricted to the valley sides. The valley feels empty despite being so close to the main roads. The valleys sides of this stretch of the river are well wooded and contribute to its scenic qualities. Downstream of the A477 the river is tidal, and at the A4066 it enters the estuary where the slopes are less wooded, and the landscape becomes more open, and the character of the landscape changes from being that associated with a river valley to that of an estuary, with areas of salt marsh mud flats. This SLA abuts the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SLA

**9.20 Drefach Velindre** - Both the visual and sensory and the historic environment layers of LANDMAP recognise the distinctive landscape of this area. A network of steep well wooded valleys, with linear settlements with a distinct vernacular style - typically small road side terraced cottages, made from locally quarried stone, and larger riverside mills and chapels that reflect the former woollen industry that was thriving here (and in parts of the Teifi Valley) in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Narrow roads run along each of these valleys. The area has a sense of being very enclosed, sheltered and tucked away, it has a unique character in Carmarthenshire. Agricultural fields are typically small and surrounded by woodland.

**9.21 Swiss Valley** - The landscape of Swiss Valley is an attractive mix of woodland and water. The reservoirs have a natural feel to them and support a variety of aquatic vegetation, the area provides an attractive interface between woodland and water. Swiss valley is easily accessible on foot and cycle from Llanelli and is used for recreation but with the minimum of infrastructure (this does include a cycle path) . There are very attractive internal views over the water, and along the river. The valley has a sense of enclosure, and feels remote from the busier landscapes that surround them. The woodland in Swiss valley is mostly broad-leaved. The valley is peaceful and unspoilt. While there is no settlement in the valley, it is overlooked by farms in the surrounding countryside.

**9.22 Talley** - The historic part of the village of Talley, centred on the abbey, enjoys an attractive lake side setting that is unique in the county. It has an attractive backdrop of fairly steep slopes that are used either for agricultural or forestry. The Special Landscape Area includes the abbey, church and surrounding dwellings, the lakes and the land that surrounds these features and provides a setting for them. The two connected lakes are an unusual feature and known throughout the county. There are very few lakes in Carmarthenshire. The two lakes are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest for the aquatic habitats and species they support. The B road runs through the more modern part of the village and traffic on it can be heard most of the time.

**9.23 Gwendraeth Levels** - These are the low lying flood plain grazing meadows on former marsh land that are often flooded in the winter months. Despite being relatively wet this area continues to be managed largely for agricultural. The rectilinear fields are broken up by wide tall hedges and drainage ditches. In places these tall hedges create a feeling of enclosure, elsewhere these landscapes usually appear very open and wind swept (e.g. Gwent Levels). There are few dwellings, few roads, other than the main road, and where these occur they tend to be straight. In addition to the agricultural land, the area includes a variety of wetland habitats, ponds, fens giving the area a more naturalistic appearance, and the capacity to support wildlife. Largely un-spoilt, the area remains rural in character. There is an important historic dimension to this landscape as it was created as a result of draining wetlands and constructing sea defences to hold back the sea water that began in 1609, and continues into

the mid19<sup>th</sup> century with the enclosure of fields. The Gwendreath Levels SLA abuts Pembrey Mountain SLA and this area provides an important and unspoilt backdrop to the levels

## **Uplands**

**9.24 North Eastern Uplands** - An extensive area of rolling upland area characterised by unenclosed grazing land and some large coniferous forestry blocks, which are considered to be an integral part of this landscape. The area also includes small pockets of enclosed improved land near the isolated farms, but the majority remains unenclosed. The mix of habitats and vegetation cover within these open unenclosed areas provides texture in this landscape, and includes marshy grasslands, wetland vegetation in the shallow river valleys, bracken on the steeper land, some fridd habitat, small areas of heath land habitat etc. Small rocky outcrops occur throughout the area, adding further variety. There are few broad-leaved trees, and these are more frequent in the shallow river valleys. These different elements add variety to the area. There are only a few small roads in the area and farm tracks, barely any settlement. As an area it feels sparsely populated. North of Ffarmers there are areas where, unusually in Carmarthenshire, some of the field boundaries are stone walls. There is relatively little new development here, other than new agricultural barns. There are extensive views within the area and into the surrounding valleys; there are also longer views to the Brecon Beacons. The area feels remote, exposed and elevated and largely empty of people. On the county boundary Llyn Brienne forms a part of this Special Landscape Area.

**9.25 Mynydd Mallaen** - Mynydd Mallaen is an exposed area of un-enclosed grazed upland plateau, dominated by heathland and wetland plant communities with, bilberry, heather and wet heath mosaic. The plateau drops down into the surrounding valleys through fridd habitats, grassland, rocky scree in places and woodland. The area is Common Land with open access. The plateau is marked by one or two cairns; otherwise it creates a very gently almost level skyline. There are tracks across the area. There are no trees, nor field boundaries, but several rocky outcrops and wet depressions. This area provides extensive views in all directions, and feels extremely exposed, wild, empty and isolated.

**9.26 Llanllwni Mountain** – This is an area of unenclosed heather moorland, positioned on a rolling plateau positioned along the watershed between the Teifi and the Cothi valleys. Bronze aged burial mounds are discernable on the main ridge, and provide a sense of our impact on this landscape over millennia. There are extensive views in all directions from the plateau, particularly notable are the views north-west over the Teifi Valley and south east towards the Brecon Beacons. The area is Common Land with open access, and is grazed by sheep and ponies, and regularly burnt. The roads that cross the area are used infrequently, and while they permit easy access to the mountain, it has a feeling of being exposed, and of being wild, and empty. The farms that abut the mountain are positioned below it on the enclosed land. It is one of few areas in the county that is devoid of settlement.

**9.27 Carmarthenshire Limestone Ridge** - This undulating ridge (reaching 280m AOD) of higher exposed upland is the only extensive area of limestone in Carmarthenshire. The ridge has a distinct and varied landscape, which includes unenclosed common land e.g. Mynydd Llangynderine and Mynydd y Garreg, with bracken and heather and rock exposures, the limestone quarries at Crwbin and Cilyrchen, and extensive areas of small fields, mature hedges and woodland e.g. Carmel (which include Carmel Woods NNR). Llyn Lech Owain Country Park lies on the ridge. The ridge provides views over the adjacent valleys and over much of south Carmarthenshire. It is crossed by several roads, the busiest being the A48(T) but is also very tranquil in parts, e.g. Mynydd y Cerrig. Settlements include scattered farms and

linear settlements that are often related to the quarries, and this is reflected in the vernacular architecture.

**9.28 Pembrey Mountain** - Pembrey Mountain rises steeply from the Gwendreath Levels forming an important back drop to this area, and hence its recognition as a Special Landscape Area. The slopes are now mostly wooded with a mix of broadleaves and conifers, and from the ridge (100m AOD) there are extensive views over the levels and Carmarthen Bay towards Caldy Island. When the sea encroached further inland over the Gwendreath Levels, the slopes of Pembrey Mountain would have formed the coastal cliffs. The mountain has a rich and diverse archaeology, that includes iron-age hill forts, possible bronze-age barrows, evidence of Medieval ridge and furrow as well as quarries and coal pits.

**9.29 Mynydd y Betws** - This is an extensive area of exposed undulating upland moorland extending into the Swansea. It is an area of unenclosed, grazed common land, with a mix of grasses and some smaller areas of heather, and wetland habitats. There are impressive views from Mynydd y Betws over south-east Carmarthenshire and towards the Brecon Beacons. The area is interrupted by the road that crosses the mountain and where this enters the common on its northern side at Scot's Pine, by the telegraph poles and larger pylons and a mast. These elements detract from the integrity of the area but this is restricted to this small part of the whole. Elsewhere within the area there is a considerable degree of unity and little interrupts the rest of this landscape. It is one of five extensive areas of unenclosed moorland in the county. There are no trees or shrubs in this area and there is a striking difference between this area and the enclosed land at lower elevations on the northern slopes. Today there are no settlements here, but the area is rich in archaeology, with several sites clearly discernable on the ground, illustrating the history of this area.

### **Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries**

9.30 This SLA contains a number of distinct landscapes, which should be considered as a continuum. The SLA wraps around Carmarthen Bay and includes:

**Coastal Hills:** Marros – Pendine, Llanybri, Llansaint and Pembrey Coastal hills:

**Coastal slopes:** Marros to Wharley Point and St Ishmael's coastal slopes:

**Estuary slopes:** the slopes above the estuaries i.e. the slopes on either side of the Taf and Tywi rivers where they are within the estuary:

**River estuaries:** the rivers channels, and associated mud flats at low tide:

**Coastal grazing marsh:** West Marsh, East Marsh south of Laugharne, south of Kidwelly;

**Sandy beaches:** Marros, Pendine and Cefn Sidan;

**Sand dunes:** Pendine and part of Cefn Sidan;

**Salt marsh:** This occurs in several areas within the estuaries, and near the coast e.g Pembrey Saltings;

**Settlements:** Pendine, Laugharne, Llansteffan and Ferryside.

9.31 The Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SLA includes all the landscapes that contribute to our coastal and estuary landscapes. It is often the juxtaposition of one landscape with another such as salt marsh and the river, or the wooded estuary slope and the river channel that together create a landscape of high scenic quality.

9.32 The coastal hills provide the backdrop to the bay and the estuaries, and from them there are fine views over the sea. Being close to the coast, and elevated these hills are exposed, and this is demonstrated by the windswept trees.

9.33 The coastal slopes are usually characterised by rough non-agricultural land with bracken and scrub, again often sculpted by the wind. They are exposed, and usually face the sea. They are located between the hills and the lower lying beaches or marshes.

9.34 The estuary slopes are the more sheltered slopes between the hills and the river estuaries. In the Tywi estuary they tend to be particularly well wooded, but also include some agricultural land.

9.35 The river estuaries include the river channel. These are tidal and at low tide include mud flats. East and West Marsh are the largest areas of coastal grazing marsh in Carmarthenshire. West Marsh has been developed for military purposes and so is relatively disrupted and has scrubbed up somewhat as a result of becoming drier. East Marsh is still managed in a traditional way for grazing, but has also been subject to some development. It is more open, windswept and empty than West Marsh.

9.36 These landscapes are typically open windswept and empty, are of importance for the biodiversity they support. They are also of historic interest as well as these areas only came into existence once land could be drained.

9.37 The three beaches are some of the longest in Wales. Pendine and Cefn Sidan are well known as holiday destinations. When the tide is out there are extensive areas of sand, and views out to sea along the coast.

9.38 The sand dunes about the beaches and their landscape is typical of any dune system. Efforts are being made to control the sea buckthorn has been spreading within the Cefn Sidan dune system.

9.39 The salt marsh is an integral and distinctive part of the estuary and coastal landscape, and one which provides a free and natural sea defence. The salt marsh usually abuts mud flats which are exposed at low tide. The salt marshes are typically dissected by muddy creeks and support plants that can tolerate the saline conditions, and these are two of the features of the salt marsh that make this landscape so distinctive. Salt marshes are exposed and windy places, with no shelter.

9.40 The three settlements – Laugharne, Llansteffan and Ferryside within the SLA each have a distinct character. Ferryside is the only one on the railway, which in itself is a feature of the Tywi estuary. Laugharne is the most urban of the three, and has developed around its castle, whereas the castle at Llansteffan is in an elevated position above the village.

### **Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the LDP**

As the current LDP allocations are built out and housing land supply falls, development pressure will begin to encroach onto currently designated open countryside in a sporadic and uncoordinated manner. Designated sites and protected habitats and species should be safeguarded through other legislation.

5.4.7 In the absence of LDP policy, multi-functional benefits or ecosystem services of the wider landscape and its connectivity would not necessarily be recognised or safeguarded. This could have significant consequences through jeopardising the effective management of the impacts of climate change and result in habitat fragmentation which is very damaging for biodiversity.

5.4.8 Currently, new development should be integrated with the landscape and seascape as this is a requirement of LDP Policy, however the Plan's status weakens once the Plan period expires.

## 10 Population

10.1 Population estimates are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), and take into account births, deaths, and an estimate of migration between the last census and the middle of the current year.

10.2 The population of Carmarthenshire is estimated at 186,452 in 2017, accounting for almost 6 per cent of the Welsh population. Of this, 91,153 (49%) are male and 95,299 (51%) are female. The age profile of the local population is shown in the table below.

<b>2017 – Mid Year Population Estimates</b>				
<b>Age Structure</b>	<b>Carms Population</b>	<b>Carms %</b>	<b>Wales Population</b>	<b>Wales %</b>
Aged: 0-4	9,621	5.2	170,709	5.5
5-15	23,274	12.5	388,551	12.4
16-24	17,520	9.4	359,361	11.5
25-44	40,302	21.6	742,574	23.8
45-64	52,264	28.0	827,015	26.5
65-74	24,224	13.0	356,622	11.4
75+	19,247	10.3	286,647	9.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>186,452</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,125,165</b>	<b>100</b>

Sources: Stats Wales <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates/nationallevelpopulationestimates-by-year-age-ukcountry>

10.3 The following link provides access individual profiles for each ward within Carmarthenshire. The profiles provide a summary of the key characteristics of the ward as well as valuable local information. The ward profiles draw upon a wide array of data sources, and their standardised layout enables the quick and easy comparison of areas, an investigation of patterns, and identification of variations.

10.4 The profiles as published May 2017 incorporates the following information:

- 2015 Mid-Year Population Estimates (Office of National Statistics, ONS)
- Population characteristics, household composition and economic activity status (2011 Census)
- Housing type and tenure statistics (2011 Census)
- Household Income estimates (CACI 'Paycheck' data 2016)
- Ns-SeC data (socio-economic position based on occupation, 2011 Census)
- Updated labour market and benefit statistics
- Recorded crime statistics for 2016-2017 (Dyfed Powys Police)

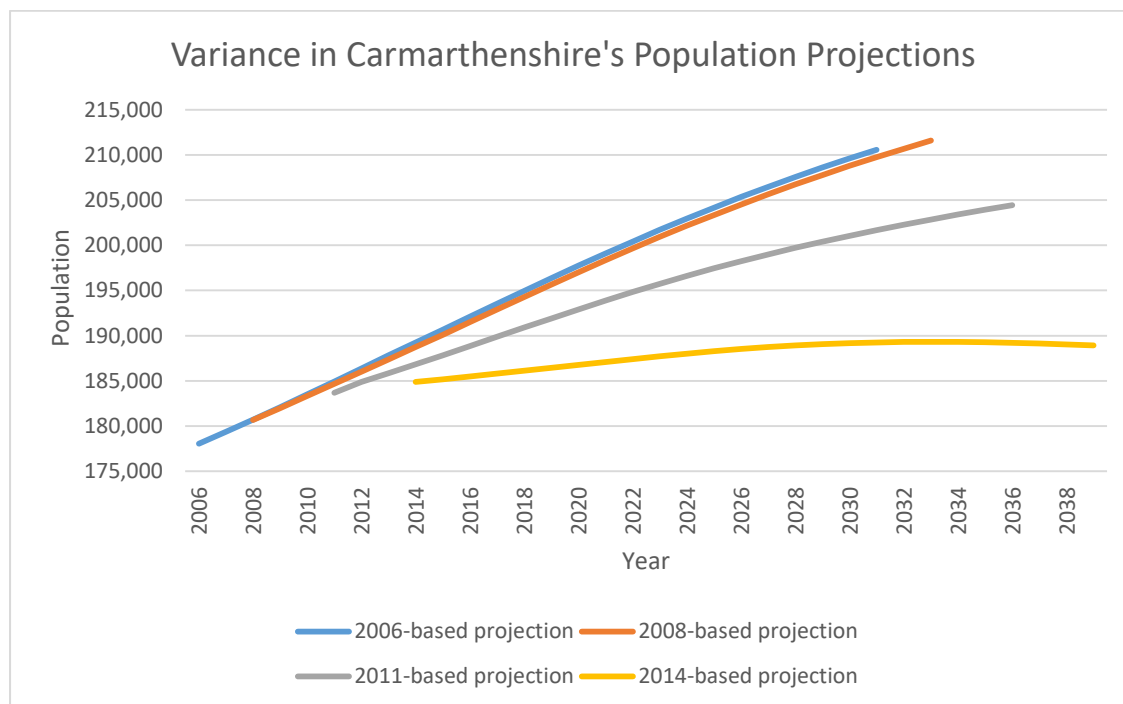
<http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/research-statistics/electoral-ward-county-profiles/#.WqqJM-a7KUK>

10.5 The publication of the 2014 local authority based population provided the first indication of population change at a sub national level since the 2011 census. The following table indicates and compares the latest projections for the plan period for the Revised LDP with that produced as part of the current LDP and the original WG local authority based projections in



2006. The 2011 and 2014 based projections indicated a projected population of 193,874 and 187,079 respectively at 2021.

10.6 This limited level of population change is projected to continue through the lifetime of the revised LDP with 2033 indicating a County population of 189,317. These projections indicate a downward trend in population growth compared to the previous 2006-based and 2008-based projections. The future pattern of demographic change will be subject to further evidence gathering as part of the revised LDP<sup>13</sup>.



Source: Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan Review Report

10.7 In considering the Revised LDP period of 2018-2033, the principal projections within the 2014 based population projection suggests an increase in the population of 3,207 persons. These projections will need to be given careful consideration and reflect other relevant factors which impact upon the future development and housing needs, not least the household projections for the County. The 2011-based and 2014-based household projections have indicated a significant reduction in household numbers from that projected within both the 2006 and 2008 based projections.

### Population Density

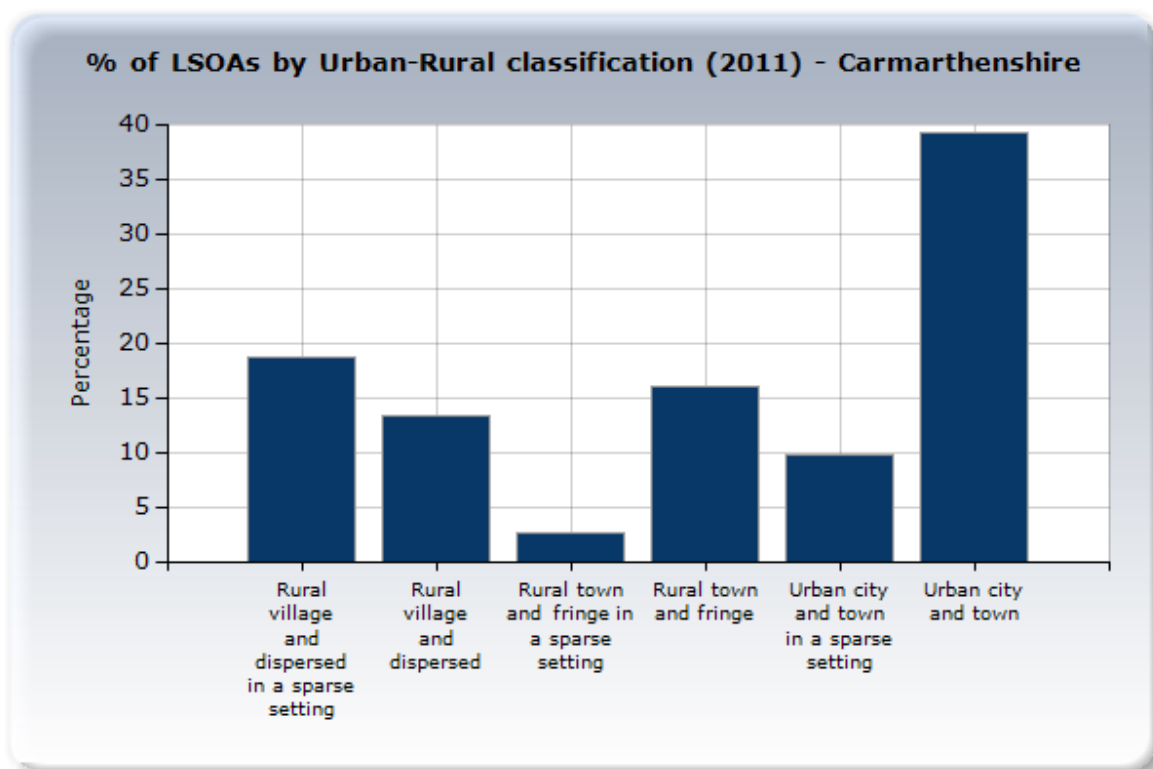
10.8 Population density provides a measure of the number of people living in an area. This varies across the County with higher densities in the urban areas than the rural areas with Carmarthenshire having a total land areas of 2370km<sup>2</sup>. This makes it the third largest local authority by area in Wales. However, the average density for Carmarthenshire as a whole is

<sup>13</sup> Stats Wales <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Projections/Local-Authority/2014-based/populationprojectioncomponentsofchange-by-localauthority-year>

78.3 persons per square kilometre, which makes it the fifth lowest in Wales. This is significantly lower than the Welsh average of 150.1 persons per kilometre square<sup>14</sup>.

10.9 There are three major towns in Carmarthenshire which form a pivotal role at the centre of the LDP's Growth Areas. The three towns of Llanelli, Carmarthen and Ammanford are home to 25% of the County's population. 60% of the population live in rural areas, which form 53% of the County<sup>15</sup>.

10.10 **39.3%** of LSOAs within the local authority of **Carmarthenshire** are classed as "**Urban city and town**" in the 2011 urban-rural classification of small area geographies, this is the **highest** proportion within Carmarthenshire.



Source: Office for National Statistics

## Migration

10.11 The following illustrates the role migration plays within Carmarthenshire with as a rule in migration from the rest of the UK compensating in numerical terms for ongoing issues in terms of out migration. The following illustrates the migration pattern between 2007 and 2016.

<sup>14</sup> Stats Wales: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Density/populationdensity-by-localauthority-year>

<sup>15</sup> Carmarthenshire Draft Wellbeing Plan: <http://www.thecarmarthenshirewewant.wales/media/8285/carms-well-being-plan-final-draft-051017-english.pdf>

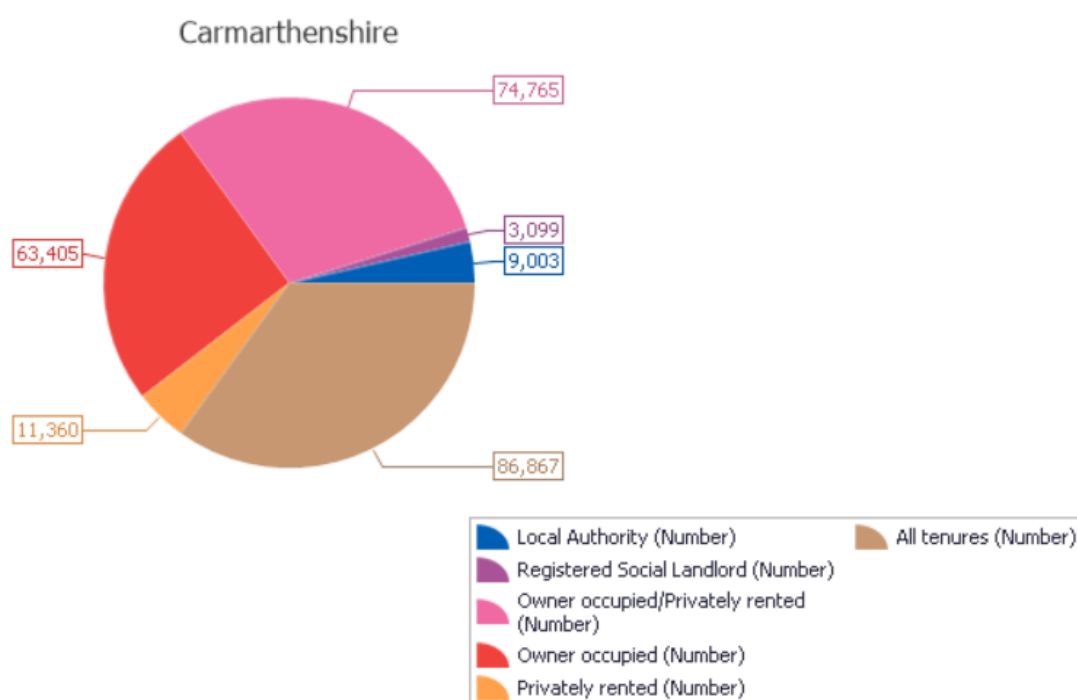
**Table: Migration between Wales and the rest of the UK by local authority, flow and period of change**

	2006 to 2007	2007 to 2008	2008 to 2009	2009 to 2010	2010 to 2011	2011 to 2012	2012 to 2013	2013 to 2014	2014 to 2015	2015 to 2016
Inward Migration	6,780	6,190	5,920	5,690	6,020	6,470	6,220	6,290	6,320	6,700
Outward Migration	5,250	5,180	5,520	5,490	5,190	6,000	5,880	6,080	5,770	6,080
<b>Net Migration</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>-70</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>-520</b>	<b>-480</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>350</b>

Source: StatsWales

## Housing Stock

10.12 The following indicates the dwelling stock estimates by tenure.



Source: Statswales

### Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the LDP

There would be no allocated land for housing, and once the current LDP housing supply is exhausted, development would take place in an uncoordinated piecemeal manner.

There would be a lack of adaptation to the predicted changes in population and social structure, which may threaten the cohesion and well-being of communities and the viability of schools, businesses and services. There would likely be unsustainable housing development on Greenfield sites away from existing education facilities and community services, badly served by public and Active Transport routes which may lead to less social activity and greater social exclusion. It is likely that existing deprived areas would experience little regeneration or any of the community benefits linked to new development. The provision of affordable housing would remain low and the increase in demand for affordable homes, particularly for the elderly would not be met.

Increasing population will put pressure on education services and ad hoc development may result in residential areas not being served by existing educational facilities and contributions

from developers to fund new provision may not result in facilities being developed at an appropriate stage of development.

## 11 The Welsh Language

11.1 The Welsh language plays an important role in the social, cultural and economic life of Carmarthenshire's residents and visitors. The 2011 Census indicated that there were 78,048 Welsh speakers amongst Carmarthenshire's population. Carmarthenshire has the highest number of Welsh speakers in Wales and has the fourth highest proportion of Welsh speakers at 43.9% (2011 Census data). There is a significant variation in the numbers and proportions of Welsh speakers across Wales but on average 19% of the Welsh population are able to speak Welsh.

11.2 During the period between the 1991, 2001 and 2011 Censuses, the percentage of Welsh speakers in Carmarthenshire has decreased from 54.9% to 43.9%. Carmarthenshire also experienced the second largest decrease in the percentage of Welsh speakers between 1991 and 2001 at 4.5% (this was second only to Ceredigion who experienced a decrease of 7.1%). In the time between 2001 and 2011 Carmarthenshire experienced the highest decrease at 6.4%.

11.3 The Welsh Language Use Survey 2015, contains information by local authority on Welsh language ability and usage. The survey notes that 80,700 of Carmarthenshire's population noted that they could speak Welsh. This has increased since the 2011 Census results which showed that 78,048 of the population could speak Welsh.

11.4 The decline in the proportion of Welsh speakers since 1991 is not unique to Carmarthenshire and the decrease in Welsh speakers is a trend witnessed throughout the majority of Wales but in particular in the areas of Wales traditionally known as the Welsh heartlands ('Y Fro Gymraeg'). Other areas in the traditional heartlands such as Anglesey, Gwynedd and Ceredigion have also seen a decrease in Welsh speakers and the Welsh Government have raised concerns over the sustainability of the language in these traditionally Welsh-speaking areas.

11.5 The proportion of Welsh speakers varies across Carmarthenshire, Figure 22 shows a breakdown of the proportion of Welsh speakers in each electoral Ward as indicated in the 2011 Census.

\*\*\*\*\* More to be included from Welsh Language Topic Paper \*\*\*\*\*



## 12 Health and Well-being.

### Review of the Carmarthenshire Well Being Assessment 2017

12.1 Carmarthenshire is the third worst county in Wales for levels of childhood obesity with 30.7% of 4-5 year olds being overweight or obese, almost 5 percentage points higher than the Welsh average of 26.2%. Projections suggest an increase in trends for childhood obesity going forward with figures showing males between the ages of 2 – 15 being at greatest risk. There is a strong link between childhood and adulthood obesity and many of the associated chronic health problems such as Type 2 diabetes and coronary heart disease are likely to continue to also increase in the future therefore posing threats to the well-being of children now and in later life.

12.2 Obesity is more prevalent in disadvantaged communities and European research suggests increased prevalence in rural areas, although research in the UK has found no significant association. However there is some evidence that people who do engage in the natural environment are less likely to be overweight. Given Carmarthenshire's extensive natural assets and the additional positive effects on psychological and cultural well-being the environment offers, the promotion of opportunities to engage in the natural environment may be an area which can help improve well-being.

12.3 A fundamental means of tackling levels of obesity is engaging children in physical activity. Assessment engagement activity with primary school children showed being physically active to be the second most important factor for positive well-being of children aged 6 – 11, after connections with family and friends. The Carmarthenshire school sports survey 2015 identified similarly high levels of Engagement in sport suggesting a positive relationship with physical activity. It is noted that the Carmarthenshire Play Sufficiency Assessment reported that 90% of children stated that playing makes them feel happy and 49% reported that play made them feel active

12.4 It is stated that throughout adolescence, as curiosity meets opportunity, there are various experiences on offer to young people, not all of which can have positive outcomes or effects on well-being. It is noted that the highest reports of young people currently smoking at least weekly in Carmarthenshire were 8% of boys in year 9 and 19% of girls in year 11. Smoking amongst boys was more persistent throughout secondary school. In addition the highest number of students reporting having tried electronic cigarettes was over a third of girls aged 14 - 16. Although there has been national concern about levels of alcohol related crimes and incidents involving young people, Carmarthenshire has seen a steady decline in the number of such reported incidents from 87 in 2014 to 49 in 2016. From January to November 2016, 16% of drug offences in Carmarthenshire involved an offender under the age of 18 with the majority of offences (102 crimes) relating to possession of cannabis.

12.5 28% of Carmarthenshire's adults suffer from mental health issues, slightly above the Welsh average of 26%. Poor psychological and emotional wellbeing can act as a barrier to full participation in society. Issues such as confidence, anxiety, fatigue and stigma can limit an individual's capacity to interact with others or to find work for example.

12.6 It is stated that health has a significant effect on wellbeing. The 2011 census indicates that 16% of Carmarthenshire residents described their health as 'fair', 6% as 'bad' and 2% as 'very bad'. The 2017 survey probed this further by looking at impacts and found that, of those with a health issue affecting their well-being, 64% said they couldn't do the things they enjoy'; 41% said they need or rely on help to manage day to day and 32% said it 'puts a strain on their personal relationships'. In 2013, the number of Carmarthenshire residents aged 65 and

over diagnosed with dementia was 2,783. By 2030, it is predicted that this number will reach 4,371, a rise of 1,588, (57%) in line with the Welsh average.

12.7 Although the life-expectancy rate in Carmarthenshire is in line with the Wales average, there is a significant gap of 18.5 years between those from the least and most deprived areas. Likewise, as with infant mortality rates, premature death (under the age of 75) is substantially more common in deprived communities. This is particularly the case for males who have a 33% excess death rate compared to those from affluent communities. This demonstrates the impact of deprivation on physical well-being throughout life.

12.8 Responses to the assessment survey indicate that good health is the single most important factor to overall happiness, contentment and life satisfaction. Almost 8 in 10 (79%) respondents said it was important now, and 61% thought it would be important to them in the future.

Since 2011, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has asked personal well-being questions to adults aged 16 years and over in the UK to better understand how they feel about their lives<sup>16</sup>. The well-being questions are:

- Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?
- Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?
- Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?
- Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?

People are asked to respond on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is “not at all” and 10 is “completely”. In Carmarthenshire, 2017/18 survey results show that responses with average response in terms of anxiety has dropped from 3.2 in 2011/12 to 2.8 in 2017/18 (Figure 23). Happiness was shown to increase over the same time period from 7.2 to 7.7 (Figure 24). This trend is also mirrored by life satisfaction (7.3 to 7.7) (Figure 25) and feeling things in life were worthwhile (7.6 to 7.9) (Figure 26) over the same time period.

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<sup>16</sup>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/bulletins/measuringnationalwellbeing/july2017tojune2018>



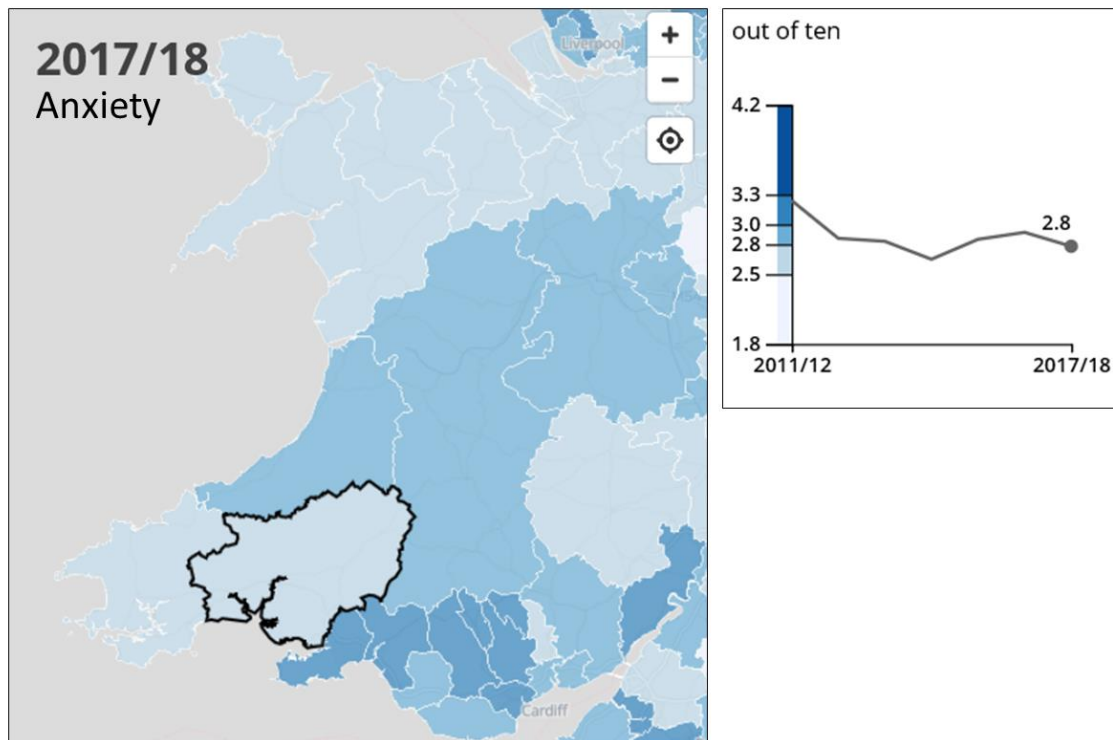


Figure 23 Personal well-being map of responses to the question ‘Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?’ displaying weighted mean averages March 2018

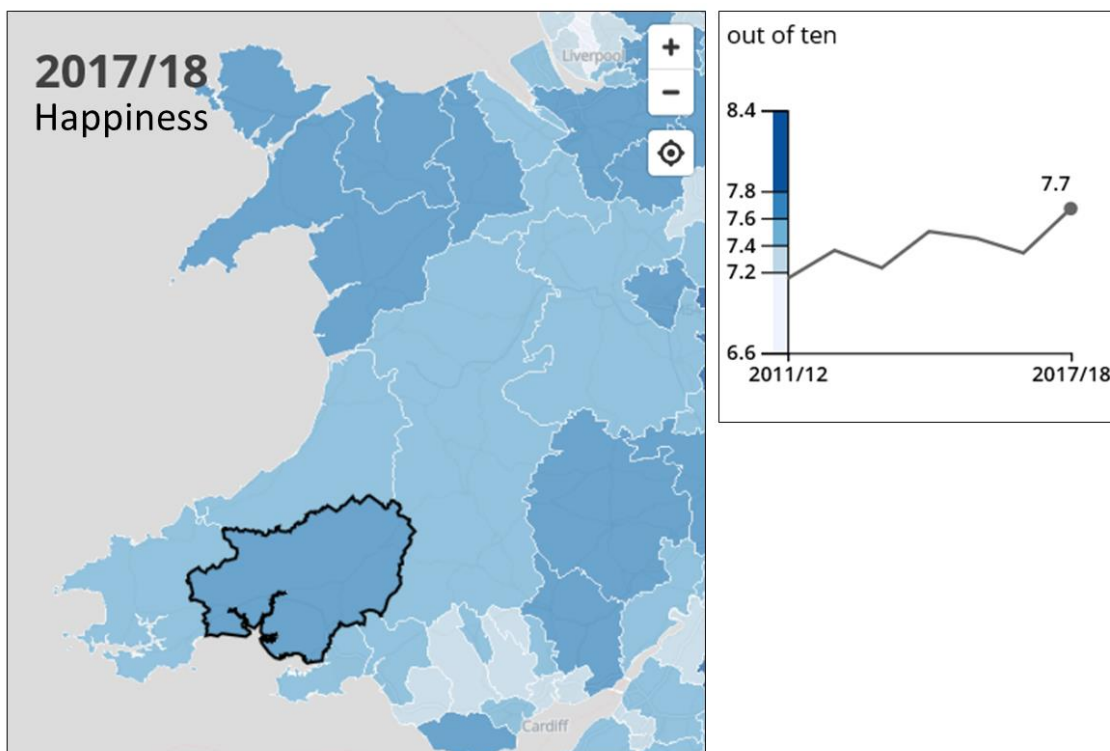


Figure 24 Personal well-being map of responses to the question ‘Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?’ displaying weighted mean averages March 2018

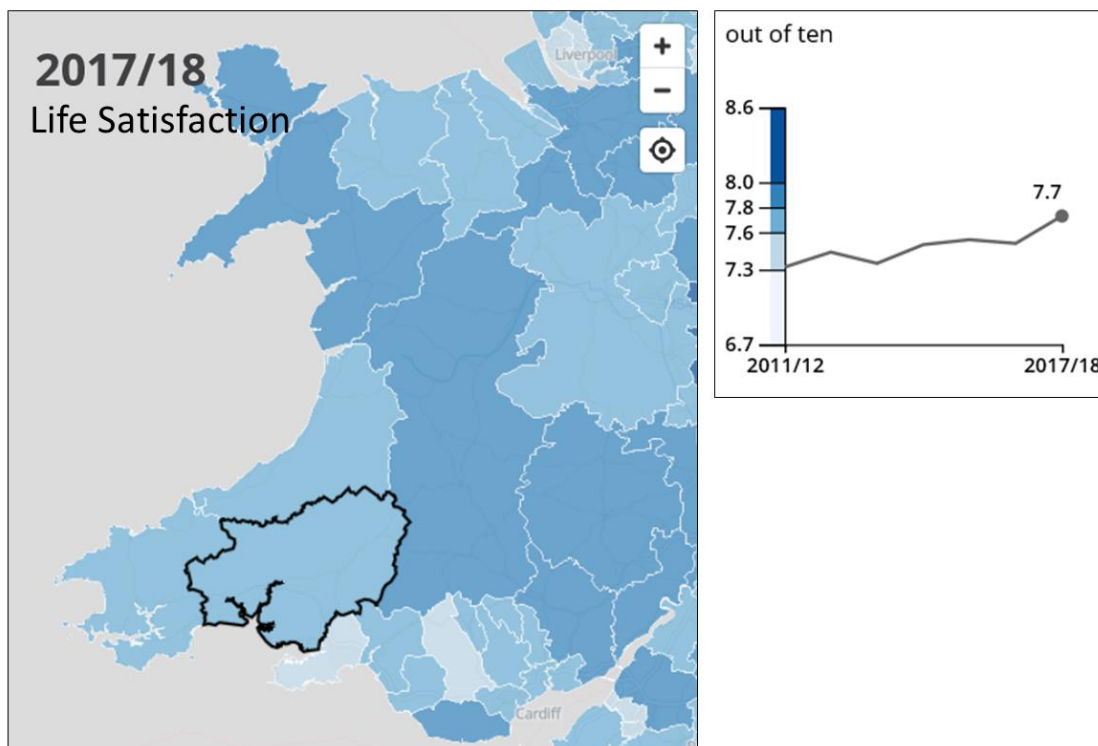


Figure 25 Personal well-being map of responses to the question ‘Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?’ displaying weighted mean averages March 2018

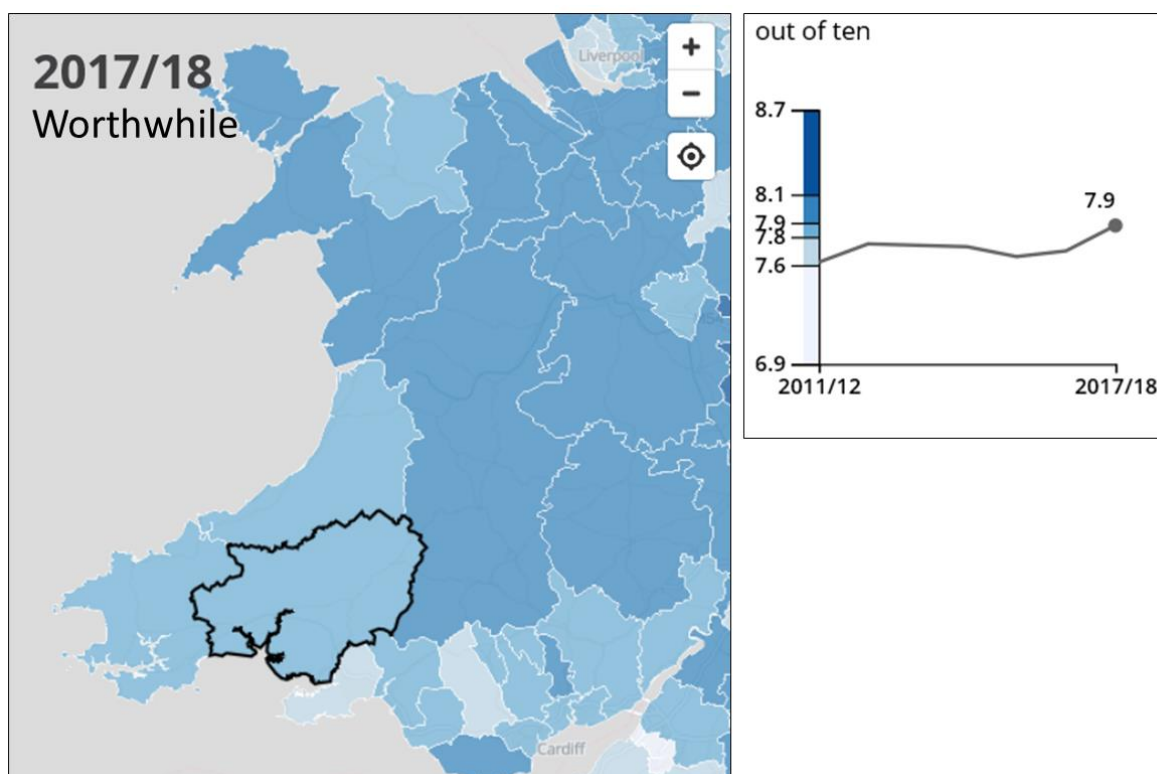


Figure 26 Personal well-being map of responses to the question ‘Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?’ displaying weighted mean averages March 2018

### South West Area Statement – Mental Health

The south west area statement reports a clear divide in mental health between Pembrokeshire, where the majority of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are in the lowest score quintile (0 - 0.25), West/Mid Carmarthenshire, where the majority of LSOAs are in the mid score quintile (0.5 - 0.75), and North/South East Carmarthenshire, South West Swansea, and South East Neath Port Talbot where the majority of LSOAs are in the higher score quintile 1.

Academic research and reports on mental health have underlined a strong correlation between low levels of mental health and high levels of deprivation. Research on factors of low mental health have also underlined subjective personal deprivation as an influential factor of low levels of mental health. These studies have also found a negative correlation between high levels of subjective personal deprivation and low levels of education, household earnings and social support. Studies have also shown a correlation between low levels of mental health and other factors, such as low levels of decision latitude and social support in one’s job, and lack of access to greenspace. The prevalence of these factors is higher in more deprived areas, compared to less deprived areas.

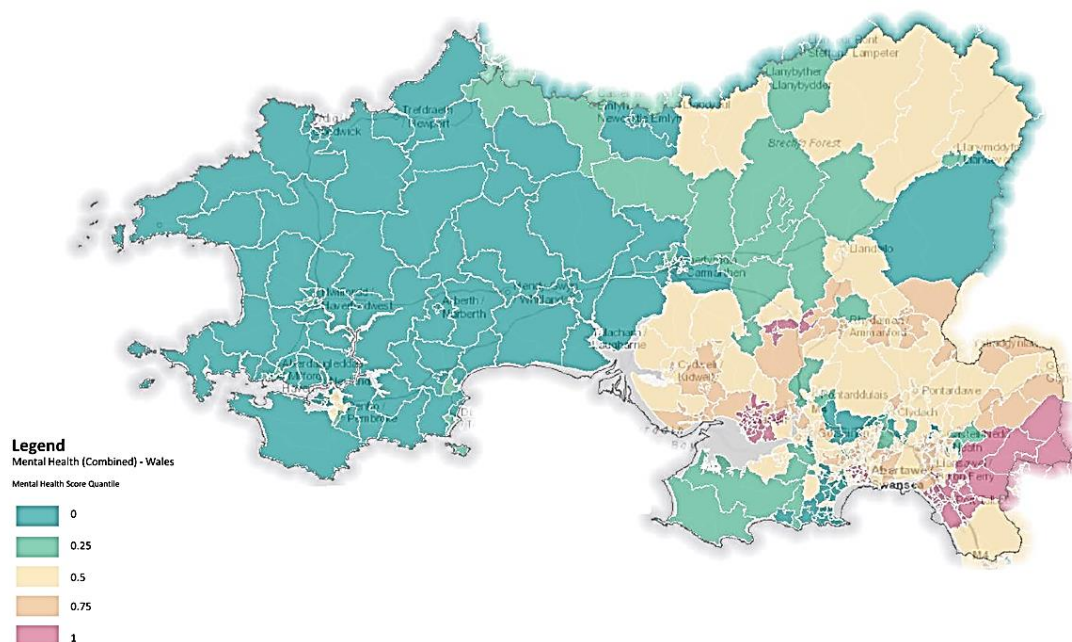


Figure 27 7 Mental Health Score Quintile for South West Area. Source South West Area Statement, NRW.

### South West Area Statement – Physical Health

Maps for both mental health scores and physical health scores follow a similar trend, however, one major difference between mental and physical health scores can be observed in the north of the area, between Llandovery, the Brechfa Forest and Llanybydder, where two Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) which scored in the highest quintile for mental health, now score on the lower quintiles 0 and 0.25 - for physical health score. No discrepancy can be observed between mental health and physical health scores, and both scores seem to be correlated with each other, as studies mentioned earlier suggest.

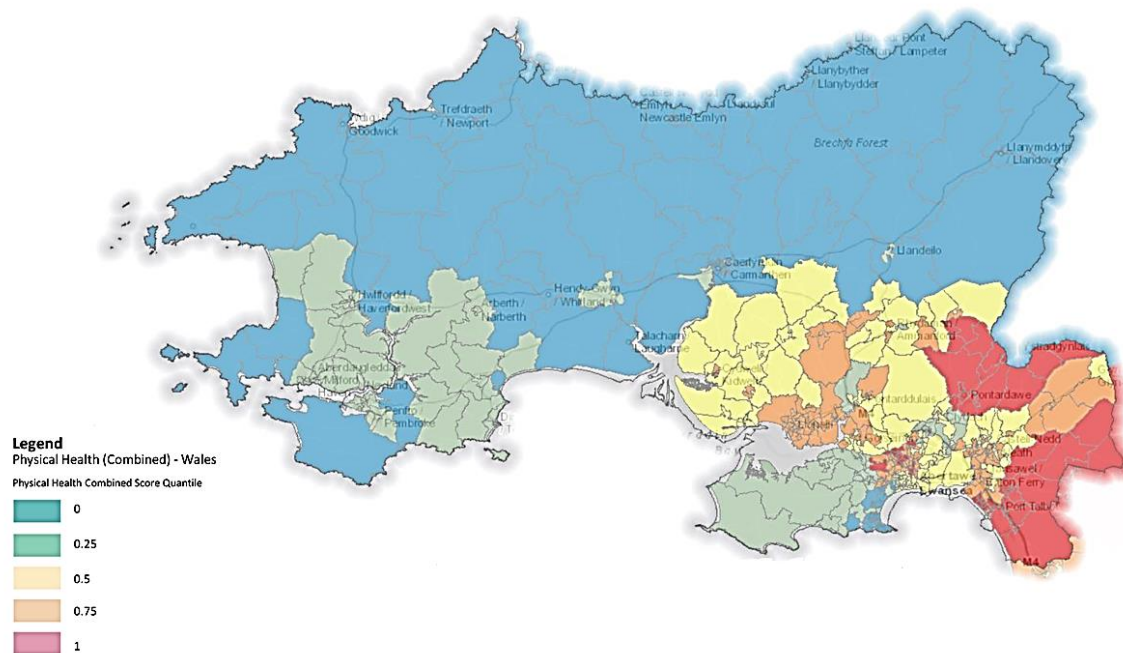


Figure 28 Physical Health Score Quantile for South West Area. Source South West Area Statement, NRW.

Potential reasons for lower for physical health. Potential factors for such low scores include a higher proportion of older population (aged 55+) in Pembrokeshire, compared to the other three local authorities, and the whole of Wales. Studies have shown that morbidity and presence of physical health problems were more prominent in population aged 64+, and increased over time. Other factors include lack of access to greenspace, and rural exclusion linking to ‘access to service’ deprivation.

### **Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the LDP**

There would be no allocated land for housing, and once the current LDP housing supply is exhausted, development would take place in an uncoordinated piecemeal manner.

There would be a lack of adaptation to the predicted changes in population and social structure, which may threaten the cohesion and well-being of communities. There would likely be unsustainable housing development on sites away from existing health facilities, open space provision and community services. There would also be no consideration of access to Active Transport routes which may lead to less physical activity.

Increasing population will put pressure on health and well-being services and ad hoc development may result in residential areas not being served by existing facilities and contributions from developers to fund new provision may not result in facilities being developed at an appropriate stage of development.

## **13 Education and Skills**

### **Review of the Carmarthenshire Well Being Assessment 2017**

13.1 Research by The Institute of Education suggests that attending a good preschool and primary school can have more impact on children’s academic progress than their gender or family background. Three quarters (76%) of Carmarthenshire’s primary schools are classed as “green”(best performing in Wales) or “yellow” (effective) schools under the Welsh

Government's School Categorisation with none in the red (in need of improvement) category. 87% of children achieved expected outcomes at Foundation phase and 89% at Key Stage Two. Studies have shown that emotional well-being and good attention skills are important factors in academic progression at primary school level and into the future

13.2 Carmarthenshire is the 7th highest performing authority in Wales for pupils achieving at least 5 GCSE's A\*-C however there continues to be significance is parity between the performance of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and the general cohort. Likewise just 46% of LAC attained the same qualifications. This highlights the potentially negative effect poor socioeconomic and/or adverse childhood circumstances can have on young person's outcomes.

13.3 12.5% of Carmarthenshire's working age population currently have no qualifications however in the last three years no children have left compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification in Carmarthenshire. Despite this 69 year 11 school leavers in 2016 were recorded as not in employment, education or training (NEET), which is an increase of 0.4% on the previous year. This demonstrates the importance of linking education to demands of the local labour market; details of which can be found in the Regional Employment and Skills Plan 2016.

13.4 Retention of youth is a fundamental cornerstone of a sustainable economy and communities. However, more young people aged 15 – 29 left Carmarthenshire than entered in 2014-15, despite the County's university and further education campus's. This could be in part due to the sense of a lack of suitable job opportunities for young people in the County identified through the assessment survey. 50% of respondents aged 16–24 disagreed that there were suitable job opportunities for them in the local area.

13.5 Young people participating in the Youth Council Forum expressed a desire for more apprenticeships and companies taking on young people with a view to developing and training them. This stresses the significance of creating sustainable, quality and progressive jobs in Carmarthenshire to retain and attract young people to the County and which recognise that learning and development doesn't stop when you leave the school environment.

### **Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the LDP**

Increasing population will put pressure on education services and ad hoc development may result in residential areas not being served by existing educational facilities and contributions from developers to fund new provision may not result in facilities being developed at an appropriate stage of development.

## 14 Economy

14.1 In 2016, 84,700 people were employed in Carmarthenshire. This was the second year in succession where the total had risen by 4% compared to the previous year. The trend in total employment is shown below (Source: Carmarthenshire Employment Sectoral Study).

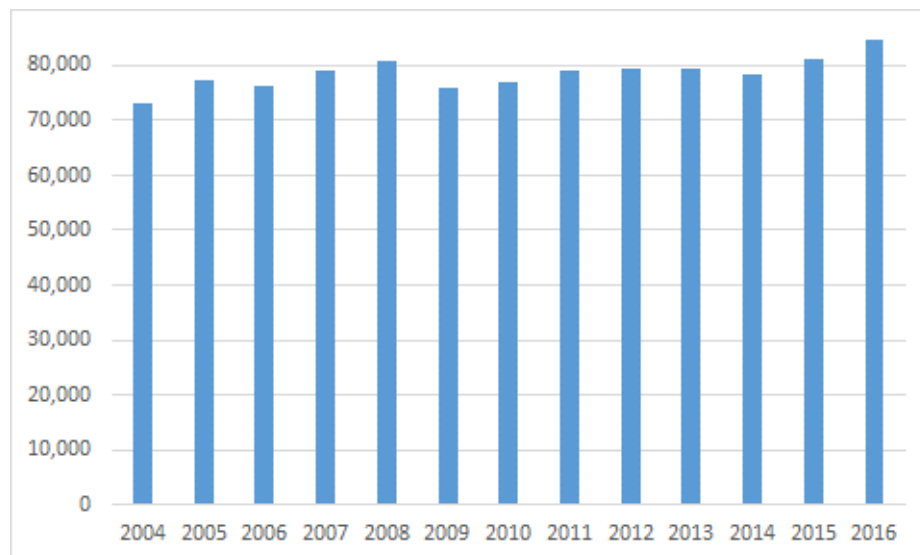


Figure 29 Employment Trends 2004 – 2016. Source: Carmarthenshire Employment Sectoral Needs Study

14.2 The Office for National Statistics data for 2016 on employee jobs by industry for both Carmarthenshire and Wales is set out below.

Employee Jobs by Industry – Carmarthenshire and Wales		
	Carmarthenshire (%)	Wales (%)
B : Mining and quarrying	0.0	0.2
C : Manufacturing	11.9	11.4
D : Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.4	0.6
E : Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0.4	0.9
F : Construction	6.0	5.5
G : Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	16.4	15.1
H : Transportation and storage	3.0	2.9
I : Accommodation and food service activities	9.0	8.9
J : Information and communication	1.2	2.3
K : Financial and insurance activities	0.9	2.3
L : Real estate activities	1.3	1.6
M : Professional, scientific and technical activities	3.0	4.2
N : Administrative and support service activities	5.2	6.6
O : Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	6.7	6.8
P : Education	10.4	10.1
Q : Human health and social work activities	19.4	16.1
R : Arts, entertainment and recreation	2.2	2.5
S : Other service activities	1.3	1.5

Source: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157392/report.aspx>

14.3 In 2016, over 30% of the total were employed in the public sector (e.g. in public administration, education, health and social services). 8,000 positions (11.9% of the total) were in the manufacturing sector and 11,000 (16.4% of the total) were employed in the wholesale and retail sector.

14.4 Self-employment also forms a high proportion of the total in Carmarthenshire with over 15,200 people categorised as self-employed in both 2015 and 2016. This trend towards small or 'micro' businesses is reflected in the ONS NOMIS data. The figure clearly shows that over 90% of private sector businesses / enterprise in the county have 9 or fewer employees. Statistics collated on the types of businesses in Carmarthenshire indicate that 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' still dominates with 28% of all businesses being in this category.

### The Visitor Economy

14.5 Tourism is a key component of Carmarthenshire's economy and a major source of employment and revenue supporting over 5,600 full time equivalent jobs either directly or indirectly and generating over £369m revenue to the County's economy annually (source STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity) Trend Report 2016).

14.6 The below are key Statistics and trends (sourced from the STEAM Trend Report 2016);

% change on 2015 (£'s 2016)	2.7%
Total visitor days (Millions)	5.72
% change on 2015	1.2%
Staying visitor days (Millions)	3.57
% change on 2015	2.9%
Total visitor numbers (Millions)	3.08
% change on 2015	0.1%
Number of staying visitors (Millions)	0.93
% change on 2015	3.6%
Number of day visitors (Millions)	2.15
% change on 2015	-1.3%
Number of FTE jobs supported by tourism spend	5,638
% change on 2015	2.3%

14.7 In terms of tourism challenges for Carmarthenshire, the Destination Management Plan (DMP) outlines a range of issues, including a lack of a reasonable range of wet weather and entertainment facilities.

14.8 The DMP also outlines a range of opportunities, including the fact that Carmarthenshire is a strategic location as the gateway to the West of Wales and it has potential as a tourism base for South West Wales.

14.9 The DMP sets realistic targets for economic impact and seeks to prioritise scarce resources so that they can be used to best effect. It sets out a phased programme of projects and actions that are needed to overcome the weaknesses and threats, whilst capitalising on the strengths and opportunities to achieve sustainable growth in tourism. The steering group have responsibilities and accountabilities to deliver the 4 key priorities:

**Cycling** - The cycling market is growing rapidly and as demand rises, Carmarthenshire is taking advantage by providing new routes and facilities for potential visitors and has made significant developments in improving the opportunities for cyclists.

**Heritage and Culture** - Carmarthenshire coast and country is steeped in heritage and culture.

**Skills and training** - As part of the South West Wales Tourism Business Skills & Development Programme the Carmarthenshire Tourism Association (CTA) are arranging a wide range of workshops, one-to-one sessions and events – all tailored to the needs of the region's tourism industry.

**Events** - The County works hard to address seasonality and encourage tourism in shoulder season periods. The vast proportion of economic impact stated in the county's 2015 STEAM figure of £355 million was generated during peak holiday months rather than spread over twelve months.

14.10 Tourism has a spatial dimension within Carmarthenshire, with the post - industrial coastal area (including access to the All Wales Coastal Path) being home to larger scale regional attractions such as the Millennium Coastal Park and further inland, Ffos Las Racecourse and the northern ruralised areas such as the Brechfa Forest renowned for smaller scale high quality outdoor activity offers such as mountain biking. The south west (eg Pendine/Llansteffan) is characterised by coastal accommodation offer.

### **Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the LDP**

To meet local and regional economic objectives, a step change in the economy is required. Without the LDP, existing rates of employment growth in the same sectors would be likely to continue without the positive intervention of policies encouraging growth in higher value sectors. There would also be no long term coordination of housing provision to support employment growth and no coordination of new attractive employment space provision with supporting infrastructure to accommodate and attract inward investment. This would jeopardise the economic objectives of the wider City Region.



## 15 Social Fabric

### Review of the Carmarthenshire Well Being Assessment 2017

15.1 Of the 22 local authority areas in Wales, Carmarthenshire continues to have one of the lowest number of crimes per 1,000 population, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> again with a rate of 43.78 crimes per 1,000 population.

15.2 Feeling safe was considered a very important factor for social well-being by assessment survey respondents with 93% stating that feeling safe in their home was 'very important' to well-being and 89% that feeling safe in the community was likewise.

15.3 The survey identified a strong relationship between residents' well-being and their surrounding environment although the exact nature of the relationship varies across age groups and community areas from providing recreational opportunities, to psychological positivity, health benefits and a connection to heritage and culture, all of which will be explored throughout this report. However, rurality can also pose challenges to wellbeing such as access to services and digital access which can impact both social and economic well-being.

15.4 36% of households across the county can be said to be living in poverty based on the Welsh Government definition of poverty as "households with less than 60% of the GB median income", making Carmarthenshire levels the 8th highest in Wales. In addition, measures of the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2014 indicate significant variance in the level of deprivation experienced across community areas.

### Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2014

15.5 The WIMD 2014 is based on fine-grained geography of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). The WIMD 2014 is compiled from eight domains: Income; Employment; Health, Education; Housing; Access to Services; Physical Environment; and Community Safety and is published at LSOAs of which there are 112 in Carmarthenshire. 59 of these 112 LSOAs are within the 50% most deprived within Wales. Of the 10% most deprived wards within Wales, 5 are within Carmarthenshire – namely Tyisha 2, Bigyn 4, Llwynhendy 3, Glanymor 4 and Tyisha 3.

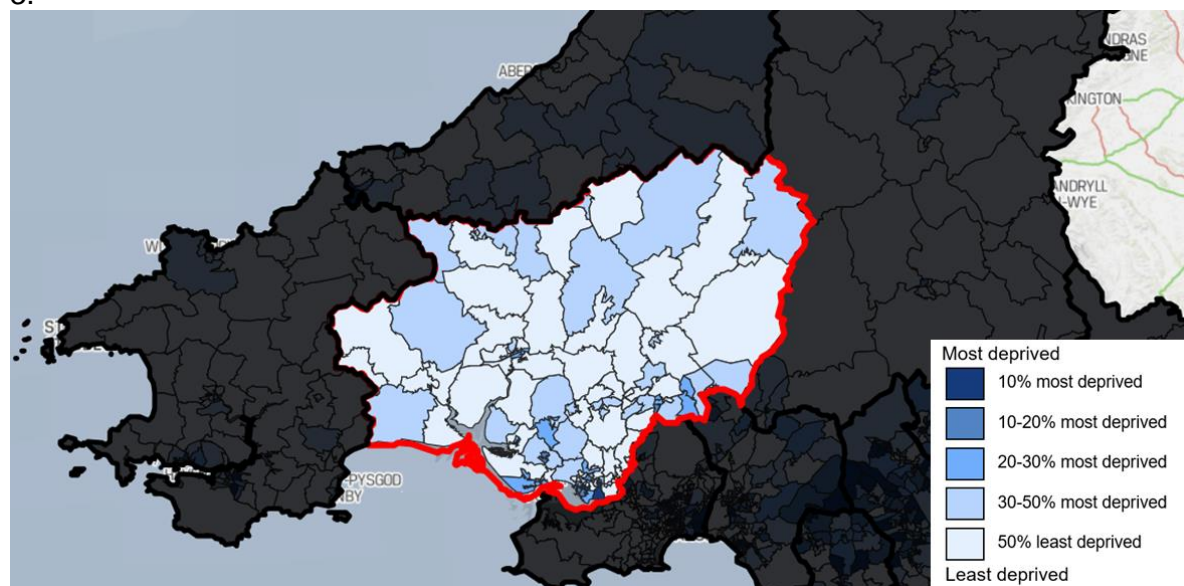


Figure 30 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation for Carmarthenshire<sup>17</sup>

<sup>17</sup> <http://wimd.wales.gov.uk/>



## Ward Profiles

15.6 Carmarthenshire is a diverse county. The county is made up of 58 electoral wards with 74 elected Members. Individual profiles have been prepared for each of these wards by the Council. The profile provides a summary of the key characteristics of the ward as well as valuable local information. The ward profiles draw upon a wide array of data sources, and their standardised layout enables the quick and easy comparison of areas, an investigation of patterns, and identification of variations. This is available here:

<http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/research-statistics/electoral-ward-county-profiles/#.Wqu1xOlpy70>

## Fuel Poverty

15.7 Information from the Department of Energy and Climate Change shows that 21% of households in Carmarthenshire are not connected to a mains gas supply which is traditionally used as a measure of fuel poverty. This is particularly prevalent in rural areas of the county. In some smaller, more remote rural communities this increases to 98% of households (Carmarthenshire Rural Poverty Study, 2015).

15.8 As a result rural residents often have higher dependency on more expensive sources of fuel such as oil, which is still the main source of fuel for 20,194 homes across the county (Census, 2011) and can be particularly expensive in older homes with insufficient insulation. In addition 1821 households in Carmarthenshire are without any central heating system (Census, 2011). It is stated that living in fuel poverty can not only have detrimental impact on economic well-being but also on physical health with increasing numbers of excess winter deaths relating to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases being predominantly linked to the cold.

## Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the LDP

There would be no allocated land for housing, and once the current LDP housing supply is exhausted, development would take place in an uncoordinated piecemeal manner.

There would be a lack of adaptation to the predicted changes in population and social structure, which may threaten the cohesion and well-being of communities and the viability of schools, businesses and services. There would likely be unsustainable housing development on Greenfield sites away from existing education facilities and community services, badly served by public and Active Transport routes which may lead to less social activity and greater social exclusion. It is likely that existing deprived areas would experience little regeneration or any of the community benefits linked to new development. The provision of affordable housing would remain low and the increase in demand for affordable homes, particularly for the elderly would not be met.

Increasing population will put pressure on education services and ad hoc development may result in residential areas not being served by existing educational facilities and contributions from developers to fund new provision may not result in facilities being developed at an appropriate stage of development.

## Appendix 3. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

SA Objectives	Decision Making Influences
<b>1 Sustainable Development</b>	
1-1 To live within environmental limits 1-2 To ensure a strong, healthy and just society 1-3 To achieve a sustainable economy 1-4 To remove barriers and promoting opportunities for behavioural change	Will the LDP contribute to reducing resource consumption? Will the LDP encourage needs to be met locally? Will the LDP encourage individuals, companies and businesses to make more sustainable choices?
<b>2 Biodiversity</b>	
2.1 To promote the resilience of ecosystems by avoiding the damage or fragmentation of designated sites, habitats and protected species and to encourage connectivity 2-2 To protect, enhance and create appropriate wildlife habitats and wider biodiversity in urban and rural areas	Are there any designated or non-statutory nature conservation sites that may be affected by the LDP? Is there any evidence of protected species that may be affected? Will there be any opportunities for enhancing or recovering wildlife resources? Will there be any opportunities to create new habitats?
<b>3 Air Quality</b>	
3-1 To maintain and improve the levels of the UK National Air Quality pollutants 3-2 To improve levels of ground level ozone 3-3 To reduce the need to travel, through appropriate siting of new developments and provision of public transport infrastructure	Will the LDP have a positive or negative impact on the existing air quality baseline? Will the LDP increase or decrease the emissions of air pollutants from developments? Will the LDP increase or decrease the emissions of air pollutants from transport?
<b>4 Climactic Factors</b>	
4-1 To reduce the emission of greenhouse gases 4-2 To minimise the vulnerability of Carmarthenshire to the effects of climate change through making space for water, coastal retreat and shifting habitat distribution patterns 4-3 To encourage all new developments to be climate resilient 4-4 To encourage energy conservation and higher energy efficiency. 4-5 To minimise energy consumption and promote renewable energy sources.	Will the LDP have a positive or negative impact on the emissions of carbon dioxide from new development in the County? Will the LDP contribute to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from traditional forms of energy generation? Will the LDP put a larger number of residents at risk of flooding?

	<p>Are new developments climate resilient?</p> <p>Does the LDP leave room for habitat adjustment and coastal and fluvial flood water?</p>
<b>5 Water</b>	
<p>5-1 To ensure water quality of rivers, lakes, groundwater and coastal areas is improved and ensure that the hydromorphological quality of water bodies is maximised.</p> <p>5-2 To protect and maintain water resources in the public supply chain and ensure enough water is available for the environment at all times of year.</p> <p>5-3 To minimise diffuse pollution from urban and rural areas.</p> <p>5-4 To increase water efficiency in new and refurbished developments</p> <p>5-5 To make space for water, and minimise and reduce flood risk</p>	<p>Will there be an increase or decrease in the discharge of pollutants to water?</p> <p>Will there be an increase or decrease in water consumption from development?</p> <p>Will the LDP have a positive or negative effect on water quality and hydromorphology?</p> <p>Will it contribute to an increase in flood risk?</p> <p>Will it contribute to a reduction in flood risk?</p>
<b>6 Material Assets</b>	
<p>6-1 Minimise the use of finite resources and promote higher resource efficiency and the use of secondary and recycled materials.</p> <p>6-2 Promote the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle.</p> <p>6-3 Encourage needs to be met locally.</p> <p>6-4 Promote the use of more sustainable resources.</p> <p>6-5 Improve the integration of different modes of transport.</p> <p>6-6 Promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport (e.g. cycling and walking).</p>	<p>Will the LDP contribute to increased rates of recycling and higher resource efficiency?</p> <p>Will the LDP ensure that needs can be met locally?</p> <p>Will the LDP allow people to make more sustainable transport choices?</p>
<b>7 Soil</b>	
<p>7-1 To promote the regeneration of contaminated land.</p> <p>7-2 To avoid loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces and minimise soil erosion.</p> <p>7-3 To reduce SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions and nitrate pollution from agriculture.</p>	<p>Will the LDP increase or decrease land contamination?</p> <p>Will the LDP result in an increase or loss of good quality soil resources?</p> <p>Will the LDP improve or degrade soil quality?</p> <p>Will the LDP involve development on previously used land?</p>
<b>8 Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment</b>	
<p>8-1 To protect historic and cultural assets and local distinctiveness from negative effects of development/regeneration and support their enhancement</p> <p>8-2 To promote high quality design reflecting local character and distinctiveness</p>	<p>Are there any sites of archaeological importance that can be positively or negatively affected by the LDP?</p> <p>Are there any historic landscapes that can be</p>

	<p>positively or negatively affected by the LDP?          Are there any listed buildings that can be positively or negatively affected by the LDP?</p>
<b>9 Landscape</b>	
<p>9.1 To protect and enhance landscape/townscape from negative effects of land use change          9-2 To take sensitive locations into account when siting development and to promote high quality design          9-3 To encourage appropriate future use of derelict land</p>	<p>Will the LDP have a positive or negative impact on landscapes or townscapes?          Will the LDP have a positive or negative impact on designated landscapes?          Will the LDP encourage the redevelopment of previously developed land?</p>
<b>10 Population</b>	
<p>10-1 Ensure suitable, affordable housing stock with access to education and employment facilities          10-2 Promote the retention of younger people          10-3 Promote inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups into society</p>	<p>Will the LDP increase the provision of affordable housing in Carmarthenshire?          Will the LDP contribute to promoting the retention of young people in the county?          Will the LDP contribute to social inclusion?</p>
<b>11 The Welsh language</b>	
<p>11-1 Encourage growth of the Welsh language and culture</p>	<p>Will the LDP encourage the growth of the Welsh language and culture?</p>
<b>12 Health and Well-being</b>	
<p>12-1 Create opportunities for people to live active, healthy lifestyles through planning activities          12-2 Provide access to health and recreation facilities and services          12-3 Encourage walking or cycling as alternative means of transportation          12-4 Promote access to Wales' natural and cultural heritage</p>	<p>Will there be a positive or negative impact on human health?          Will access to health services and recreation facilities including natural heritage features be increased?          Will the LDP increase opportunities for walking and cycling?</p>
<b>13 Education and Skills</b>	
<p>13-1 Provide accessible educational and training facilities which meet the future needs of the area          13-2 Increase levels of literacy (in English and Welsh) and numeracy          13-3 Promote lifelong learning</p>	<p>Will the LDP contribute to increasing attainment levels amongst young people?          Will the LDP promote access to education facilities for all members of the community?          Will the LDP contribute to increasing literacy and numeracy levels?</p>
<b>14 Economy</b>	

<p>14-1 To promote sustainable economic growth  14-2 To provide good quality employment opportunities for all sections of the population  14-3 To promote sustainable businesses in Wales</p>	<p>Will there be any adverse economic impacts on land and premises in employment use?  Will there be a positive or negative impact on jobs opportunities as a result of the LDP?</p>
<p><b>15 Social Fabric</b></p>	
<p>15-1 Improve safety and security for people and property  15-2 Promote the design of settlements that improve social fabric by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions  15-3 Promote the delivery of affordable housing  15-4 Improve accessibility to services, particularly for disadvantaged sections of society.</p>	<p>Will the LDP contribute to making housing more affordable?  Will the LDP contribute to creating settlements that are safe and of a high quality urban fabric?  Will the LDP contribute to creating healthier homes?  Will the LDP maximise access to services and facilities for all members of the community by different modes of transport?</p>

## Appendix 4 SA of rLDP Strategic Policies

<b>SP1: Strategic Growth</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Commentary</b>	<b>Mitigating Plan Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This policy looks to support a sustainable economy, and provides opportunity for needs to be met locally.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	-	Growth in particular in rural areas is likely to impact on greenfield land and undisturbed areas of biodiversity.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	-	This policy supports population and economic growth, both of which are likely to lead to a significant increase in transport (domestic and economic) and associated traffic related air pollution.	PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure.
SA4 – Climatic Factors	-	This policy supports population and economic growth, both of which are likely to lead to a significant increase in transport (domestic and economic) and associated carbon emissions.	CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2 Active travel
SA5 – Water	+	This policy provides for a housing growth percentage of 10.6%, which is within the 14.6% capacity provided for in Dwr Cymru Welsh Water's (DCWW) Resource Management Plan.	
SA6 – Material Assets	+	Growth, especially in rural areas, has the potential to create and/or retain communities with population densities high enough to support facilities and services leading to needs being met locally.	
SA7 - Soil		The alignment of this policy with SA7 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment		The alignment of this policy with SA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places



			PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods.
SA9 – Landscape	I	The alignment of this policy with SA9 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	PSD1 – Sustainability and High Quality Design NE8 – Landscape Character
SA10 – Population	++	This supports a level of growth that will provide a significant number of affordable homes, in both urban and rural areas. Also, the creation of new jobs is likely to help retain young people in the county.	
SA11 – Welsh Language	+/-	Alignment of this policy with SA11 is difficult to determine. Growth and inward migration has the potential to dilute Welsh language and culture in certain areas. However, it does increase the potential for retaining young Welsh speakers in the county and so may also have a positive effect	WL1 Welsh Language and New Development
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	Growth, especially in rural areas, has the potential to create and/or retain communities with population densities high enough to support new, accessible leisure and health care facilities.	
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	Growth, especially in rural areas, has the potential to create and/or retain communities with population densities high enough to support new, accessible educational and training facilities.	
SA14 – Economy	++	Supports growth at a level that will create a minimum of 5,307 jobs over the plan period, in line with the Council's core ambitions.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	This supports a level of growth that will provide a significant number of affordable homes in both urban and rural areas.	
<b>SA comments and recommendations</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies.</li> </ul>			

<b>SP 2: Retail and Town Centres</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Mitigating Plan Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+		
SA2 – Biodiversity	I	Any development infers potential for negative impacts on biodiversity, but at a strategic level, it is difficult to determine more specific impacts. The choice of sites and the manner in which they are developed would determine the way in which biodiversity would be affected.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	+/-	This policy does encourage attractiveness of town centres which may increase access via public car, in particular to towns such as Carmarthen, Llanelli and Llandeilo which currently all have AQMA's. However, town centres are well serviced by public transport meaning that they are accessible by alternative transport networks. The policy does make explicit reference to evidencing a sites access to sustainable modes of transport if sited outside of town centres.	PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure.
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	This policy does encourage attractiveness of town centres which may increase access via public car and associated carbon emissions. However, town centres are well serviced by public transport meaning that they are accessible by alternative transport networks. The policy does make explicit reference to evidencing a sites access to sustainable modes of transport if sited outside of town centres.	CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2 Active travel
SA5 – Water	I	Effects on water quality and supply is largely dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	SP8 – Infrastructure CCH3 – Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources
SA6 – Material Assets	0		
SA7 - Soil	I	The alignment of this policy with SA7 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks

			SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	I	The alignment of this policy with SA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
SA9 – Landscape	+	This policy supports the protection and enhancement of existing townscapes.	
SA10 – Population	+	Protecting and enhancing the vibrancy, viability and attractiveness of our retail centres is likely to contribute to the retention of young people in the County.	
SA11 – Welsh Language	+	Protecting and enhancing the vibrancy, viability and attractiveness of our retail centres is likely to contribute to the retention of young people in the County, which in turn is likely to have positive effects on the Welsh Language.	
SA12 – Health and Well-being	0		
SA13 – Education and Skills	0		
SA14 – Economy	++	Protecting and enhancing the vibrancy, viability and attractiveness of our retail centres will have strong positive effects on the County’s economy.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	0		
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation for any air quality impacts could be further strengthened by making a specific reference to the protection and enhancement of GI within and adjacent to AQMA’s in policy PSD12 Light and Air Quality.</li> <li>• Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies.</li> </ul>			

<b>SP 3: A Sustainable Approach to Providing New Homes</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This policy looks to support a sustainable economy, and provides opportunity for needs to be met locally.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	-	Housing provision, in particular in rural areas, is likely to impact on greenfield land and undisturbed areas of biodiversity.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	-	This policy supports the provision of new homes, which is likely to lead to a significant increase in transport (domestic and economic) and associated traffic related air pollution.	PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA4 – Climatic Factors	-	This policy supports the provision of new homes which is likely to lead to a significant increase in transport (domestic and economic) and associated carbon emissions.	CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2 Active travel
SA5 – Water	+	This policy provides for a housing growth percentage of 10.6%, which is within the 14.6% capacity provided for in Dwr Cymru Welsh Water's (DCWW) Resource Management Plan.	
SA6 – Material Assets	+	Growth, especially in rural areas, has the potential to create and/or retain communities with population densities high enough to support facilities and services leading to needs being met locally.	
SA7 - Soil	I	The alignment of this policy with SA7 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.

SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	I	The alignment of this policy with SA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
SA9 – Landscape	+	The policy specifically outlines criteria for sustainable development, including a presumption against inappropriate development outside of development limits.	
SA10 – Population	++	This supports a level of growth that will provide a significant number of affordable homes, in both urban and rural areas. Also, the creation of new jobs is likely to help retain young people in the county.	
SA11 – Welsh Language	+/-	Alignment of this policy with SA11 is difficult to determine. Growth and inward migration has the potential to dilute Welsh language and culture in certain areas. However, it does increase the potential for retaining young Welsh speakers in the county and so may also have a positive effect.	WL1 Welsh Language and New Development
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	Growth, especially in rural areas, has the potential to create and/or retain communities with population densities high enough to support new, accessible leisure and health care facilities.	
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	Growth, especially in rural areas, has the potential to create and/or retain communities with population densities high enough to support new, accessible educational and training facilities.	
SA14 – Economy	++	Supports growth at a level that will create a minimum of 5,295 jobs over the plan period, in line with the Council’s core ambitions.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	This supports a level of growth that will provide a significant number of affordable homes in both urban and rural areas.	
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies.</li> </ul>			

<b>SP 4: Affordable Homes</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This policy contributes positively to ensuring development is socially sustainable, by addressing the Well-being of all members of society and removing barriers to social inclusion.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	-	Housing provision, in particular in rural areas, is likely to impact on greenfield land and undisturbed areas of biodiversity.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	-	Affordable housing located In rural areas may result in an increase in private car use and associated air quality issues if not located near good public transport networks and active travel routes.	PSD12 Light and Air Pollution  PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA4 – Climatic Factors	-	Affordable housing located In rural areas may result in an increase in private car use and associated CO <sup>2</sup> emissions if not located near good public transport networks and active travel routes.	CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points  TRA2 Active travel
SA5 – Water	0		
SA6 – Material Assets	0		
SA7 - Soil	0		
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	0		
SA9 – Landscape	0		
SA10 – Population	++	Residents who otherwise may not be able to afford to live and work in the County are able to access affordable housing and remain in the County. In particular, this policy supports disadvantaged groups in society as well as young persons.	
SA11 – Welsh Language	+	Carmarthenshire has a large proportion of welsh speakers and this policy will support residents who otherwise may not be able to afford to live and work in the	

		County are able to access affordable housing and remain in the County.	
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+		
SA13 – Education and Skills	+		
SA14 – Economy	+	Residents who otherwise may not be able to afford to live and work in the County are able to access affordable housing and remain in the County.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	++	Policy facilitates the delivery of affordable housing, which in turn, removes barriers and creates opportunities for disadvantaged sections of society.	
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggested that due to likely need for affordable housing in rural as well as urban areas of Carmarthenshire, policy SP4 make specific reference be made in the supporting text to the protection of the natural environment when locating affordable housing.</li> <li>• Suggested that policy SP4 make specific reference in the supporting text to locating affordable housing in locations with good access to public transport networks as well as active travel routes.</li> <li>• Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies.</li> </ul>			

<b>SP 5: Strategic Sites</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This policy looks to support a sustainable economy, and provides opportunity for needs to be met locally.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	I	Any development infers potential for negative impacts on biodiversity, but at a strategic level, it is difficult to determine more specific impacts. These will be assessed at a planning application. It should be noted that Llanelli Life Science and Well-being village is immediately adjacent to the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Site.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network  PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	+/-	Both sites are outside of the established AQMA's in both Carmarthen and Llanelli, however, have the potential to increase traffic and related air pollution. Both sites are strategic and well serviced by public transport networks.	PSD12 Light and Air Pollution  PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	Both sites have the potential to increase traffic and related air pollution. Both sites are strategic and well serviced by public transport networks.	CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points  TRA2 Active travel
SA5 – Water	0	Both sites have been through the planning process and DCWW have Review of Consents as to site specific capacity for growth with respect to water abstraction and waste water treatment. The need for any additional provision will be subject to consultation with DCWW.	SP8 – Infrastructure  CCH3 – Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources
SA6 – Material Assets	+	Both sites are well serviced and have access to facilities, allowing need to be met locally. They are also well serviced by public transport.	
SA7 - Soil	I	Any development infers the loss of soil/permeable surfaces to hard standing. However, it is difficult to predict impacts at a strategic level. The alignment of this policy with SA7 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks  SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and	I	The alignment of this policy with SA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment



Historic Environment			PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places  PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
SA9 – Landscape	I	The alignment of this policy with SA9 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP11 – Placemaking and Sustainable Places  PSD1 – Sustainability and High Quality Design  NE8 – Landscape Character
SA10 – Population	++	This policy would contribute towards aligning development with significant, skilled employment opportunities which is likely to encourage the retention of young people in the county. The Llanelli Life Science and Well-being village is also in an area of high deprivation and so is likely to create opportunities for disadvantaged communities.	
SA11 – Welsh Language	+	Yr Egin is the base for the Welsh language broadcaster S4C and is a new development space for creative and digital companies with promotion of the Welsh language at the heart of the development. The significant job creation as a result of both strategic sites are likely to create opportunities for young people in the county, a large proportion of which are Welsh speaking. However, uncertainty remains as to the effects of migration of non-Welsh speakers to the county as a result of these developments.	
SA12 – Health and Well-being	++	Llanelli Life Science and Well-being village is to be a wellness hub where multiple services will be available in one location. Aligning development with this will have positive effects on health and wellbeing.	
SA13 – Education and Skills	++	Both facilities create opportunities for shared learning, inward investment and inflow of skills to the county, all of which are predicted to have strong positive effects.	
SA14 – Economy	++	Both facilities are part of significant inward investment to the county and have the potential to create thousands of high quality jobs.	

SA15 – Social Fabric	++	This policy would contribute towards aligning development with significant, skilled employment opportunities and in the case of Llanelli, in areas of high deprivation and so is likely to create opportunities for disadvantaged	
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="209 465 1453 600">• Any potential for negative impacts on the water quality of the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Site is further mitigated by the Burry Inlet SPG and accompanying Memorandum of Understanding, which requires developers to undertake compensatory water removal in catchments which drain into CBEEMS.</li> <li data-bbox="209 607 1453 667">• Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies.</li> </ul>			

<b>SP 6: Employment and the Economy</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	Allocation of employment land in both urban and rural areas, as well as in support of the Swansea Bay City deal is likely to create numerous high quality employment opportunities which will contribute positively to a sustainable economy and social inclusion.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	-	Any development infers potential for negative impacts on biodiversity, but at a strategic level, it is difficult to determine more specific impacts. These will be assessed at a site appraisal stage. It is likely that employment land will be allocated in rural areas which is likely to impact on greenfield land.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network  PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	+/-	Allocation of employment land in line with the plans' spatial strategy/settlement framework and sustainability principles is likely to reduce the need to travel, and as a result car related emissions. However, employment land will inevitably increase numbers and frequencies of HGV's which are likely to contribute to existing air quality issues.	PSD12 Light and Air Pollution  PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+	Allocation of employment land in line with the plans' spatial strategy/settlement framework is likely to decrease the need to travel.	
SA5 – Water	?	Employment development will increase the level of demand for water supply and sewerage discharge, but at a strategic level it is difficult to determine more specific impacts. These will be assessed at the planning application stage and will be subject to consultation with DCWW.	SP8 – Infrastructure  CCH3 – Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources
SA6 – Material Assets	+	Allocation of employment land in line with the plans' spatial strategy/settlement framework is likely to reduce the need to travel.	
SA7 - Soil		Any development infers the loss of soil/permeable surfaces to hard standing. However, it is difficult to predict impacts at	PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks

		a strategic level. The alignment of this policy with SA7 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	I	The alignment of this policy with SA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places  PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
SA9 – Landscape	I	The alignment of this policy with SA9 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP11 – Placemaking and Sustainable Places  PSD1 – Sustainability and High Quality Design  NE8 – Landscape Character
SA10 – Population	++	Allocation of employment land in both urban and rural areas, as well as in support of the Swansea Bay City deal is likely to create numerous high quality employment opportunities which will contribute positively to promoting the retention of young people and social inclusion.	
SA11 – Welsh Language	+	The allowing of appropriate small scale employment opportunities in rural areas to support rural communities, as well as those larger employment sites is likely to create a mix of employment choices across the county which may in turn encourage the retention of young people. This would result in positive impacts on the Welsh Language.	
SA12 – Health and Well-being	0		
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	Creating a diverse range of employment opportunities across the county in both rural and urban areas increases the potential and accessibility of education and skills facilities.	
SA14 – Economy	++	Allocation of employment land in both urban and rural areas, as well as in support of the Swansea Bay City deal is likely to create numerous high quality employment opportunities which will	

		contribute positively to a sustainable economy.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	Increasing employment land in both urban and rural areas will contribute positively to promoting the retention of young people and social inclusion.	
<b>SA Comments and Suggestions</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies.</li> </ul>			

<b>SP 7: Welsh Language and Culture</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This policy looks to protect and enhance the social fabric of the County's communities.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	0		
SA3 – Air Quality	0		
SA4 – Climatic Factors	0		
SA5 – Water	0		
SA6 – Material Assets	0		
SA7 - Soil	0		
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	+	This policy looks to protect local cultural distinctiveness from potential negative effects as a result of development.	
SA9 – Landscape	0		
SA10 – Population	+	Promoting welsh language and ensuring sufficient employment and housing opportunities are likely to help retain young welsh speakers within the County.	
SA11 – Welsh Language	++	This Policy aligns directly with SA11.	
SA12 – Health and Well-being	0		
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	Protecting and enhancing Welsh Language and Culture is likely to have a positive effect on Welsh literacy.	
SA14 – Economy	+	Promoting welsh language and ensuring sufficient employment and housing opportunities are likely to help retain young welsh speakers within the County.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	++	This policy looks to protect and enhance the social fabric of the County's communities.	
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no negative impacts predicted as a result of this policy</li> <li>• To strengthen this policy further, specific reference should be made to the motion that was passed by council in July 2019 that called for the whole county to be considered as linguistically sensitive and to be a material planning consideration in all developments of 10 houses or more.</li> </ul>			

<b>SP 8: Infrastructure</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	++	This policy underpins the ability to deliver develop sustainably, ensuring access to services and facilities and creating sustainable economic centres.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	+/-	Siting development in areas with sufficient infrastructure capacity may be at the detriment of biodiversity. However, encouraging needs to be catered for locally will reduce private car use and associated air pollution which currently impact on some European designated sites in Carmarthenshire.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network  PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	+	This policy will direct development to areas with capacity for growth including access to services and facilities which will reduce reliance on private car use.	
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+	This policy will direct development to areas with capacity for growth including access to services and facilities which will reduce reliance on private car use.	
SA5 – Water	+	Directing development to areas with sufficient or potential capacity for growth will ensure water resources are protected. The policy also makes specific reference to compliance with the Burry Inlet SPG which is in place to protect the water quality of the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Site.	
SA6 – Material Assets	+	This policy will direct development to areas with capacity for growth including access to services and facilities which will encourage needs to be met locally.	
SA7 - Soil	-	Development directed to locations with sufficient infrastructure may reduce flexibility to promote regeneration of land.	PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks  SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and	-	Development directed to locations with sufficient infrastructure may reduce flexibility to avoid sensitive cultural	SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment

Historic Environment		heritage and historic environment features.	PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places  PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
SA9 – Landscape	-	Development directed to locations with sufficient infrastructure may reduce flexibility to avoid sensitive landscape areas.	SP11 – Placemaking and Sustainable Places  PSD1 – Sustainability and High Quality Design  NE8 – Landscape Character
SA10 – Population	++	This policy will direct development to areas with capacity for growth including access to services and facilities which will maximise access to services and facilities, especially for disadvantaged members of society.	
SA11 – Welsh Language	+	This policy considers both hard and soft infrastructure and includes Welsh Language support in its definition of infrastructure. Development proposals must consider the provision of such infrastructure prior to development.	
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	This policy will increase accessibility to services and facilities including health and leisure facilities.	
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	This policy will increase accessibility to services and facilities including education and skills facilities. This policy also considers education support in its definition of infrastructure. Development proposals must consider the provision of such infrastructure prior to development.	
SA14 – Economy	+	Development directed to locations with sufficient infrastructure is likely to create viable economic centres supported by a local workforce and market. This policy also supports digital infrastructure which is often essential to support employment development.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	++	This policy will direct development to areas with capacity for growth including access to services and facilities which will maximise access to services and facilities, especially for disadvantaged members of society.	
<b>SA Comments and Suggestions</b>			



- Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies.

<b>SP 9: Gypsy and Traveller Provision</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This policy promotes the inclusion of Gypsy and Traveller community by allocating land to specifically address their housing need.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	I	The boundary of the Pen-y-fan site has some scrub habitat which has biodiversity value. The SA recommends that this is retained as a buffer to the adjoining railway line. The proposed extension to the existing Pen-y-bryn site as well as the new site will both be subject to planning permission and a HRA carried out if required.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	0		
SA4 – Climatic Factors	-	Gypsy and Traveller Sites are categorised as Highly Vulnerable development under Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 15 (2004). It is noted that the 3 locations listed under SP9 are affected to varying degrees in relation to the Development Advice Map Zone C1.	SP8 – Infrastructure  CCH3 – Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources  CCH4 – Flood Risk Management and Avoidance  SP15 – Climate Change
SA5 – Water	I	To ensure no water quality impacts on the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine site, both the new site and the extension to the existing site will be required to comply with the Burry Inlet MOU, which requires the removal of surface water in order to protect water quality in the Burry Inlet.  It is noted that the 3 locations listed under SP9 are affected to varying degrees in relation to the Development Advice Map Zone C1.	SP8 – Infrastructure  CCH3 – Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources  CCH4 – Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
SA6 – Material Assets	+	Both sites are in sustainable locations with good access to facilities and services as well as public transport routes.	

SA7 - Soil	-	The development of both sites will involve the loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces.	PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks  SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	0	The proposed sites have no impact on any sites of archaeological importance, historic landscapes or listed buildings.	
SA9 – Landscape	-	The location of the newly proposed site is in close proximity to existing residential and commercial development. Buffer zones of existing green infrastructure should be kept to mitigate any negative impacts on landscape.	SP11 – Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1 – Sustainability and High Quality Design NE8 – Landscape Character
SA10 – Population	+	This policy promotes the inclusion of Gypsy and Traveller community by allocating land to specifically address their housing need.	
SA11 – Welsh Language	0		
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	Both sites are located in good proximity to health facilities and services as well as active travel routes and open space provision.	
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	Both sites are located in good proximity to education facilities and services.	
SA14 – Economy	+	Both sites are located in good proximity to existing employment sites.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	This policy promotes the inclusion of Gypsy and Traveller community by allocating land to specifically address their housing need.	

#### SA Comments and Suggestions

- The boundary of the proposed Pen-y-fan site has some scrub habitat which has biodiversity value as well as providing some screening of noise/air pollution from the adjacent railway line. The SA recommends that this is retained as a buffer to the adjoining railway line.
- Existing green Infrastructure corridors should also be maintained as buffer zones to mitigate any negative impacts on landscape.
- It is recommended that the Council give due consideration as to whether SP9 complies with the policy requirements contained in Policy CCH4 – Flood Risk Management and Avoidance in relation to flood risk. Such consideration should be further informed by any detailed / project level Flood Consequences Assessments (FCA). An FCA could assist in clarifying the likelihood and severity of flood risk on the 3 locations listed under Strategic Policy 9 to the Council.

<b>SP 10: The Visitor Economy</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This policy contributes positively towards maintaining a sustainable economy in the County and promotes health and wellbeing.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	I	Any development infers potential for negative impacts on biodiversity, but at a strategic level, it is difficult to determine more specific impacts. The choice of sites and the manner in which they are developed would determine the way in which biodiversity would be affected.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	+/-	Increasing numbers of tourism related visitors to the county will potentially increase access via private car. However, the policy stipulates that tourism related development must be sustainably located, which should ensure that developments are located in areas that are accessible by public transport. It also states that developments should contribute to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and green infrastructure which, in turn, will have air quality benefits.	PSD12 Light and Air Pollution  PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	Increasing numbers of tourism related visitors to the county will potentially increase access via private car. However, the policy stipulates that tourism related development to be sustainably located will ensure that developments are located in areas that are accessible by public transport.	CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points  TRA2 Active travel
SA5 – Water	I	There is potential for tourism related activities may extend to riverine and coastal environments, which may have repercussions for water quality, however the policy expressly states that developments should not have any significant impact on the natural environment. The choice of sites and the manner in which they are	CCH3 – Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources

		developed would determine the way in which water would be affected.	
SA6 – Material Assets	+	Ensuring tourism related development that reflects the Plan’s settlement framework supports the intention to meet needs locally and reduce the need to travel. The policy states that proposals must be sustainably located.	
SA7 - Soil	I	The alignment of this policy with SA7 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks  SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	I	The alignment of this policy with SA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places  PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
SA9 – Landscape	I	Development has the potential to impact of features of landscape importance however the policy expressly states that developments should exhibit high quality design and placemaking principles. Effects will depend on the implementation of the policy.	SP11 – Placemaking and Sustainable Places  PSD1 – Sustainability and High Quality Design  NE8 – Landscape Character
SA10 – Population	+	Tourism is a key component of Carmarthenshire’s economy and a major source of employment. Increasing tourism jobs is likely to contribute to the retention of young people in the county.	
SA11 – Welsh Language	+/-	Alignment of this policy with SA11 is difficult to determine. Economic growth and resulting inward migration has the potential to dilute Welsh language and culture in certain areas. However, it does increase the potential for retaining young Welsh speakers in the county and so may also have a positive effect.	WL1 Welsh Language and New Development
SA12 – Health and Well-being	++	Tourism facilities aligned with corporate policies such as the County’s cycling aspirations has the potential to encourage walking/cycling, access to natural and cultural heritage	

		and access to health and recreation facilities.	
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	Provision for year round tourism related initiatives is likely to result in an increase in employment and associated education, skills and training opportunities.	
SA14 – Economy	++	This policy looks to facilitate tourism related development, which is a key component of Carmarthenshire's economy and a major source of employment.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	Tourism is a key component of Carmarthenshire's economy and a major source of employment. Increasing tourism jobs is likely to contribute to the retention of young people in the county.	
<b>SA Comments and Suggestions</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies.</li> </ul>			

## SP 11: Placemaking and Sustainable Places

SA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
SA1 – Sustainable Development	++	This policy supports sustainable development and includes regard to Well-being and integration of communities.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	+	Retention and creation of green infrastructure creates opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity.	
SA3 – Air Quality	++	Retention and creation of green infrastructure will contribute to the filtering and removal of pollutants from the air. Incorporation of active travel routes and access to public transport into development will also encourage less private car use.	
SA4 – Climatic Factors	++	Retention and creation of green infrastructure can mitigate effects of climate change by recycling CO <sub>2</sub> and also providing cooling effects and absorption of rain water which can reduce risk of flooding. This policy encourages development to be adaptable to climate change and encourages regard to be had to incorporating SuDS into development where feasible.	
SA5 – Water	+	Encouraging the incorporation of SUDS into future development as well as retention and creation of green infrastructure aligns positively with SA5.	
SA6 – Material Assets	+	This policy encourages new development to have regard for generation, treatment and disposal of waste.	
SA7 - Soil	+	Retention and creation of green infrastructure aligns positively with the avoidance of loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces	
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	+	This policy actively seeks to promote high quality design that reflects local character and distinctiveness.	
SA9 – Landscape	+	This policy actively seeks to promote high quality design in keeping with the surrounding landscape.	
SA10 – Population	+	This policy encourages the creation of safe, attractive and accessible	

		environments which in turn, create attractive spaces for all members of society, including young people and disadvantaged groups.	
SA11 – Welsh Language	0		
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	This policy encourages new development to have regard for Well-being and, in particular, access to open space and recreation.	
SA13 – Education and Skills	0		
SA14 – Economy	+	Creation of vibrant, safe and sustainable communities is likely to encourage the retention and inflow of people to Carmarthenshire, which will contribute positively to the economy.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	This policy encourages the creation of safe, attractive and accessible environments which in turn, create attractive spaces for all members of society, including young people and disadvantaged groups.	
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggest specific reference is made to energy efficient design as well as resource efficiency.</li> <li>• Suggest reference to use of sustainable materials as well as techniques.</li> <li>• Suggest reference to recycling of waste under criteria (j)</li> <li>• No negative impacts on SA Framework are predicted as a result of this policy.</li> </ul>			



<b>SP 12: Rural Development</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This policy contributes positively towards maintaining a sustainable economy in the County and promotes health, wellbeing and social inclusion.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	-	This policy supports increased development in rural areas which is likely to increase development of greenfield land and have a negative impact on currently undisturbed and biodiversity sensitive areas.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	+	Promoting development in rural areas will alleviate pressure on urban areas that are close to or in breach of UK air quality objectives. Retention of facilities and services in rural settlements will also contribute positively by reducing private car use.	
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+	Retention of facilities and services in rural settlements will also contribute positively by reducing private car use thereby reducing transport related carbon emissions.	
SA5 – Water	-	Rural development is likely to result in a loss of permeable greenfield land to hard standing, potentially increasing flood risk and surface run off. This policy specifically states that development must consider effects on local infrastructure, which would include water supply and sewerage discharge.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment  PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks  SP8 – Infrastructure  CCH3 – Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources
SA6 – Material Assets	+	This policy supports the retention of facilities and services in rural settlements and therefore aids in addressing needs locally.	
SA7 - Soil	-	Rural development is likely to result in a loss of permeable greenfield land to hard standing.	PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks

			SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	I	The alignment of this policy with SA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places  PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
SA9 – Landscape	-	Rural development is unlikely to result in derelict land being repurposed.	SP11 – Placemaking and Sustainable Places  PSD1 – Sustainability and High Quality Design  NE8 – Landscape Character
SA10 – Population	+	Retention and enhancement of rural facilities, services and employment opportunities is likely to have a positive effect on the retention of young people and inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups in society.	
SA11 – Welsh Language	+/-	Alignment of this policy with SA11 is difficult to determine. Economic growth in rural areas has the potential to dilute Welsh language and culture due to in migration of people, potentially from outside of the County. However, it does increase the potential for retaining young Welsh speakers in the county and so may also have a positive effect.	WL1 Welsh Language and New Development
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	Rural development would increase access to green spaces and the County's natural and cultural heritage. Retention and enhancement of rural facilities, services will also ensure access to local health and recreation services are likely to be protected.	
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	This policy facilitates the retention and enhancement of rural facilities and services which is likely to ensure access to rural education facilities are protected.	
SA14 – Economy	++	This policy seeks to address economic disparity between the north and south of the county, by providing local	

		employment supported by a local workforce in rural area.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	++	Retention and enhancement of rural facilities, services and employment opportunities is likely to have a positive effect on the retention of young people and inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups in society.	
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies.</li> </ul>			

### SP 13: Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment

SA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+		
SA2 – Biodiversity	++	This policy directly aligns with SA2 to protect and enhance the natural environment.	
SA3 – Air Quality	+	Protection and enhancement of the natural environment will contribute to the filtering and removal of pollutants from the air.	
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+	Protection and enhancement of the natural environment can mitigate effects of climate change by recycling CO <sub>2</sub> and also providing cooling effects and absorption of rain water which can reduce risk of flooding.	
SA5 – Water	+	This policy includes the protection and enhancement of waterbodies.	
SA6 – Material Assets			
SA7 - Soil	+	This policy includes the protection and enhancement of soil resources.	
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	+	The natural environment is strongly linked with cultural heritage.	
SA9 – Landscape	+	This policy directly refers to the protection and enhancement of Carmarthenshire’s landscape.	
SA10 – Population	+	Protection of the natural environment can result in Carmarthenshire being a more desirable place to live, which may encourage young people to stay in the County. There are also studies that conclude that natural green space can increase social inclusion.	
SA11 – Welsh Language			
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	Protecting and enhancing the County’s natural assets will directly support promoting access to Carmarthenshire’s natural heritage and open spaces.	
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	The natural heritage of Carmarthenshire is a valuable resource in the education of children and adults.	
SA14 – Economy	+	Protection of Carmarthenshire’s natural assets preserves the	

		biodiversity and unique natural environment within the County, which enhances the tourism and visitor economy.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	There are also studies that conclude that natural, biodiverse green spaces can increase social inclusion and contribute towards creating settlements that are safer and healthier.	
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No negative impacts on SA Framework are predicted as a result of this policy.</li> <li>• Specific reference should be made in the supporting text to the Council's Duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 2018.</li> </ul>			

**SP 14: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment.**

<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	Protection of the built and historic environment contributes positively towards sustainable development and well-being objectives.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	0		
SA3 – Air Quality	0		
SA4 – Climatic Factors	0		
SA5 – Water	0		
SA6 – Material Assets	0		
SA7 - Soil	0		
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	++	This policy directly supports the protection and enhancement of Carmarthenshire’s cultural heritage and high quality design.	
SA9 – Landscape	+	This policy directly supports the safeguarding of the County’s townscapes and landscapes.	
SA10 – Population	+	Protection of the historic environment can result in Carmarthenshire being a more desirable place to live, which may encourage young people to stay in the County.	
SA11 – Welsh Language	+	The built heritage of Carmarthenshire has strong links to the Welsh Language.	
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	Protection of the built and historic environment preserves access to cultural heritage for Well-being purposes.	
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	The built heritage of Carmarthenshire is a valuable resource in the education of children and adults.	
SA14 – Economy	+	Protection of Carmarthenshire’s cultural assets preserves the diversity and rich heritage of the County, which enhances the tourism and visitor economy.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	Ensuring the built and historic environment are protected will ensure accessibility to such resources is as wide as possible, especially to disadvantaged sections of society.	
<b>SA Comments and Suggestions</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No negative impacts on SA Framework are predicted as a result of this policy.</li> <li>• Although this policy does not directly impact on SA3 – Air Quality, the policy itself can be affected by air quality. Poor air quality can have impacts the built and historic environment such as increasing the</li> </ul>			

corrosive gases in the atmosphere as well as deposition of particles which can cause discolouration of surfaces. This should be mentioned in the supporting text of this policy to ensure its due consideration in any planning application.

- In line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act, the policy should make reference to the fact that the historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource and a vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales. The historic environment can only be maintained as a resource for future generations if historic assets are protected and restored.

<b>SP 15: Climate Change</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	
SA1 – Sustainable Development	++	Policy supports climate resilience in future development and will contribute to reducing Carmarthenshire's carbon footprint.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	+	Encouraging sustainable transport will in turn have positive effects on air quality, which currently impacts on certain designated sites in the County.	
SA3 – Air Quality	+	Encouraging sustainable transport will in turn have positive effects on air quality by reducing car related emissions.	
SA4 – Climatic Factors	++	This policy supports the reduction of carbon emissions as well as future proofing new development to the risks of flooding, including reference to TAN 15. It also encourages all new development to be energy efficient and to incorporate climate resilient design.	
SA5 – Water	+	Encouraging the incorporation of SUDS into future development as well as flood resilient design align positively with SA5.	
SA6 – Material Assets	+	This policy ensures the consideration of sustainable transport in new development.	
SA7 - Soil	0		
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	0		
SA9 – Landscape	0		
SA10 – Population	0		
SA11 – Welsh Language	0		
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	Minimising the need to travel supports active travel.	
SA13 – Education and Skills	?	Has the potential to foster the development of skills associated with delivering innovative, climate responsive design.	
SA14 – Economy	0		
SA15 – Social Fabric	0		
<b>SA Comments and Suggestions</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A stronger statement needs to be made to a commitment to reduce carbon emissions in policy.</li> <li>• Specific reference should be made to the motion on climate change that was passed by Council in Feb 2019 that resulted in a climate emergency being declared by Carmarthenshire County Council. The LDP</li> </ul>			



should make reference somewhere in the deposit plan as to how the LDP seeks to address this climate emergency.

- The policy does not mention the benefits of Green Infrastructure to mitigating and increasing resilience to the effects of climate change, in particular as carbon sinks. Reference to green infrastructure would result in a change from no effect to positive effects on SA7 – Soil. The SA recommends that specific reference should be made to the multifunctional benefits of green infrastructure for climate change resilience and mitigation in this policy.

<b>SP 16: Sustainable Distribution - Settlement Hierarchy</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	++	The division of the settlement hierarchy into clusters provides a framework for sustainable development, allowing needs to be addressed locally and supporting a sustainable economy, in both rural and urban areas of the County.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	-	Provision of growth and development, to rural areas is likely to impact on greenfield land and undisturbed areas of biodiversity.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network  PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	+	Directing growth to sustainable locations with sufficient access to facilities, services and public transport links is likely to reduce private car use and associated air pollution.	
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+	Directing growth to sustainable locations with sufficient access to facilities, services and transport is likely to reduce private car use and associated carbon emissions.	
SA5 – Water	?	Information required from DCWW Review of Consents as to site specific capacity for growth with respect to water abstraction and waste water treatment.	SP8 – Infrastructure  CCH3 – Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources
SA6 – Material Assets	++	Directing growth to sustainable locations with sufficient access to facilities and services is likely to allow needs to be met locally. It is also likely to maximise access to public transport.	
SA7 - Soil	I	The alignment of this policy with SA7 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks  SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.

SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	I	The alignment of this policy with SA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places  PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
SA9 – Landscape	I	The alignment of this policy with SA9 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP11 – Placemaking and Sustainable Places  PSD1 – Sustainability and High Quality Design  NE8 – Landscape Character
SA10 – Population	++	Distribution of development to sustainable locations in both urban and rural settlements is likely to result in vibrant and viable communities, which will in turn help to retain and attract young people	
SA11 – Welsh Language	+/-	Alignment of this policy with SA11 is difficult to determine. Growth and inward migration has the potential to dilute Welsh language and culture in certain areas. However, it does increase the potential for retaining young Welsh speakers in the county and so may also have a positive effect.	WL1 Welsh Language and New Development
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	Growth in line with the settlement hierarchy has the potential to create and/or retain communities with population densities high enough to support new, accessible leisure and health care facilities.	
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	Growth in line with the settlement hierarchy has the potential to create and/or retain communities with population densities high enough to support new, accessible educational and training facilities.	
SA14 – Economy	++	Growth in line with the settlement hierarchy provides opportunity to support sustainable rural and urban economies across the county.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	++	Growth in line with the settlement hierarchy provides opportunity to address needs locally and to promote the design of vibrant, inclusive settlements.	
<b>SA Comments and Suggestions</b>			

- Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies.

<b>SP 17: Transport and Accessibility</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	++	This policy underpins the ability to deliver develop sustainably, by reducing private car use and ensuring access to services and facilities.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	+	Reduced private car use will decrease related air pollutants that have negative effects on European designated sites in some areas of Carmarthenshire.	
SA3 – Air Quality	++	This policy will contribute to the delivery of a sustainable travel network which will have strong positive effects on improving air quality.	
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+	This policy will contribute to the delivery of a sustainable travel network which will reduce private car use and associated greenhouse gas emissions.	
SA5 – Water	0		
SA6 – Material Assets	++	This policy will contribute to the delivery of a sustainable travel network including active travel such as walking and cycling as well as electric car use.	
SA7 - Soil	0		
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	0		
SA9 – Landscape	0		
SA10 – Population	+	This policy looks to address social inclusion through increased accessibility to employment, services and facilities	
SA11 – Welsh Language	0		
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	This policy looks to increase accessibility to services and facilities including health and leisure facilities and also looks to enhance access to active travel routes.	
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	This policy looks to increased accessibility to services and facilities including education and skills facilities.	
SA14 – Economy	0		
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	This policy looks to address social inclusion through increased accessibility to employment, services and facilities	
<b>SA Comments and Suggestions</b>			

- No negative impacts on SA Framework are predicted as a result of this policy.
- Suggest reference be made in the supporting text to development in rural locations being preferably sited within and adjoining settlements that benefit from key services and facilities, rather than at sporadic countryside locations.

<b>SP 18: Mineral Resources</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	I	The alignment of this policy with SA1 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	-	The location of aggregates is driven by site specific geological conditions and so has less flexibility to avoid impacts on sensitive ecological features. Mineral workings are also likely to be situated in undeveloped areas/greenfield land.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network  PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	-	The location of aggregates is driven by site specific geological conditions and so reducing distances required to travel in order to transport goods will be difficult.	PSD12 Light and Air Pollution  PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA4 – Climatic Factors	-	The location of aggregates is driven by site specific geological conditions and so reducing distances required to travel in order to transport goods will be difficult.	
SA5 – Water	0		
SA6 – Material Assets	0	This policy safeguards aggregate reserves to ensure their future availability. However, the extraction of mineral resources must be balanced with the use of recycled and secondary materials. However, the policy specifically makes reference to maximising the potential for the re-use and recycling of suitable minerals as an alternative to primary won aggregates.	
SA7 - Soil	-	The location of aggregates is driven by site specific geological conditions and so has less flexibility to avoid impacts on specific soil resources.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	I	The alignment of this policy with SA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places

			PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
SA9 – Landscape	-	The location of aggregates is driven by site specific geological conditions and so has less flexibility to avoid impacts on sensitive landscape areas. Mineral workings are also likely to be situated in undeveloped areas.	MR1: Mineral Proposals
SA10 – Population	0		
SA11 – Welsh Language	0		
SA12 – Health and Well-being	0		
SA13 – Education and Skills	0		
SA14 – Economy	+	Extraction of aggregates supports development and economic growth.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	0		
<b>SA Comments and Suggestions</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to provide further mitigation of this policy against SA4 Climatic Factors, reference should be made in the policy to ensuring that where possible, mineral extraction utilise transport links such as rail/or water transport as opposed to road haulage.</li> <li>• Suggest adding a clear statement clarifying that the Council will not support the development of land based coal or unconventional oil or gas operations, including the exploration, appraisal and extraction of oil and gas by unconventional methods (including the making of exploratory boreholes), unless the applicant can demonstrate the proposal conforms with national planning policy.</li> <li>• Clarify that petroleum refers to any mineral oil or relative hydrocarbon and natural gas existing in its natural strata as defined in the Petroleum Act 1998. This therefore includes shale oil and gas and coal bed methane. The definition of coal is taken from the Coal Industry Act 1994. This covers coal and also underground coal gasification.</li> <li>• In order to mitigate for residual impacts on SA7 – Soil, wording should be added to supporting text that makes clear that any soil removed as a result of the extraction process must be retained and replaced in situ.</li> <li>• Although specific policy MR1 Mineral Proposals goes some way to mitigating any residual negative impacts on SA9 – Landscape, it is suggested that additional wording on the protection of Landscape character and visual amenity in this policy to reinforce its importance.</li> </ul>			



<b>SP 19: Waste Management</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	I	The alignment of this policy with SA1 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	
SA2 – Biodiversity	-	Development or disposal from waste may adversely impact natural habitats. However, the policy does make reference to ensuring no significant adverse effects on the environment.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	I	Energy from Waste (EfW) sites are tightly regulated with respect to pollutants such as SO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> , HCl and CO. Effects ultimately depend on the type and location of waste management facilities.	PSD12 Light and Air Pollution  PSD3 Green Infrastructure  WM1 Sustainable Waste Management and New Development
SA4 – Climatic Factors	I	Energy from Waste (EfW) sites are tightly regulated with respect to pollutants such as SO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> , HCl and CO. Effects ultimately depend on the type and location of waste management facilities. The policy does make reference to the potential for co-locating waste management facilities to create heat networks.	PSD12 Light and Air Pollution  PSD3 Green Infrastructure  WM1 Sustainable Waste Management and New Development
SA5 – Water	0		
SA6 – Material Assets	+	This policy directly refers to the waste hierarchy and the promotion of recycling and minimising waste.	
SA7 - Soil	-	Waste disposal including landfill and disposal of ash from EfW sites may adversely affect soil resources.	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	I	The alignment of this policy with SA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places  PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods

SA9 – Landscape	I	The policy makes direct reference to any proposal having no significant adverse effect on local amenity	SP11 – Placemaking and Sustainable Places  PSD1 – Sustainability and High Quality Design  NE8 – Landscape Character
SA10 – Population	0		
SA11 – Welsh Language	0		
SA12 – Health and Well-being	0	The policy makes specific reference to any development having to ensure that there are no significant, adverse effect on public health.	
SA13 – Education and Skills	0		
SA14 – Economy	+	New waste management sites generate jobs and local, long term employment opportunities.	
SA15 – Social Fabric	0		
<b>SA Comments and Suggestions</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy should include a criterion stating that no significant impacts in the environment should occur as a result of waste management proposals.</li> <li>• Suggest more in the supporting text regarding sustainable location of waste management facilities especially when situated outside of development limits.</li> <li>• To further strengthen mitigation against potential negative effects on SA9 – Landscape, reference should be made to design of buildings being in keeping with surrounding landscape.</li> <li>• Include reference to the proximity principle to minimise distance between where waste is generated and managed.</li> <li>• Suggest including some wording around the importance of green infrastructure for visual, noise and air pollution screening.</li> </ul>			

## Appendix 5 Changes suggested by Initial SA to Preferred Strategy

<b>SP 1: Strategic Growth</b>
<p>The LDP will provide for the future growth of the economy and housing requirement through the provision of following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) 10,480 new homes to meet the identified housing requirement of 9,887.</li><li>b) A minimum of 5,295 new jobs</li></ul> <p>The focus on regeneration and growth reflects the Councils core strategic ambitions with development distributed in a sustainable manner consistent with the spatial strategy and settlement hierarchy.</p>
<b>SA Comments and Suggestions</b>
<p><b>Suggested policy alteration:</b> The LDP will provide for the future growth of <b><u>a sustainable</u></b> economy and housing requirements through the provision of following:</p> <p>dd into supporting text:</p> <p>The plans strategy for growth is formulated on the basis of sustainable development principles and in accordance with the goals and aspirations of the WBFG Act.</p>
<b>LDP Response</b>
Agreed
<b>Changes made to policy as a result of SA</b>
Suggested amendments incorporated.

## SP 2: Retail and Town Centres

Proposals for retail development will be considered in accordance with the following retail hierarchy.

Proposals will be permitted where they maintain and enhance the vibrancy, viability and attractiveness of our retail centres. They should protect and promote the viability and vitality of the defined retail centres, supporting the appropriate delivery of retail provision (comparison and convenience), leisure, entertainment, office and cultural facilities.

Proposals for small local convenience shopping facilities in rural and urban areas where they accord with the settlement framework will be supported.

### SA Comments and Suggestions

**Suggested policy alteration:** Proposals for small local convenience shopping facilities in rural and urban areas where they accord with the settlement framework and **sustainability principles** will be supported.

Include reference in supporting text to locating retail provision in sustainable locations, accessible by public transport or active travel routes in order to minimise the need for travel

Reference to ULEV charging point requirement for non-residential?

### LDP Response

Policy has been rewritten. Section 3 of the policy is as follows:

- 1) Proposals for small local convenience shopping facilities in rural and urban areas within the development limits where they are of a scale appropriate to that settlement. Rural retail proposals will be considered in accordance with policy XXX.**

It is considered that a requirement for small convenience shopping facilities to be located within development limits would ensure that the proposals would need to be located in sustainable locations and therefore fulfils the suggested amendment to the policy's wording.

### Changes made to policy as a result of SA

The supporting text has been amended and now notes the following:

11.37 The retail strategy of the LDP reflects the social, economic and environmental principles of sustainable development which underpins the Plan. It also seeks to reflect the changing nature of retailing and the need for traditional town centres to adapt to such changes. The Strategy seeks to:

1. Protect and enhance the roles of the retail centres to ensure their continued attractiveness as town centres, shopping, commercial and leisure destinations and to protect local retail provision established in the county as well as the local businesses behind them. The challenge will be to maintain their competitiveness and market share whilst understanding the needs of each centre and their respective role and contribution in retail terms;
2. Locate and guide retail provision to sustainable locations which are accessible by public transport or active travel routes in order to minimise the need for travel;

See policy CCH2 – Electric Vehicle Charging Points which notes:

**For non-residential developments where car parking is provided, at least 10% of those bays should have ULEV charging point. Rapid charging points for electric vehicles, should be provided where the local electricity network is technically able to support this.**

### SP 3: Providing New Homes

In order to ensure the overall housing land requirement of 9,887 homes for the plan period 2018-2033 is met, provision is made for 10,480 new homes. Sufficient land will be allocated (on sites of 5 or more dwellings) to accommodate this requirement in accordance with the Settlement framework.

#### SA Comments and Suggestions

**Suggested policy alteration:** In order to ensure the overall housing land requirement of 9,887 homes for the plan period 2018-2033 is met, provision is made for 10,480 new homes **in order to promote the creation and enhancement of sustainable communities.**

Sufficient land will be allocated (on sites of 5 or more dwellings) to accommodate this requirement in accordance with the Settlement Framework and **sustainability principles.**

Make reference in supporting text to promoting cohesive communities that are attractive, safe, well connected, and provide accessibility to cultural and leisure facilities, community services and employment opportunities.

#### LDP Response

Agreed

#### Changes made to policy as a result of SA

Suggested wording incorporated into the policy:

**In order to ensure the overall housing requirement of 8,835 homes for the plan period is met, provision is made for 10,160 new homes in accordance with the settlement framework in order to promote the creation and enhancement of sustainable communities.**

The suggested reference to 'sustainability principles' is agreed with. However, the wording of the Policy has been amended as noted below which suitably addresses the proposed amendment.

**'The sustainable approach to the provision of new homes reflects the following principles'**

The suggested amendment to the supporting text is incorporated.

<b>SP 4: Affordable Homes</b>
The Plan will maximise the delivery of affordable homes up to 2033 through the provision of XXXX affordable homes.
<b>SA Comments and Suggestions</b>
<b>Suggested policy alteration:</b> The Plan will maximise the delivery of affordable homes up to 2033 through the provision of XXXX affordable homes. <b><u>This will support the development and enhancement of sustainable, balanced communities.</u></b>
<b>LDP Response</b>
Agreed
<b>Changes made to policy as a result of SA</b>
Suggested amendments incorporated in to the Policy's wording.

**SP 5: Strategic Sites**

In reflecting their contribution to the future growth requirements for Carmarthenshire and as key components of the City deal, the following 2 key Strategic Sites have been identified as making an important contribution to the overall provision for growth during the Plan period:

- Llanelli Life Science and Well-being village
- Yr Egin – Creative Digital Cluster

**SA Comments and Suggestions**

Reference should be made in the policy the any development of strategic sites will be subject to planning permission and should be based on sustainability principles.

**HRA Comments and Suggestions**

Reference should be made to the fact that project level HRAs will be required for strategic projects

**LDP Response**

The Life Science and Well-being Village has secured an outline consent in August 2019 and Yr Egin is already constructed. Planning permission is therefore not needed.

**Changes made to policy as a result of SA**

None. However, the supporting text has been updated to reflect the current position.



## SP 6: Employment and the Economy

Sufficient and appropriate land will be allocated for the provision of employment for the plan period 2018 – 2033 (figure to be quantified) in accordance with the Plan's Spatial Strategy / Settlement Framework.

### SA Comments and Suggestions

**Suggested policy alteration:** Sufficient and appropriate land will be allocated for the provision of employment opportunities for the Plan period (figure to be quantified) in accordance with the Plan's Spatial Strategy / Settlement Framework, **and sustainability principles**.

Include reference in supporting text to locating employment provision in sustainable locations, accessible by public transport or active travel routes in order to minimise the need for travel

Reference to ULEV charging point requirement for non-residential?

### LDP Response

#### Changes made to policy as a result of SA

The Policy has been changed to note the following:

**Sufficient land has been allocated for the provision of 77.93 hectares of employment provision for the Plan period in accordance with the Plan's Settlement Framework (Policy SP16) and sustainability principles.**

The supporting text has been amended to incorporate a reference to sustainable locations as follows:

The emphasis on the Principal Centres not only reflects their sustainability credentials but also their historic legacy. It is also (particularly in relation to Llanelli) indicative of the relatively high unemployment rates and levels of deprivation and of a strong commitment to address the problems. The distribution of employment land is also well-aligned with the sustainable locations within the County which are accessible by public transport or active travel routes which minimise the need for travel.

See also the detailed policies on active travel and ULEV charging points – TRA2 and CCH2. Of particular relevance is Policy CCH2 which notes the following:

#### **Non-Residential Development**

**For non-residential developments where car parking is provided, at least 10% of those bays should have ULEV charging point. Rapid charging points for electric vehicles, should be provided where the local electricity network is technically able to support this.**

<b>SP 7: Welsh Language and Culture</b>
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The Plan supports development proposals which safeguard and promote the interests of the Welsh language and culture in the County. Development proposals which have a detrimental impact on the vitality and viability of the Welsh language and culture will not be permitted unless the impact can be mitigated.
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<b>SA Comments and Suggestions</b>
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None made.
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<b>LDP Response</b>
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<b>Changes made to policy as a result of SA</b>
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None.
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**SP 8: Infrastructure**

Development will need to be directed to locations where the infrastructure, services and facilities considered necessary to deliver and support the development proposal are available.

Development proposals will need to demonstrate that there is sufficient capacity in the existing infrastructure to deliver and support the proposed development. Where this cannot be achieved, proposals will need to demonstrate that suitable arrangements are in place to provide the infrastructure capacity considered necessary to deliver and support the development.

Planning obligations may be sought to ensure that the infrastructure, services and facilities needed to deliver and support the development are delivered.

**SA Comments and Suggestions**

**Suggested policy alteration:** Development will need to be directed to **sustainable** locations where the infrastructure, services and facilities considered necessary to deliver and support the development proposal are available.

**LDP Response**

Agreed.

**Changes made to policy as a result of SA**

Amended wording incorporated.

### SP 9: Gypsy and Traveller Provision

Land will be allocated within the Llanelli area to meet the identified need for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation and to allow for the potential future expansion of Gypsy and Traveller Households.

#### SA Comments and Suggestions

**Suggested policy alteration:** Land will be allocated at a sustainable location within the Llanelli area to meet the identified need for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation and to allow for the potential future expansion of Gypsy and Traveller Households.

A sustainable location will be located with necessary access to physical, transport and social infrastructure

#### LDP Response

#### Changes made to policy as a result of SA

None. The Policy has since been re-written.

**SP 10: The Visitor Economy**

Proposals for tourism related developments will be supported where they:

- (a) add value to our visitor economy; and,
- (b) preserve our social, economic and environmental fabric for future generations; and,
- (c) are sustainably located.

**SA Comments and Suggestions**

**Suggested policy alteration:** Add in an additional criterion to support tourism related development where they exhibit high quality design and placemaking principles.

Refer to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment/green infrastructure due to its contribution to Carmarthenshire's tourism

**LDP Response**

Accepted.

**Changes made to policy as a result of SA**

SP 10 and supporting updated

## SP 11: Placemaking, Sustainability and High Quality Design

In order to facilitate sustainable development, new development should acknowledge local distinctiveness and sense of place, and be designed to high standards that are adaptable to climate change.

In order to achieve this, all development should:

Contribute towards the creation of attractive, safe places and public spaces, which enhance the well-being of communities, including safeguarding amenity, landscaping, the public realm and the provision of open space and recreation;

- Retain and, where appropriate, incorporate new green infrastructure which encourages opportunities to enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity;
- Be adaptable to climate change and utilise materials and resources appropriate to the area within which it is located;
- Exhibit and demonstrate a clear understanding of the existing natural and built heritage, local character and sense of place;
- Be accessible and integrated allowing permeability and ease of movement;
- Have regard to the generation, treatment and disposal of waste;
- Manage water sustainably, including incorporating sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) into development proposals where feasible.

### SA Comments and Suggestions

- Suggest specific reference is made to energy efficient design.

#### Suggested policy alteration:

Be adaptable to climate change, **promote energy efficiency** and utilise materials and resources appropriate to the area within which it is located;

- Suggest reference to use of sustainable materials?

#### Suggested policy alteration:

Be adaptable to climate change and utilise materials and resources appropriate to the area within which it is located, **and that are, where feasible, sustainably sourced.**

- Suggest reference to recycling of waste

Have regard to the generation, treatment, disposal **and recycling** of waste

#### Suggested policy alteration:

Retain and, where appropriate, create new green infrastructure assets and encourages (creates?) opportunities to **protect and** enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity. **In particular, biophillic design will be supported.**

(g) Take out 'where feasible' from SuDS now 'where required'.

### LDP Response

#### Changes made to policy as a result of SA

None. The Policy has since been re-written.

## **SP 12: Rural Development**

The Plan supports development proposals which will contribute towards the sustainability of the County's rural communities. Development proposals in rural areas should demonstrate that they are proportionate in scale and that they support the rural settlements' role in the settlement hierarchy to meet the housing, employment and social needs of Carmarthenshire's rural communities.

### **SA Comments and Suggestions**

In supporting text, make reference in policy to accessibility to public transport, active travel and/or electric charging points? Sustainable transport hierarchy for planning. Reference to placemaking and design to reduce impacts on landscape and cultural heritage and encourage high quality design. Regard to SLA's which are largely rural (but these may be removed?).

### **LDP Response**

It is considered that appropriate provision is made to address these matters in the Deposit Revised LDP.

### **Changes made to policy as a result of SA**

The Deposit LDP provides specific policies on Transport which refer to accessibility to public transport and active travel routes.

Policy SP11 and PSD1 make provision for reducing the impacts of development upon the landscape and to encourage high-quality design. Policy SP14 also makes appropriate provision for the protection of the built and historic environment.

There is no reference to SLAs as there are no longer SLAs identified in the Deposit Revised LDP.

**SP 13: Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment**

Proposals for development will be expected to protect and enhance the County's natural environment.

Proposal must reflect the role an ecologically connected environment has in protecting and enhancing biodiversity, defining the landscape, creating a sense place and contributing to the sense of well-being.

**HRA Comments and Suggestions**

In order to strengthen this policy the addition of the following wording is suggested:

***All development proposals should be considered in accordance with national policy (PPW and TAN5) where a proposal for development would result in a significant adverse effect on a European designated site. Development that would result in unacceptable adverse environmental effects will not be permitted.***

Discuss merits of green infrastructure for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecological networks in the supporting text.

**LDP Response**

Accepted.

**Changes made to policy as a result of SA**

Wording above incorporated into policy. Supporting text also incorporated.



<b>SP 14: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment.</b>
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Development proposals should preserve or enhance the built and historic environment of the County, its cultural, townscape and landscape assets, and, where appropriate, their setting.
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Proposals will be expected to promote high quality design that reinforces local character and respects and enhances the cultural and historic qualities of the plan area.
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<b>SA Comments and Suggestions</b>
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<b>LDP Response</b>
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<b>Changes made to policy as a result of SA</b>
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## SP 15: Climate Change

Where development proposals respond to, are resilient to, adapt to and minimise the causes and impacts of climate change they will be supported. In particular proposals will be supported where they:

- a. reflect sustainable transport principles and minimise the need to travel, particularly by private motor car;
- b. Avoid, or where appropriate, minimise the risk of flooding including the incorporation of measures such as SUDS and flood resilient design;
- c. Promote the energy hierarchy by reducing energy demand, promoting energy efficiency and increasing the supply of renewable energy;
- d. Incorporate appropriate climate responsive design solutions including orientation, layout, density and low carbon solutions (including design and construction methods) and utilise sustainable construction methods where feasible.

Proposals for development which are located within areas at risk from flooding will be resisted unless they accord with the provisions of Planning Policy Wales TAN 15.

### SA Comments and Suggestions

Suggest specific reference is made to a reduction in carbon emissions in policy.

**Suggested policy alteration: Contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions** by reflecting sustainable transport principles and minimising the need to travel, particularly by private motor car

Add in additional criterion that refers to 'the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure assets and networks' as carbon sinks.

Refer explicitly to the transport hierarchy.

### LDP Response

Agreed

### Changes made to policy as a result of SA

The proposed amendments have been incorporated into the Deposit Revised LDP.

## SP 16: Sustainable Distribution - Settlement Hierarchy

The provision of growth and development will be directed to sustainable locations in accordance with the following spatial framework.

### Cluster 1

Tier 1: Carmarthen

Tier 2: Pontyates/Meinciau/Ponthenri, Kidwelly, Ferryside

### Cluster 2:

Tier 1: Llanelli

Tier 2: Burry Port, Pembrey, Fforest/Hendy, Llangennech, Trimsaran/Caraway, Kidwelly, Ferryside

### Cluster 3

Tier 1: Ammanford/Crosshands

Tier 2: Brynamman, Glanamman/Garnant, Pontyberem/Bancffosfelyn

### Cluster 4

Tier 1: N/A

Tier 2: Newcastle Emlyn, Llanybydder, Pencader

### Cluster 5

Tier 1: N/A

Tier 2: Llandovery, Llandeilo, Llangadog

### Cluster 6

Tier 1: N/A

Tier 2: St Clears/Pwll Trap, Whitland, Laugharne

**Tiers 3/4 for each cluster are listed in full in Appendix 4.**

### SA Comments and Suggestions

More in supporting text about sustainability principles, suitable access to services, transport infrastructure etc.

### LDP Response

Agreed

### Changes made to policy as a result of SA

Supporting text has been amended accordingly.

## SP 17: Transport and Accessibility

Sustainable and deliverable development requires an integrated, accessible, reliable, efficient, safe and sustainable transport network to underpin delivery. The Plan therefore contributes to the delivery of a sustainable transport system and associated infrastructure through:

- a). Reducing the need to travel, particularly by private motor car;
- b) Addressing social inclusion through increased accessibility to employment, services and facilities;
- c) Supporting and where applicable enhancing alternatives to the motor car, such as public transport (including park and ride facilities and encourage the adoption of travel plans) and active transport through cycling and walking;
- d) Re-enforcing the function and role of settlements in accordance with the settlement framework;
- e) Promoting the efficient use of the transport network;
- f) Enhancing accessibility to employment, homes, services and facilities at locations accessible to appropriate transport infrastructure – including significant trip generating proposals;
- g) The incorporation of design and access solutions within developments to promote accessibility. Provide walking and cycling routes, linking in with active travel networks and green infrastructure networks; and
- h) Adopt a sustainable approach to the design, function and layout of new development, including providing appropriate levels of parking.

### SA Comments and Suggestions

Include specific reference to transport hierarchy in policy wording or supporting text.

Include reference to Electric Charging facilities and electric car use (also include in criteria C?)

Suggested change to policy wording:

Adopt a sustainable approach to the design, function and layout of new development, including providing appropriate levels of parking, **and where applicable ULEV charging points.**

### LDP Response

Agreed.

### Changes made to policy as a result of SA

Amended wording incorporated.

**SP 18: Mineral Resources**

The County's identified mineral resources will be sustainably managed by:

- a) Ensuring supply by maintaining an adequate landbank of permitted aggregate reserves (hard rock and sand and gravel) throughout the Plan period;
- b) Encouraging the efficient and appropriate use of high quality minerals and maximising the potential for the re-use and recycling of suitable minerals as an alternative to primary won aggregates;
- c) Safeguarding areas underlain by minerals of economic importance where they could be worked in the future to ensure that such resources are not unnecessarily sterilised by other forms of development;
- d) The use of buffer zones to reduce the conflict between mineral development and sensitive development;
- e) Securing appropriate restoration which can deliver specific environmental and community benefits

**SA Comments and Suggestions**

Suggest more in the supporting text to support point (e) securing appropriate restoration which can deliver specific- environmental and community benefits.

Reference to access to transport links such as rail/or water transport as opposed to road haulage.

**HRA Comments and suggestions**

Add in some policy wording specifically mentioning protection of European designations? In particular Cernydd Carmel SAC.

Minerals proposals within or likely to significantly affect European designated sites must be carefully examined, and if sufficient mitigation measures cannot be identified planning permission should not be granted.

**LDP Response**

Agreed.

**Changes made to policy as a result of SA**

See Policy MR1, criterion f which addresses this matter.

## SP 19: Waste Management

Provision will be made to facilitate the sustainable management of waste through:

- a) The allocation of adequate appropriate land to provide for an integrated network of waste management facilities;
- b) Supporting proposals for waste management which involve the management of waste in accordance with the ranking set out within in the waste hierarchy;
- c) Supporting proposals for new in-building waste management facilities at existing and allocated industrial sites which are suitable for waste management facilities;
- d) Acknowledging that certain types of waste facility may need to be located outside the development limits of settlements;
- e) Ensuring that provision is made for the sustainable management of waste in all new development, including securing opportunities to minimise the production of waste;

### SA Comments and Suggestions

Policy should include a criterion stating that no significant impacts on the environment should occur as a result of waste management proposals. Done – criterion i

Suggest more in the supporting text regarding sustainable location of waste management facilities especially when situated outside of development limits. Done

Make reference to design of buildings being in keeping with surrounding landscape. Policy reworded, comments no longer relevant

Include reference to the proximity principle to minimise distance between where waste is generated and managed. Done

### HRA Comments and Suggestions

Suggested rewording of policy: The location and scale of developments should have regard to the availability and capacity of waste management facilities in the area. They should also have regard to ***sustainable location and protection of the natural environment***.

Reference that proposals will be supported where they reflect the priority order of the waste hierarchy.

### LDP Response

Agreed.

### Changes made to policy as a result of SA/HRA

Please see Criterion i of the Policy which addresses the first matter relating to the impacts upon the environment.

The supporting text has been amended to incorporate the suggested amendments relating to the sustainable location of waste management facilities.

The reference to the impact of buildings upon the landscape are no longer considered relevant as the Policy has been reworded. However, Policy SP11 and Policy PSD1 make appropriate provision for this.

A reference to the proximity principle has been incorporated into the Policy.

## Other general recommendations from Initial SA

Significant impacts of the Preferred Strategy	Suggestions for avoiding or mitigating negative impacts or enhancing positive ones
Capacity for water infrastructure to facilitate growth is unclear	Confirm with Dŵr Cymru that water provision and wastewater treatment infrastructure will be adequate for the amount of development being proposed
Potential for development in Llanelli to directed to areas within C1/C2 flood zones	Consider development of evidence base.
Potential for increasing development in Llanelli which may increase pressure on sewerage infrastructure which may have implications for the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries Marine Site.	Review of current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Carmarthenshire County Council, Swansea Council, Dwr Cymru and Natural Resources Wales to ensure it is still for purpose.
	Ensure the incorporation of SuDS into new development proposals where feasible with a specific policy, including a requirement for demonstration of accordance with section 8 of TAN 15, as well as the existing SPG on Place Making and Design.
Air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions likely to increase with projected growth over the plan period.	Ensure site allocations are sustainably located with sufficient access to public transport.
	A specific policy relating to improvement of air quality detailing how air quality, with particular regard to NO <sub>2</sub> and the three existing AQMA's, can be both conserved and enhanced under the new plan.
	A specific policy should also require the retention, protection and enhancement of a network of landscape features that contribute to air purification, such as



	trees, natural vegetation or other green infrastructure.
	Requirement for new development to show regard of the AQMA action plans as well as the UK Air Quality Strategy and objectives, and any proposals with potential adverse effects on National and/or International sites of biodiversity importance should require mitigation measures to be implemented.
Potential impacts on biodiversity as a result of development	Ensure a specific policy that reflects the Environment Act with regards to protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
Other possibilities for improving benefits or reducing impacts	Suggest a green infrastructure plan that coordinates the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure throughout the county with regards to development.

## Appendix 6 SA of rLDP revised Growth Options

PG Long Term (2019 Addendum Report)		
Internal migration rates and international migration flow assumptions are based on the full seventeen-year historical period (2001/02-2017/18).		
SA Objective	Appraisal	Comments
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This option is likely to contribute positively to supporting a sustainable economy and a healthy, balanced society.
SA2 – Biodiversity	+/-	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects on biodiversity, depending on the choice of site and the manner in which they are developed. However this option sees a decrease in the number of dwellings required in the current plan, from 1,013 to 671 which would reduce the need for development on greenfield land and resulting pressure on biodiversity assets.
SA3 – Air Quality	+/-	Any level of growth infers increasing transport and economic activity. However, the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement so may alleviate some pressure on areas of poor air quality.
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	Any level of growth infers increasing transport and economic activity and associated carbon emissions. However, the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement so may result in less carbon emissions.
SA5 – Water	+	This growth option projects a household growth of 9.6% over the plan period, which is within the 14.6% capacity provided for in the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Resource Management Plan.
SA6 – Material Assets	0	No direct link
SA7 - Soil	+	Any level of development infers the loss of soil/permeable surfaces to hard standing. However, the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement so will reduce the need for greenfield land.
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment		The effect of this option on SA8 will be dependent on how growth is implemented.
SA9 – Landscape		The effect of this option on SA8 will be dependent on how growth is implemented.
SA10 – Population	+	This option will go some way to addressing the balance of the population, with a likely increase in the younger age cohorts.

SA11 – Welsh Language	+	The predicted increase in the numbers of young persons is likely to have positive effects on Welsh Language.
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	This option sees a projected increase in the 65+ age cohort, coupled with some growth in the labour workforce age groups which could result in significant challenges in the funding and delivery of health and social care services throughout the County
SA13 – Education and Skills	+/-	This option sees a projected increase in the population of school going ages which, depending on where growth is distributed, could increase pressure on education services in densely populated areas, or may result in the retention of school facilities in rural areas.
SA14 – Economy	+	This option sees the creation of 439 jobs per annum over the plan period which aligns with the Council's Regeneration ambitions.
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	This option sees growth in the 65+ age cohort coupled with some growth in the labour workforce age groups which would go some way to balancing the County's population. Higher growth levels also supports the delivery of affordable housing.

<b>PG 10 Year (2019 Addendum Report)</b>		
Internal migration rates and international migration flow assumptions are based on a ten-year historical period, ignoring the anomalous years around the immediate aftermath of the financial crash.		
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Comments</b>
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This option is likely to contribute positively to supporting a sustainable economy and a healthy, balanced society.
SA2 – Biodiversity	+/-	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects on biodiversity, depending on the choice of site and the manner in which they are developed. However this option sees a decrease in the number of dwellings required in the current plan, from 1,013 to 589 which would reduce the need for development on greenfield land and resulting pressure on biodiversity assets.
SA3 – Air Quality	+/-	Any level of growth infers increasing transport and economic activity. However, the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement so may alleviate some pressure on areas of poor air quality.
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	Any level of growth infers increasing transport and economic activity and associated carbon

		emissions. However, the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement so may result in less carbon emissions.
SA5 – Water	+	This growth option projects a household growth of 8.1% over the plan period, which is within the 14.6% capacity provided for in the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Resource Management Plan.
SA6 – Material Assets	0	No direct link
SA7 - Soil	+	Any level of development infers the loss of soil/permeable surfaces to hard standing. However, the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement so will reduce the need for greenfield land.
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment		The effect of this option on SA8 will be dependent on how growth is implemented.
SA9 – Landscape		The effect of this option on SA8 will be dependent on how growth is implemented.
SA10 – Population	+	This option will go some way to addressing the balance of the population, with a likely increase in the younger age cohorts.
SA11 – Welsh Language	+	The predicted increase in the numbers of young persons is likely to have positive effects on Welsh Language.
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	This option sees a projected increase in the 65+ age cohort, coupled with some growth in the labour workforce age groups which could result in significant challenges in the funding and delivery of health and social care services throughout the County
SA13 – Education and Skills	+/-	This option sees a projected increase in the population of school going ages which, depending on where growth is distributed, could increase pressure on education services in densely populated areas, or may result in the retention of school facilities in rural areas.
SA14 – Economy	+	This option sees the creation of 354 jobs per annum over the plan period which aligns with the Council's Regeneration ambitions.
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	This option sees growth in the 65+ age cohort coupled with some growth in the labour workforce age groups which would go some way to balancing the County's population. Higher growth levels also supports the delivery of affordable housing.

**PG Short Term (2019 Addendum Report)**

Internal migration rates and international migration flow assumptions are based on the four-year historical period (2014/15-2017/18) which corresponds with the four-year period of recovery in housing growth.

SA Objective	Appraisal	Comments
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This option is likely to contribute positively to supporting a sustainable economy and a healthy, balanced society.
SA2 – Biodiversity	+/-	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects on biodiversity, depending on the choice of site and the manner in which they are developed. However this option sees a decrease in the number of dwellings required in the current plan, from 1,013 to 585 which would reduce the need for development on greenfield land and resulting pressure on biodiversity assets.
SA3 – Air Quality	+/-	Any level of growth infers increasing transport and economic activity. However, the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement so may alleviate some pressure on areas of poor air quality.
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	Any level of growth infers increasing transport and economic activity and associated carbon emissions. However, the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement so may result in less carbon emissions.
SA5 – Water	+	This growth option projects a household growth of 7.6% over the plan period, which is within the 14.6% capacity provided for in the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Resource Management Plan.
SA6 – Material Assets	0	No direct link
SA7 - Soil	+	Any level of development infers the loss of soil/permeable surfaces to hard standing. However, the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement so will reduce the need for greenfield land.
SA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment		The effect of this option on SA8 will be dependent on how growth is implemented.
SA9 – Landscape		The effect of this option on SA8 will be dependent on how growth is implemented.
SA10 – Population	+	This option will go some way to addressing the balance of the population, with a likely increase in the younger age cohorts.
SA11 – Welsh Language	+	The predicted increase in the numbers of young persons is likely to have positive effects on Welsh Language.

SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	This option sees a projected increase in the 65+ age cohort, coupled with some growth in the labour workforce age groups which could result in significant challenges in the funding and delivery of health and social care services throughout the County
SA13 – Education and Skills	+/-	This option sees a projected increase in the population of school going ages which, depending on where growth is distributed, could increase pressure on education services in densely populated areas, or may result in the retention of school facilities in rural areas.
SA14 – Economy	+	This option sees the creation of 354 jobs per annum over the plan period which aligns with the Council's Regeneration ambitions.
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	This option sees growth in the 65+ age cohort coupled with some growth in the labour workforce age groups which would go some way to balancing the County's population. Higher growth levels also supports the delivery of affordable housing.

## Appendix 7 SA of rLDP of Specific Policies

Strategic Policy	SP1 Strategic Growth								
Specific Policies	SG1: Regeneration and Mixed Use Sites (assessed separately under sites)								
	SG2 Reserve Sites								
	SG3 Pembrey Peninsula								
SA Objective	SG1	SG2	SG3						Mitigating Policies
SA1 – Sustainable Development		+	+						
SA2 – Biodiversity		-	-						SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA3 – Air Quality		-	-						PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA4 – Climatic Factors			-						CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
SA5 – Water			-						CCH3 Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
SA6 – Material Assets		0	0						
SA7 – Soil		+	-						PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
SA8 – Cultural Heritage		0							SP14 Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment

SA9 – Landscape		+	I						SP11 Placemaking and Sustainable Places NE8 Landscape Character PSD11 Noise Pollution
SA10 –Population		+	+						
SA11 – Welsh Language		+	0						
SA12 – Health and Well-being		+	+						
SA13 – Education and Skills		+	0						
SA14 – Economy		++	+						
SA15 – Social Fabric		+	+						
<b>Commentary</b>									
<p>SG1 - Sites will be assessed separately in more detail. The use of development briefs will allow for more in detail considerations of any constraints and opportunities for enhancements, in particular the consideration and incorporation of green infrastructure and biodiversity assets on the site.</p> <p>SG2 – Specific reference in the policy to accordance with policies on high quality design, green infrastructure and active travel routes are welcomed. To further mitigate any negative impacts on SA2 – Biodiversity, suggest specific reference is made to policy SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment. Development would have to comply with TAN15 and policy CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance which would minimise the risks associated with flooding, in particular for sites that are located in coastal areas. The policy looks to utilise previously developed sites which is positive against SA7 – Soil and SA9 Landscape. Increasing employment provision across the county can help retain young people which in turn will have a positive effect on SA11 - Welsh Language.</p> <p>SG3 – Pembrey is currently a blue flag beach but appropriate mechanisms would need to be put in place to minimise litter and maximise recycling in order to protect water quality. The peninsula is also surrounded by C2 flood zone including the ingress and egress to the site. The Council would need to be satisfied that any development considered vulnerable satisfied he conditions under TAN15. The peninsula is also an area of high biodiversity and cultural value and any proposals would need to take careful consideration of this in any application. Development would need to be sensitive and in keeping with the natural and unique surroundings in order to reduce any potential impacts on SA9 Landscape.</p>									
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>									



- **SG2 suggest specific reference is made to policy SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment**
- **SG3 suggest more wording added to supporting text about cultural and biodiversity importance of Pembrey. The accompanying SPG would need to be explicit about design and landscaping as well as cultural heritage and biodiversity to ensure any negative impacts on the landscape were minimised.**

Strategic Policy	SP2 Retail and Town Centres								
Specific Policies	RTC1 Carmarthen Town Centre RTC2 Protection of Local Shops and Facilities RTC3 Retail in Rural Areas								
SA Objective	RTC1	RTC2	RTC3						Mitigating Policies
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	+	+						
SA2 – Biodiversity	0	0	-						SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA3 – Air Quality	+/-	+	+						PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	+	+						CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
SA5 – Water	0	0	0						CCH3 Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
SA6 – Material Assets	+	+	+						
SA7 – Soil	+	+	-						PSD3 Green Infrastructure SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA8 – Cultural Heritage	+	+	0						
SA9 – Landscape	+	+							SP11 Placemaking and Sustainable Places NE8 Landscape Character

										PSD11 Noise Pollution
SA10 –Population	+	+	+							
SA11 – Welsh Language	+	+	+							
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	+	+							
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	+	+							
SA14 – Economy	++	++	+							
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	+							
<b>Commentary</b>										
<p><b>RTC1 – Both the primary and secondary town centre retail areas are within the Carmarthen AQMA. Increasing retail provision within this area may result in an increase in deliveries and heavy goods vehicles to this area which will have negative air quality impacts. Resulting increases in CO2 emissions should also be considered. However, Carmarthen Town Centre is well serviced by public transport which allows the opportunity to reduce air pollution and carbon emissions associated with private car use. Improving retail provision in town centres is likely to encourage needs to be met locally by retaining vital retail provision, which will also have economic and education and skills benefits.</b></p> <p><b>RTC2 – this policy looks to protect local shops and facilities which will help to ensure that needs can be met locally without the use of the private cars. This will have positive impacts on SA3 Air quality, SA4 Climatic Factors and SA6 Material Assets. This policy also scores positive against the socio-economic SA objectives as retention of facilities and services will promote the retention of young people by providing jobs and access to skills development.</b></p> <p><b>RTC3 – providing services and facilities in rural areas can reduce private car use and in turn improve air quality and associated carbon emissions. Rural development is likely to result in development of greenfield land which can have high biodiversity and /or soil value. However this can be suitably mitigated by compliance with policy SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the natural environment and associated specific policies.</b></p>										
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RTC1 Acknowledgement in the policy that both primary and secondary town centre retail areas are within the Carmarthen AQMA and that retail applications would be subject to submission of an Air Quality Assessment as per policy PSD12 Light and Air Quality.</b></li> </ul>										

Strategic Policy	SP3 A Sustainable Approach to Providing New Homes									
Specific Policies	HOM1 Housing Allocations									
	HOM2 Housing within Development Limits									
	HOM3 Homes in Rural Village									
	HOM4 – Homes in Non-Defined Rural Settlements									
	HOM5 Conversion or Subdivision of Existing Dwellings									
	HOM6 Specialist Housing									
	HOM7 Renovation of Derelict or Abandoned Dwellings									
	HOM8 Residential Caravans									
	HOM9 Ancillary Residential Development									
SA Objective	HOM1	HOM2	HOM3	HOM4	HOM5	HOM6	HOM7	HOM8	HOM9	Mitigating Policies
SA1 – Sustainable Development		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
SA2 – Biodiversity		+	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA3 – Air Quality			+	+	-	0	-	0	0	PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA4 – Climatic Factors			+	+	-	0	-	0	0	CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
SA5 – Water		+	+/-	+/-			+/-	0		CCH3 Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance SP 8: Infrastructure

SA6 – Material Assets		+	+	+	-	+	+/-	0	-	
SA7 – Soil		+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	PSD3 Green Infrastructure SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA8 – Cultural Heritage							+	0	0	
SA9 – Landscape		+	+	+	+/-	0	+	-	-	SP11 Placemaking and Sustainable Places NE8 Landscape Character PSD11 Noise Pollution
SA10 –Population		+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	
SA11 – Welsh Language		+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	
SA12 – Health and Well-being		+	+	+	-	+	0	0	+	
SA13 – Education and Skills		+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	
SA14 – Economy		+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	
SA15 – Social Fabric		+	+	+	+	+	+/-	0	+	CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points PSD12 Light and Air Pollution TRA2 Active Travel
<b>Commentary</b>										
HOM1 – Housing allocations are assessed separately under Appendix X										
HOM2 –										
HOM3/HOM4 - These policies encourage small scale development within rural villages and settlements. This is likely to encourage the retention of services and facilities in rural areas, and as such should reduce private car use and associated air quality impacts. Small scale development within settlements can reduce the likelihood of										

development of greenfield land however it must be ensured that sufficient infrastructure is available to support growth in rural villages. Controlled growth in such areas will help to keep rural communities together and will in turn encourage the retention of young people, protection of the Welsh language and facilitate rural economy.

HOM5 - Converting buildings into multiple occupancy may result in an increased concentration of cars to an area. This may have implications for air quality and carbon emissions, in particular in urban areas. Connection to active travel routes and public transport should be maximised and the policy should ensure provision is made for the storage of bicycles. The policy makes reference to ensuring quality, character and appearance of the building is safeguarded, however further the policy should make more reference to the use of the building once built and ensuring effective provision of storage, for rubbish and recycling and for bicycles. Water supply and sewerage supply will be subject to consultation with Dwr Cymru which should not result in any negative impacts.

HOM6 – By providing specialist housing this policy seeks to provide a framework for considering proposals to make appropriate allowances for the needs of those requiring care. This will have positive impacts on SA10 population, SA12 Health and Wellbeing and SA15 Social fabric as the policy is ensuring that the needs of Carmarthenshire’s aging or vulnerable population are met.

HOM7 – Renovation of derelict buildings outside of settlement limits may result in unsustainable location of development, with insufficient access to facilities, services, public transport or active travel routes. This is likely to result in increased private car use and as a result degrading air quality and increasing carbon emissions. Derelict buildings will often contain Bats or other biodiversity and their redevelopment should ensure full compliance with policy SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment and NE2 Biodiversity, however the policy wording could be strengthened to further mitigate these impacts. Development outside settlement limits is less likely to be in proximity to supporting infrastructure and the use of less sustainable solutions such as septic tanks may be required in place of connection to the existing sewer network.

HOM8 – Care should be taken to ensure no negative effects on the landscape as a result of residential caravans.

HOM9 – Existing rural buildings of a certain age may contain protected species which would need to be investigated through an ecological survey as part of any planning application. Any potential for negative effects is mitigated through compliance with policy SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment and policy NE2 Biodiversity, however the policy wording could be strengthened to further mitigate these impacts.

#### SA Comments and Recommendations

- HOM5 – specific reference should be made to ensuring provision of secure cycle parking and access to active travel routes in particular in urban areas where air quality issues exist. This policy should require the incorporation of adequate and effective provision for the storage, recycling and other sustainable management of waste.
- HOM7 the policy should be explicit about ensuring any application for development of abandoned buildings outline how the location has access to facilities and services or is accessible by public transport/active travel. Add in text around protected species such as: **Traditional rural buildings can provide important habitats for valuable species including bats and barn owls. Proposals for the conversion of such buildings will need to ensure there would be no significant adverse effects on protected species in-line with Policy NE2 Biodiversity and the Nature Conservation and Biodiversity SPG.**

Strategic Policy	SP4 Affordable Homes Strategy								
Specific Policies	AHOM1 Provision of Affordable Homes AHOM2 Affordable Homes – Exceptions sites								
SA Objective	AHOM1	AHOM2							Mitigating Policies
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	+							
SA2 – Biodiversity	0	-							SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA3 – Air Quality	0	0							PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA4 – Climatic Factors	0	0							CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
SA5 – Water	0	0							CCH3 Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
SA6 – Material Assets	0	0							
SA7 – Soil	0	-							PSD3 Green Infrastructure SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA8 – Cultural Heritage	I	I							
SA9 – Landscape	0	0							SP11 Placemaking and Sustainable Places NE8 Landscape Character PSD11 Noise Pollution

SA10 –Population	++	++							
SA11 – Welsh Language	+	+							
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	+							
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	+							
SA14 – Economy	+	+							
SA15 – Social Fabric	++	++							
<b>Commentary</b>									
<p>AHOM1/AHOM2: The provision of affordable housing will help to ensure that housing is more accessible to those who cannot afford market housing. This is likely to benefit young people and help to retain them in the county, which in turn will help to protect the Welsh Language. AHOM2 may have negative impacts on biodiversity and soil as it allows for development outside development limits which would involve greenfield land.</p>									
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>									



Strategic Policy	SP6 Employment and the Economy								
Specific Policies	EME1 Employment Safeguarding of Employment Sites								
	EME2 New Employment Proposals								
	EME3 Employment Extensions and Intensification								
	EME4 Rural Employment Exception Sites								
	EME5 Home Working								
SA Objective	EME1	EME2	EME3	EME4	EME5				Mitigating Policies
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	+	+	+	+				
SA2 – Biodiversity	0	-	-	-	-				SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA3 – Air Quality	0	-	-	-	0				PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA4 – Climatic Factors	0	-	-	-	0				CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
SA5 – Water	0								CCH3 Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
SA6 – Material Assets	0	+	+	+	-				
SA7 – Soil	0				0				PSD3 Green Infrastructure SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA8 – Cultural Heritage	0	0	0		0				

SA9 – Landscape	0	0	0	0	-				SP11 Placemaking and Sustainable Places NE8 Landscape Character PSD11 Noise Pollution
SA10 –Population	+	+	+	+	+				
SA11 – Welsh Language	+	+	+	+	+				
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	+	+	+	+				
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	+	+	+	+				
SA14 – Economy	++	++	++	++	++				
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	+	+	+				
<b>Commentary</b>									
EME4 - The SA predicts no negative effects on SA9 Landscape as the policy wording states that development must be of scale and type compatible with the surrounding area and will cause no unacceptable harm to local amenity. It should be a requirement that proposals for rural employment are accessible by alternative means of transport other than the private car.									
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EME1/EME2 – retention of on site green infrastructure would aid in the protection of the amenity of neighbouring properties.</li> </ul>									

<b>Strategic Policy</b>	<b>SP7 Welsh Language and Culture</b>								
<b>Specific Policies</b>	<b>WL1 The Welsh Language and New Development</b>								
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>WL1</b>								<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
<b>SA1 – Sustainable Development</b>	<b>+</b>								
<b>SA2 – Biodiversity</b>	<b>0</b>								<b>SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment</b>
<b>SA3 – Air Quality</b>	<b>0</b>								<b>PSD12 Light and Air Pollution</b> <b>PSD3 Green Infrastructure</b>
<b>SA4 – Climatic Factors</b>	<b>0</b>								<b>CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance</b>
<b>SA5 – Water</b>	<b>0</b>								<b>CCH3 Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources</b> <b>CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance</b>
<b>SA6 – Material Assets</b>	<b>0</b>								
<b>SA7 – Soil</b>	<b>0</b>								<b>PSD3 Green Infrastructure</b> <b>SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment</b>
<b>SA8 – Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>++</b>								
<b>SA9 – Landscape</b>	<b>0</b>								<b>SP11 Placemaking and Sustainable Places</b> <b>NE8 Landscape Character</b> <b>PSD11 Noise Pollution</b>

SA10 –Population	+								
SA11 – Welsh Language	++								
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+								
SA13 – Education and Skills	+								
SA14 – Economy	+								
SA15 – Social Fabric	+								
<b>Commentary</b>									
EME4 – This policy seeks to protect the Welsh Language across the County as it has been determined as linguistically sensitive which will have a strong positive effect on both SA8 Cultural Heritage and SA11 Welsh Language.									
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>									
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Strategic Policy	SP8 Infrastructure								
Specific Policies	INF1 Planning Obligations								
	INF2 Healthy Communities								
	INF3 Broadband and Telecommunications								
	INF4 Llanelli Waste Water Treatment Surface Water Disposal								
SA Objective	INF1	INF2	INF3	INF4					Mitigating Policies
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	+	+	+					
SA2 – Biodiversity	+	0	-	+					SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA3 – Air Quality	0	+	+	0					PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA4 – Climatic Factors	0	+	+	+					CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
SA5 – Water	+	0	0	+					CCH3 Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
SA6 – Material Assets	+	+	+	+					
SA7 – Soil	0	0	0	+					PSD3 Green Infrastructure SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA8 – Cultural Heritage	0	0	0	0					

SA9 – Landscape	+	+	0	+					SP11 Placemaking and Sustainable Places NE8 Landscape Character PSD11 Noise Pollution
SA10 –Population	0	+	+	+					
SA11 – Welsh Language	+	0	+	0					
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	++	+	+					
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	+	+	0					
SA14 – Economy	0	+	++	+					
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	+	0					
<b>Commentary</b>									
<p>INF1 – Planning obligations can be used to contribute towards enhancing supporting infrastructure such as roads and public transport, schools and education, health, open space and green infrastructure, flood defences, biodiversity and welsh language to ensure no negative effects remain as a result of development.</p> <p>INF2 – The requirement for major developments to undertake a Health Impact Assessment has strong positive effects against SA12 Health and wellbeing. The wording of the policy supports active travel, accessible useable green spaces and infrastructure, reducing health inequalities, addressing the social determinants of health and providing accessible health care facilities. Encouraging healthy lifestyles is likely to result in a reduction of the need for health facilities which can have positive economic effects.</p> <p>INF3 – Ensuring new development will have access to high speed and reliable broadband is likely to facilitate economic growth and allow flexible home working. This is desirable for young people as well as small businesses and will have positive effects on social fabric and the economy. Home working can also reduce commuting rates which will be beneficial for air quality and carbon emissions.</p> <p>INF4 - Commentary TBC</p>									
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>									
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<b>Strategic Policy</b>	<b>SP9 Gypsy and Traveller Provision</b>								
<b>Specific Policies</b>	<b>GTP1 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation</b>								
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>GTP1</b>								<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
<b>SA1 – Sustainable Development</b>	+								
<b>SA2 – Biodiversity</b>	-								<b>SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment</b>
<b>SA3 – Air Quality</b>									<b>PSD12 Light and Air Pollution</b> <b>PSD3 Green Infrastructure</b>
<b>SA4 – Climatic Factors</b>									<b>CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance</b>
<b>SA5 – Water</b>									<b>CCH3 Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources</b> <b>CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance</b>
<b>SA6 – Material Assets</b>	+								
<b>SA7 – Soil</b>	-								<b>PSD3 Green Infrastructure</b> <b>SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment</b>
<b>SA8 – Cultural Heritage</b>									
<b>SA9 – Landscape</b>									<b>SP11 Placemaking and Sustainable Places</b> <b>NE8 Landscape Character</b> <b>PSD11 Noise Pollution</b>

SA10 –Population	+								
SA11 – Welsh Language	0								
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+								
SA13 – Education and Skills	+								
SA14 – Economy	0								
SA15 – Social Fabric	+								
<b>Commentary</b>									
<p>GTP1 – Development of any form has the potential to have a negative impacts on biodiversity and soil resources, however this can be sufficiently mitigated by compliance with SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment. Similarly, any proposal for new gypsy sites or extensions to existing sites would need to ensure that sufficient water and sewerage resources were available in consultation with DCWW at the planning application stage, and sufficient access to utilities is a specific consideration in the policy. This policy seeks to provide for the needs of minority groups and therefore positive effects are predicted against socio-economic SA objectives.</p>									
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>									



Strategic Policy	SP10 The Visitor Economy								
Specific Policies	<b>VE1 Visitor Attractions and Facilities</b> <b>VE2 Permanent Holiday Accommodation</b> <b>VE3 Touring Caravan, Camping or Temporary ‘other’ Camping sites</b> <b>VE4 Static Caravan and Chalet Sites and Permanent ‘other’ Camping Accommodation</b>								
SA Objective	VE1	VE2	VE3	VE4					Mitigating Policies
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	+	+	+					
SA2 – Biodiversity	-	-	-	-					SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA3 – Air Quality			-	-					PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2 Active Travel
SA4 – Climatic Factors			-	-					CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2 Active Travel
SA5 – Water	-	-							CCH3 Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance PSD3 Green Infrastructure SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment

SA6 – Material Assets			-	-					CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2 Active Travel
SA7 – Soil	-	-	-	-					PSD3 Green Infrastructure SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA8 – Cultural Heritage	?	?	?	?					
SA9 – Landscape									SP11 Placemaking and Sustainable Places NE8 Landscape Character PSD11 Noise Pollution
SA10 –Population	+	+	0	0					
SA11 – Welsh Language	0	0	0	0					
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	+	+	+					
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	+	0	0					
SA14 – Economy	++	++	++	++					
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	+	+					
<b>Commentary</b>									
<p>VE1/VE2 – Development outside development limits can sometimes result in increased private car use to reach such locations, however mitigation already exists in the policy in the form of the wording regarding the fact that proposals should be accessible by public transport/active travel routes. Development outside of settlement limits is also likely to result in the loss of greenfield land which can reduce permeable land and reduce the resilience of areas to flooding. Policies PSD3 Green Infrastructure and CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance can mitigate for these negative impacts. Any potential negative impacts on landscape are mitigated by existing policy wording with regards to respecting the sense of place of an area in terms of scale, type, character, design etc.</p> <p>VE3 /VE4– – Development of any form has the potential to have a negative impacts on biodiversity and soil resources, however this can be sufficiently mitigated by compliance with SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment. Neither policy make reference to ensuring sites are accessible by public</p>									

transport/active travel routes which could result in developments being located at unsustainable locations. Any potential negative impacts on landscape are mitigated by existing policy wording with regards to respecting the sense of place of an area in terms of scale, type, character, design etc. Potential for impacts on cultural heritage are uncertain as the policy does not identify specific sites and so it is difficult to determine whether impacts are probable. This will be addressed at a planning application stage and is mitigated by compliance with policy SP14 Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment. Provision of development for tourism purposes has multiple socio-economic benefits, as tourism is a key component of Carmarthenshire's economy and a major source of employment. Tourism facilities aligned with corporate policies such as the County's cycling aspirations has the potential to encourage walking/cycling, access to natural and cultural heritage and access to health and recreation facilities.

#### SA Comments and Recommendations

- VE3/VE4 – Suggest addition of this wording to both policies in order to mitigate for any negative effects on SA3 Air Quality and SA4 Climatic Factors: (d) they are suitably located in relation to the main highway network, **as well as public transport and active travel routes**, and adequate access can be provided without detriment to the natural and built environment; and

<b>Strategic Policy</b>	<b>SP11 Placemaking and Sustainable Places</b>													
<b>Specific Policies</b>	<b>PSD1 Sustainability and High Quality Design</b> <b>PSD2 Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods</b> <b>PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network</b> <b>PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows</b> <b>PSD5 Development and the Circular Economy</b> <b>PSD6 Community Facilities</b> <b>PSD7 Protection of Open Space</b> <b>PSD8 Provision of New Open Space</b> <b>PSD9 Advertisements</b> <b>PSD10 Extensions</b> <b>PSD11 Noise Pollution</b> <b>PSD12 Light and Air Pollution</b> <b>PSD13 Contaminated Land</b>													
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>PSD1</b>	<b>PSD2</b>	<b>PSD3</b>	<b>PSD4</b>	<b>PSD5</b>	<b>PSD6</b>	<b>PSD7</b>	<b>PSD8</b>	<b>PSD9</b>	<b>PSD10</b>	<b>PSD11</b>	<b>PSD12</b>	<b>PSD13</b>	<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
<b>SA1 – Sustainable Development</b>	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	
<b>SA2 – Biodiversity</b>	-		+	+	0	-	+	+	0		+	+		<b>SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment</b>
<b>SA3 – Air Quality</b>	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	++	0	<b>PSD12 Light and Air Pollution</b> <b>PSD3 Green Infrastructure</b> <b>CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points</b>

														TRA2 Active Travel
SA4 – Climatic Factors	0	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2 Active Travel
SA5 – Water	+	+	+	+	0		+	+	0	0	0	0	+	CCH3 Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance PSD3 Green Infrastructure SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA6 – Material Assets	0	+	+	0	++	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2 Active Travel
SA7 – Soil	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	0	-	0	0	+	PSD3 Green Infrastructure SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA8 – Cultural Heritage	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+		
SA9 – Landscape	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+			+	+	+	SP11 Placemaking and Sustainable Places NE8 Landscape Character PSD11 Noise Pollution

SA10 – Population	+	+	+	+	0	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	
SA11 – Welsh Language	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	0	0	+	+	+	
SA13 – Education and Skills	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	
SA14 – Economy	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	0	+	+	0	
<b>Commentary</b>														
<p>PSD1 – This policy could have positive effects on SA3 Air Quality and SA4 Climatic factors if it made reference to low carbon design, renewable energy, and green infrastructure provision. Predicted negative effects on biodiversity can be somewhat mitigated by compliance with policy SP13, however this could be further mitigated by specific reference in the policy to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. The policy specifically references the need to ensure the satisfactory generation, treatment and disposal of both surface and foul water; the policy does not reference the integration of sustainable drainage into development design, which would further enhance the positive effects of this policy on SA5 Water. The policy has neutral effects on SA6 Material Assets but an addition to the policy referencing efficient use of transportation networks including connectivity to active travel routes, as well as some reference to circular economy and ensuring the layout and design of the development facilitates provision for recycling.</p> <p>PSD2 –</p> <p>PSD9 – Positive effects are predicted against SA11 Welsh Language and SA13 Education and Skills as it may contribute to improving Welsh literacy within the County.</p>														
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>														
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PSD1 Include in criteria a reference to low carbon design/ incorporation of renewable energy into development. Also make reference to incorporation of green infrastructure into development proposals. Reference should be made to the need for development to have regard to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and attributes of ecosystem resilience should identified and, as far as possible, incorporated into site design.</li> </ul>														

<b>Strategic Policy</b>	<b>SP12 Rural Development</b>								
<b>Specific Policies</b>	<b>RD1 Replacement Dwelling in the Open Countryside</b> <b>RD2 Conversion and Re-Use of Rural Buildings for Residential Use</b> <b>RD3 Farm Diversification</b> <b>RD4 Conversion and Re-Use of Rural Buildings for Non-Residential Use</b> <b>RD5 Equestrian Facilities</b>								
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>RD1</b>	<b>RD2</b>	<b>RD3</b>	<b>RD4</b>	<b>RD5</b>				<b>Mitigating Policies</b>
<b>SA1 – Sustainable Development</b>	+	+	+	+	+				
<b>SA2 – Biodiversity</b>	-	-	0	0	!				<b>SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment</b>
<b>SA3 – Air Quality</b>	-	-	+	+/-	-				<b>PSD12 Light and Air Pollution</b> <b>PSD3 Green Infrastructure</b> <b>CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points</b> <b>TRA2 Active Travel</b>
<b>SA4 – Climatic Factors</b>	-/+	-	+	+/-	-				<b>CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance</b> <b>CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points</b> <b>TRA2 Active Travel</b>
<b>SA5 – Water</b>	0	0	0	0	0				<b>CCH3 Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources</b> <b>CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance</b> <b>PSD3 Green Infrastructure</b>

									SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA6 – Material Assets	-	-	0	+	-				CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2 Active Travel
SA7 – Soil	?	?	0	0	0				PSD3 Green Infrastructure SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SA8 – Cultural Heritage					0				
SA9 – Landscape									SP11 Placemaking and Sustainable Places NE8 Landscape Character PSD11 Noise Pollution
SA10 –Population	0	0	+	+	0				
SA11 – Welsh Language	0	+	+	+	+				
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+/-	+/-	0	0	+				
SA13 – Education and Skills	-	-	+	+	+				
SA14 – Economy	+	+	+	+	+				
SA15 – Social Fabric	-	-	+	+	-				
<b>Commentary</b>									
RD1/RD2 Existing rural buildings of a certain age may contain protected species which would need to be investigated through an ecological survey as part of any planning application. Any potential for negative effects is mitigated through compliance with policy SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment and policy NE2 Biodiversity, however the policy wording could be strengthened to further mitigate these impacts. Dwellings in the open countryside often require the use of private car to reach facilities and services which will have negative effects on SA3 Air Quality, SA4 Climatic Factors and SA6 Material Assets. However, the									



replacement of older dwelling is likely to result in dwellings being built to higher energy efficiency standards which can result in energy saving. Effects on SA9 Soil are uncertain as it will be dependent on the footprint of the proposed replacement dwelling. Adherence to policies PSD3 Green Infrastructure and SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment can mitigate for this uncertainty. The policy is explicit in that the dwelling to be replaced should not be a building that is important to the character of the landscape and that it should retain its traditional character which mitigates for any uncertainty of impacts on SA8 Cultural Heritage and SA9 Landscape. The policy does not encourage access to facilities and services, however it does increase access to the natural environment.

RD3 – Farm diversification can offer opportunities to add to the income streams of working farms which has a number of socio-economic benefits. It provides opportunities for young people living in rural areas to find employment without having to move out of the area, which will also have benefits for the retention of Welsh speakers in rural areas. Small enterprises such as farm shops can prevent the requirement of rural residents having to drive to larger towns in order to shop therefore reducing private car use and associated air quality issues and carbon emissions.

RD4 – This policy can have a number of socio-economic benefits, allowing conversion to non-residential uses such as employment and making use of redundant buildings in rural areas. This can contribute to encouraging rural enterprise and the provision of more facilities and services in rural areas. This is also beneficial for the retention of young people in rural areas due to the potential for increased employment opportunities, which can also result in the retention of young Welsh speakers.

RD5 – Provision of equestrian facilities in rural areas may lead to increased traffic to the area, in particular if specific events are held. This may have negative effects on air quality and increase carbon emissions. However, such facilities may introduce opportunities for employment, skills and training, as well as having recreation and economic benefits.

#### SA Comments and Recommendations

- Policy RD1/RD2 Add in text around protected species such as: **Traditional rural buildings can provide important habitats for valuable species including bats and barn owls. Proposals for the conversion of such buildings will need to ensure there would be no significant adverse effects on protected species in-line with Policy NE2 Biodiversity and the Nature Conservation and Biodiversity SPG.** Make reference to sustainable transport links and maximisation of adherence to the sustainable transport hierarchy for planning and policy CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points.

Strategic Policy	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment									
Specific Policies	NE1: Regional and Local									
	NE2: Biodiversity									
	NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness									
	NE4: Development within the Caeau Mynydd Mawr SPG Area									
	NE5: Coastal Management									
	NE6: Coastal Development									
	NE7: Coastal Change Management Area									
	SA Objective	NE1	NE2	NE3	NE4	NE5	NE6	NE7		Mitigating Policies
	SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
SA2 – Biodiversity	++	++	++	++	0	0	0	+	SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment	
SA3 – Air Quality	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+		
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+	+	+	0	+	+/-	+	+	CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance	
SA5 – Water	+	+	+	0	+	-	+	+	CCH3 Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources	
SA6 – Material Assets	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0		
SA7 – Soil	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+		
SA8 – Cultural Heritage	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+		
SA9 – Landscape	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	++		

SA10 –Population	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	
SA11 – Welsh Language	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	
SA14 – Economy	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	
<b>Commentary</b>									
<p><b>Policies NE1, NE2, NE3 and NE4</b> all have positive effects across the SA Objectives due to the protective nature of these policies on the Natural Environment, with strong positive effects predicted on SA2 Biodiversity.</p> <p><b>NE5</b> - reference in the policy to adherence with SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment sufficiently mitigates any potential for negative effects on Biodiversity.</p> <p><b>NE6</b> facilitates development in coastal areas which can increase the risk of such proposals to flooding over the longer term, due to climate change, coastal erosion and sea level rise. This risk can be mitigated by Policy CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance. Increasing development on the coastline can also increase recreational pressure on such areas. This can have negative impacts on water quality, as well as increasing noise and light pollution. Reference should be made to recreational pressures in the supporting text in order to ensure such impacts are given due consideration in any planning application.</p> <p><b>NE7</b> – Potential negative impacts on SA2 Biodiversity and SA9 Landscape are made neutral by the wording of the policy.</p>									
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reference should be made in Policy NE6 to the fact that the majority of Carmarthenshire’s coastline is protected at an international level and that any proposals will be subject to Policies SP13, NE1 and NE2.</li> <li>Policy NE6, suggest adding wording to criteria - b) They will not unacceptably harm the seascape <b>or landscape</b> through inappropriate scale, mass and design to strengthen mitigation against negative impacts on SA9 Landscape.</li> <li>Policy NE6 should also make reference to the fact that recreational pressures should be considered in any planning application.</li> </ul>									

<b>Strategic Policy</b>	<b>SP14 Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment</b>
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Specific Policies	BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas BHE2: Landscape Character								
	SA Objective	BHE1	BEH2						Mitigating Policies
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	+							
SA2 – Biodiversity	0	+							
SA3 – Air Quality	0	+							
SA4 – Climatic Factors	0	+							
SA5 – Water	0	+							
SA6 – Material Assets	+	0							
SA7 – Soil	+	+							
SA8 – Cultural Heritage	++	+							
SA9 – Landscape	+	++							
SA10 –Population	0	+							
SA11 – Welsh Language	0	0							
SA12 – Health and Well-being	0	+							
SA13 – Education and Skills	0	0							
SA14 – Economy	+	+							
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	+							

### Commentary

**Policy BHE1** has positive effects across the SA Objectives due to the protective nature of these policies on the built environment, with strong positive effects predicted on SA8 Cultural Heritage.

**BEH2** has positive effects across the SA objectives, with strong positive effects predicted on SA9 Landscape.

### SA Comments and Recommendations

- There are no negative impacts predicted as a result of these policies.

Strategic Policy	SP15 Climate Change								
Specific Policies	<b>CCH1 Renewable Energy</b> <b>CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points</b> <b>CCH3 Water Quality and the Protection of Water</b> <b>CCH4 Flood Risk Management and Avoidance</b> <b>CCH5 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Developments</b> <b>CCH6 Climate Change – Forest and Woodland Planting</b>								
	SA Objective	CCH1	CCH2	CCH3	CCH4	CCH5	CCH6		
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	+	+	+	+	+			
SA2 – Biodiversity	-	+	+	+	0	+			<b>SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment</b> <b>NE2 Biodiversity</b>
SA3 – Air Quality	+	+	0	0	+	+			
SA4 – Climatic Factors	++	+	+	++	+	+			
SA5 – Water	+	+	++	+	+	+			
SA6 – Material Assets	+	+	0	0	+	0			
SA7 – Soil	0	0	+	+	0	+			
SA8 – Cultural Heritage	I	+	0	0	0	0			<b>SP14 Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment</b>
SA9 – Landscape	+/-	0	0	+	+/-	+			<b>SP11 Placemaking and Sustainable Places</b> <b>NE8 Landscape Character</b> <b>PSD11 Noise Pollution</b>

SA10 –Population	0	+	0	0	0	0			
SA11 – Welsh Language	0	0	0	0	0	0			
SA12 – Health and Well-being	0	+	0	+	0	+			
SA13 – Education and Skills	?	0	0	0	0	0			
SA14 – Economy	+	+	+	+	+	+			
SA15 – Social Fabric	0	+	0	+	+	+			
<b>Commentary</b>									
<p><b>CCH1</b> – Renewable energy is essential in ensuring a low carbon energy source and combatting climate change, therefore this policy has strong positive effects on SA4 Climatic Factors. Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development have the potential to have negative impacts on biodiversity, in particular when located in proximity to protected sites. These impacts are can be someway mitigated by policy SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment, however it is suggested that some wording is added into the policy itself to strengthen this mitigation. Any potential for negative impacts on SA9 Landscape can be mitigated by policies SP11 Platemaking and Sustainable Places and NE8 Landscape Character.</p> <p><b>CCH2</b> – Provision of Electric Charging Points in new developments will ensure that there is a growing network of charging point across the county to encourage electric car use. This is turn will have benefits for SA3 Air Quality and SA4 Climatic Factors, by reducing transport related emissions. Improvements to air quality are also beneficial to SA12 Health and Well-being, SA2 Biodiversity and SA8 Cultural Heritage.</p> <p><b>CCH3</b> – Is a protective policy for water quality and quantity and so has strong positive effects on SA5 Water. Protecting water quality will also have positive impacts across the SA Objectives, in particular on SA2 Biodiversity as well as SA7 Soil.</p> <p><b>CCH4</b> – Ensuring development, in particular that considered vulnerable, is not built in areas that flood is essential in increasing the resilience of Carmarthenshire to climate change, so this policy has positive effects against SA4 Climatic Factors and SA5 Water. This ensures that the wellbeing and safety of Carmarthenshire’s residents as well as their property, so is positive against SA Objectives SA12 Health and Wellbeing, SA14 Economy and SA15 Social Fabric. Encouragement of SUDS can also have positive impacts on SA2 Biodiversity.</p> <p><b>CCH5</b> – The policy is strong on low carbon energy in new developments of 100 or more homes however, the policy could be stronger in supporting renewables in new development more generally, especially in smaller developments such as provision for roof based solar panels. This would result in strong positive effects being predicted against SA4 Climatic Factors.</p>									

**CCH6** – Tree planting can provide mitigation for climate change based issues including improving air quality, sequestering carbon, preventing soil erosion and reducing risks of flooding. This policy is therefore predicted to have positive effects against SA objectives SA3 – Air Quality, SA4 Climatic Factors and SA5 Water. If publically accessible, new woodland can provide opportunities for recreation which will have positive effects against SA12 Health and Wellbeing.

#### **SA Comments and Recommendations**

- Carmarthenshire has many protected sites many of which are in the proximity of the SSAs and LSAs. Specific reference should be made in policy CCH1 to the fact that any renewable energy development will not have an unacceptable impacts on Natura 2000 sites.
- Suggest CCH4 makes reference to the risks as a result of climate change, so that this is considered as well as the current risk in any application.
- Suggest stronger wording is added to CCH5, with reference to supporting new development that has high energy performance, supports decarbonisation, tackles the causes of climate change and adapts to the current and future effects of climate change through the incorporation of effective mitigation and adaptation measures. Welsh Government’s policy is to secure zero carbon buildings while continuing to promote a range of zero carbon technologies. It should also be noted that the plan also does not have any policies covering community energy projects and smaller scale renewable projects.



Strategic Policy	SP16 Sustainable Distribution – Settlement Framework								
Specific Policies	SD1 Development Limits								
SA Objective	SD1								Mitigating Policies
SA1 – Sustainable Development	++								
SA2 – Biodiversity	+/-								SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	+/-								PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+								
SA5 – Water	0								
SA6 – Material Assets	+								
SA7 – Soil	+/-								PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
SA8 – Cultural Heritage	I								SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment

									<b>PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places</b> <b>PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods</b>
<b>SA9 – Landscape</b>	I								<b>SP11 – Placemaking and Sustainable Places</b> <b>PSD1 – Sustainability and High Quality Design</b> <b>NE8 – Landscape Character</b>
<b>SA10 –Population</b>	+								
<b>SA11 – Welsh Language</b>	+								
<b>SA12 – Health and Well-being</b>	+								
<b>SA13 – Education and Skills</b>	+								
<b>SA14 – Economy</b>	++								
<b>SA15 – Social Fabric</b>	++								
<b>Commentary</b>									
<p><b>SD1</b> - Any development infers potential for negative impacts on biodiversity, however the use of development limits will prevent inappropriate development in the countryside which will protect undisturbed, greenfield land from development. This is also true of impacts on Soil. Policy SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment, as well as policies NE1 – Regional and Local Designations, NE2 Biodiversity, NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness, PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network, PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows all provide mitigation for any residual negative impacts of development on SA2 - Biodiversity and SA7 Soil.</p> <p>Directing growth to sustainable locations with sufficient access to facilities, services and public transport links is likely to reduce private car use and associated air pollution. However, Principal Centres such as Llanelli and Carmarthen have existing air quality issues such as AQMA's and increasing growth in these areas may result in a further detriment to air quality. Policies PSD12 Light and Air Pollution and PSD3 Green Infrastructure can mitigate for these potential impacts.</p>									

Any potential for negative impacts on SA8 – Cultural Heritage or SA9 – Landscape in the implementation of this policy can be mitigated by policies SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment, PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places, PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods, SP11 – Placemaking and Sustainable Places and NE8 – Landscape Character.

**SA Comments and Recommendations**

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Strategic Policy	SP17 Transport and Accessibility								
Specific Policies	TRA1 Transport and Highways Infrastructural Improvements TRA2 Active Travel TRA3 Gwili Railway TRA4 Redundant Railway Corridors TRA5 Highways and Access Standards in Developments								
SA Objective	TRA1	TRA2	TRA3	TRA4	TRA5				Mitigating Policies
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	+	+	+	+				
SA2 – Biodiversity	-	-	-	-	0				SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	+/-	++	+	+	0				PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	++		+/-	0				CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA5 – Water	0	+		0	0				
SA6 – Material Assets	+/-	++	+	+	0				

SA7 – Soil	-	-	-	+	0				PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
SA8 – Cultural Heritage			+	+	0				SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
SA9 – Landscape				+	0				SP11 – Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1 – Sustainability and High Quality Design NE8 – Landscape Character
SA10 –Population	0	+	+	+	0				
SA11 – Welsh Language	0	0	0	0	0				
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+/-	++	+	+	+				CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA13 – Education and Skills	+	+	0		0				
SA14 – Economy	++	+	+	+	0				
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	+	+	0				
<b>Commentary</b>									
TRA1 – Construction of transport infrastructure can have negative impacts on SA2 Biodiversity through direct habitat loss and indirectly through decreasing air quality and disturbance. In particular, development in the Cross Hands area can have impacts on the Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC by causing habitat loss of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly. Any negative impacts on the Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC impact are mitigated by the Caeau Mynydd Mawr SPG which seeks developer contributions to									

compensate for habitat loss. Both negative and positive effects are predicted for this policy against SA objectives SA3, SA4, SA6 and SA12. Negative impacts on air quality, as well as increasing carbon emissions may occur as a result of facilitating an increase in traditional means of transport such as cars and HGVs. This can be some way mitigated by policies CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points which increases the county's infrastructure for electric vehicles, PSD12 Light and Air Pollution and PSD3 Green Infrastructure. However this policy also makes provision for sustainable transport networks which can reduce the use of private cars and associated air quality impacts. Specific reference to improvements to walking, cycling and bus routes in Carmarthen is welcome, as the town is identified as a principal centre in the plan however has an AQMA due to air quality issues. Positive impacts are predicted against SA objectives SA13, SA14 and SA15 due to the fact that increasing infrastructure will result in better access to facilities and services including education facilities.

**TRA2** – Proposals that encourage new active travel routes may have negative impacts on biodiversity and soil provision due to direct habitat loss. However, these impacts will be mitigated at a planning application level by policies SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment, NE1 – Regional and Local Designations, NE2 Biodiversity, NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness, PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network and PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows. Increasing the ability of cyclists and walkers to access safe and connected paths will have positive impacts on SA12 - Health and Wellbeing, and may result in less private car use which has positive impacts on SA3 Air Quality and SA4 Climatic Factors.

**TRA3** - The Gwili Railway is immediately adjacent to the River Teifi and is in some places, within the C2 flood zone. The impacts of flooding in particular due to climate change may have negative impacts on SA4 Climatic Factors and SA5 Water.

**TRA4** – The use of redundant rail corridors will facilitate benefits such as cycle paths, footpaths and bridleways, which in turn will have positive impacts on health and wellbeing as well as economy, and access to facilities and services. Railway corridors that have been redundant for some time may have valuable biodiversity associated with it and so clearance of such routes may have negative impacts, However, this is mitigated by policies SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment, NE1 – Regional and Local Designations, NE2 Biodiversity, NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness, PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network and PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows.

**TRA5** – Commentary TBC

#### SA Comments and Recommendations

- **TRA3:** The Gwili Railway is immediately adjacent to the River Teifi and is in some places, within the C2 flood zone. This should be considered carefully under any ambitions to extend the line.

Strategic Policy	SP18 Mineral Resources								
Specific Policies	MR1 Mineral Proposals MR2 Mineral Buffer Zones MR3 Mineral Safeguarding								
SA Objective	MR1	MR2	MR3						Mitigating Policies
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	+	+						
SA2 – Biodiversity	-	0	-						SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows MR1 – Mineral Proposals
SA3 – Air Quality	I	0	-						PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure MR1 Mineral Proposals
SA4 – Climatic Factors	I	0	0						CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA5 – Water	I	+	0						

SA6 – Material Assets	0	0	0						
SA7 – Soil	-	0	-						PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment. MR1 Mineral Proposals
SA8 – Cultural Heritage	I	0	I						SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
SA9 – Landscape	I	+	-						SP11 – Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1 – Sustainability and High Quality Design NE8 – Landscape Character MR1 Mineral Proposals
SA10 –Population	0	+	0						
SA11 – Welsh Language	0	0	0						
SA12 – Health and Well-being	0	++	0						
SA13 – Education and Skills	0	0	0						
SA14 – Economy	+	0	+						
SA15 – Social Fabric	0	+	0						
Commentary									



MR1 The location of aggregates is driven by site specific geological conditions and so has less flexibility to avoid impacts on sensitive ecological features. However, the policy itself has wording to protect no unacceptable adverse impacts upon sites of nature conservation importance and any residual impacts can be mitigated by other plan policies, in particular compliance with SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment. The policy wording itself mitigates for any potential negative impacts on SA3 Air Quality, SA4 Climatic Factors, SA5 Water, SA6 Material Assets, SA8 Cultural heritage and SA9 Landscape. The LDP policies identified in the matrix also further mitigate for any potential for impacts that may remain.

MR2 - Buffer zones are put in place in order to protect any new development, in particular residential areas, hospitals, schools, from any adverse impacts as a result of mineral extraction activities. This results in strong positive impacts on SA12 Health and Wellbeing, as well as positive effects on SA9 Landscape, SA10 Population and SA15 Social Fabric.

MR3 This policy safeguards mineral deposits, however they are safeguarded with the intention of being available for working in the future. This working of minerals deposits can have negative effects on biodiversity, soil, landscape and air quality, however the criteria of Policy MR1 Mineral Proposals will mitigate this risk.

#### **SA Comments and Recommendations**

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Strategic Policy	SP19 Waste Management								
Specific Policies	WM1 Waste Management Proposals WM2 Landfill Proposals WM3 Agricultural Land – Disposal of Inert Waste								
SA Objective	WM1	WM2	WM3						Mitigating Policies
SA1 – Sustainable Development	+	+/-	+						
SA2 – Biodiversity	0	-	-						SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1 – Regional and Local Designations NE2 Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness PSD3 Green Infrastructure Network PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SA3 – Air Quality	0	+/-	0						PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA4 – Climatic Factors	0	+/-	0						CCH2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points PSD12 Light and Air Pollution PSD3 Green Infrastructure
SA5 – Water	0	I	0						
SA6 – Material Assets	++	-	+						
SA7 – Soil	+	I	+						PSD3 Green Infrastructure Networks

									SP13 Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
SA8 – Cultural Heritage	0	+	+						SP14 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD2 – Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
SA9 – Landscape	+	-	0						SP11 – Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1 – Sustainability and High Quality Design NE8 – Landscape Character
SA10 –Population	0	0	0						
SA11 – Welsh Language	0	0	0						
SA12 – Health and Well-being	+	+	0						
SA13 – Education and Skills	0	0	0						
SA14 – Economy	+	+	+						
SA15 – Social Fabric	+	0	0						
<b>Commentary</b>									
Commentary TBC									
<b>SA Comments and Recommendations</b>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WM2 – make specific reference to having no significant impact on biodiversity in addition to natural heritage.</li> </ul>									

## Appendix 8 Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring Framework – Data Sources

SA Topic	SA Objectives	Monitoring Indicator	Source
1 – Sustainable Development	1-1 To live within environmental limits	The Ecological Footprint of Wales	Future Generations National Indicator 14 <a href="https://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/climatechange/publications/ecological-footprint-of-wales-report/?lang=en">https://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/climatechange/publications/ecological-footprint-of-wales-report/?lang=en</a>
	1-2 To ensure a strong, healthy and just society		
	1-3 To achieve a sustainable economy	Monitored via SA14	
	1-4 To remove barriers and promoting opportunities for behavioural change		
2 - Biodiversity	2-1 To avoid damage or fragmentation of designated sites, habitats and protected species and encourage their enhancement	Number of planning applications granted which have an adverse effect on the : a) integrity of Natura 2000 site b) integrity of designated site for nature conservation c) favourable conservation status of European protected species	Carmarthenshire County Council planning data
	2-2 To protect, enhance and create appropriate wildlife habitats and wider biodiversity in urban and rural areas		
3 – Air Quality	3-1 To maintain/reduce the levels of the UK national air quality pollutants	Air Quality Indicators (by Local Authority). Modelled, population weighted average concentrations.	Future Generations Indicator 4 <a href="https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Air-Quality/airqualityindicators-by-localauthority">https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Air-Quality/airqualityindicators-by-localauthority</a>
		Number of breaches of EU/UK Air Quality objectives in Carmarthenshire.	Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) monitored by Carmarthenshire County Council Public Health.

	3-2 To reduce levels of ground level ozone		
	3-3 To reduce the need to travel through appropriate siting of new developments and provision of public transport infrastructure	Total traffic on major roads, in thousand vehicle miles – cars (by local authority)	Department for Transport (DfT) traffic count data (by Local Authority) <a href="https://www.dft.gov.uk/traffic-counts/area.php?region=Wales&amp;la=Carmarthenshire">https://www.dft.gov.uk/traffic-counts/area.php?region=Wales&amp;la=Carmarthenshire</a>
4 - Climatic Factors	4-1 To reduce the emission of greenhouse gases	Annual CO2 levels (by Local Authority)	UK local authority and regional CO2 emissions national statistics: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics#2018">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics#2018</a>
	4-2 To minimise the vulnerability of Carmarthenshire to the effects of climate change through making space for water, coastal retreat and shifting habitat distribution patterns	Number of applications permitted within C1 and C2 floodplain areas contrary to advice of DCWW/NRW	Carmarthenshire County Council planning data
	4-3 To encourage all new developments to be climate resilient		
	4-4 To encourage energy conservation and higher energy efficiency		
	4-5 To minimise energy consumption and promote renewable energy sources	a) Number of, and b) Installed capacity permitted renewable energy and low carbon technology developments.	Carmarthenshire County Council planning data

5 - Water	5-1 To ensure water quality of rivers, lakes, groundwater and coastal areas is improved and ensure that the hydromorphological quality of the water bodies is maximised	Annual Bathing Water Quality classification for bathing sites in Carmarthenshire	Environment Agency Water Quality data <a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/environmental-health/bathing-water/#.WzNhqOmQyUk">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/environmental-health/bathing-water/#.WzNhqOmQyUk</a>
		% water bodies at 'good' classification status or above for a) Ecological status b) Chemical status	Water Framework Directive classification <a href="http://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/">http://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/</a>
	5-2 To protect and maintain water resources in the public supply chain and ensure enough water is available for the environment at all times of the year	Carmarthen Bay Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Water resource availability	NRW Abstraction management plans <a href="https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/water-management-and-quality/water-available-in-our-catchments/?lang=en">https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/water-management-and-quality/water-available-in-our-catchments/?lang=en</a>
	5-3 To minimise diffuse pollution from urban and rural areas	Proportion of developments that incorporate SUDS.	Carmarthenshire County Council planning data
	5-4 To increase water efficiency in new and refurbished developments	Number of houses built meeting the water efficiency threshold set by the government in Building Regulation Part G2.36(1).	Reference: <a href="https://gov.wales/topics/planning/buildingregs/approved-documents/part-g-sanitation/?lang=en">https://gov.wales/topics/planning/buildingregs/approved-documents/part-g-sanitation/?lang=en</a> CCC Building Control
	5-5 To make space for water and minimise flood risk	Number of applications permitted within C1 and C2 floodplain areas contrary to the advice of NRW/Dwr Cymru	Carmarthenshire County Council planning data
		Number of properties (homes and businesses) at medium or high risk of flooding from rivers and the sea	Future Generations National Indicator 32 <a href="https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Flooding/environment-and-countryside-state-of-the-environment-our-local-environment-properties-at-risk-of-flooding">https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Flooding/environment-and-countryside-state-of-the-environment-our-local-environment-properties-at-risk-of-flooding</a>

6 – Material Assets	6-1 Minimise the use of finite resources and promote higher resource efficiency and the use of secondary and recycled materials		
	6-2 Promote the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle	% Waste reuse/recycling/composting (by Local Authority)	Future Generations National Indicator 15 <a href="https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/local-authority-municipal-waste-management/?lang=en">https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/local-authority-municipal-waste-management/?lang=en</a>
	6-3 Encourage needs to be met locally		
	6-4 Promote the use of more sustainable resources		
	6-5 Improve the integration of different modes of transport	Proportion of total traffic a) Bicycles b) Buses and Coaches c) Cars	Department for Transport (DfT) traffic count data (by Local Authority) <a href="https://www.dft.gov.uk/traffic-counts/area.php?region=Wales&amp;la=Carmarthenshire">https://www.dft.gov.uk/traffic-counts/area.php?region=Wales&amp;la=Carmarthenshire</a>
	6-6 Promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport (e.g. cycling and walking)	Total Annual Bicycle Counts (Carmarthenshire Active Travel)	Active travel reports <a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/travel-roads-parking/active-travel/#.W5EARumQzIU">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/travel-roads-parking/active-travel/#.W5EARumQzIU</a>
7 - Soil	7-1 To avoid and reduce contamination of soils and promote the regeneration of contaminated land	Total area of contaminated land	

	7-2 To avoid loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces and minimised soil erosion	Percentage of permitted developments that incorporate SUDS.	Carmarthenshire County Council planning data
	7-3 To reduce SO2 and NOx emissions and nitrate pollution from agriculture		
8 – Cultural Heritage	8-1 To protect historic and cultural assets and local distinctiveness from negative effects of development/regeneration and support their enhancement	Number of developments permitted adversely impacting upon buildings and areas of built or historical interest and their setting	Carmarthenshire County Council planning data
	8-2 To promote high quality design reflecting local character and distinctiveness	Number of applications refused on design grounds	Carmarthenshire County Council planning data
9 - Landscape	9-1 To protect and enhance landscape/townscape from negative effects of land use change		
	9-2 To take sensitive locations into account when siting development and promote high quality design	Number of applications refused on design grounds	Carmarthenshire County Council planning data
	9-3 To encourage appropriate future use of derelict land	Number of development on previously developed land	Carmarthenshire County Council planning data



10 - Population	10-1 Ensure suitable, affordable housing stock with access to education and employment facilities	Number of affordable dwellings permitted	Carmarthenshire County Council planning data
	10-2 Promote the retention of younger people	% persons aged a) 15-29 b) 30 – 44 residing in Carmarthenshire	<a href="https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Distributions">https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Distributions</a>
	10-3 Promote inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups in society	Percentage of people agreeing a) that they belong to the area; b) that people from different backgrounds get on well together c) that people treat each other with respect.	Future Generations National Indicator 27 National Survey for Wales <a href="https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/?tab=el_home&amp;topic=nhs_social_care&amp;lang=en">https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/?tab=el_home&amp;topic=nhs_social_care&amp;lang=en</a>
11 – The Welsh Language	11-1 Encourage growth of the Welsh language and culture	% of people who can speak Welsh (by Local Authority)	Future Generations National Indicator 37 National Survey for Wales <a href="https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/?lang=en">https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/?lang=en</a>
12 – Health and Well-Being	12-1 Create opportunities for people to live active, healthy lifestyles through planning activities	Percentage of adults reported as being a) overweight b) obese (by Health Board)	<a href="http://www.infobasecymru.net/IAS/profiles/profile?profileId=381&amp;geoTypeId=">http://www.infobasecymru.net/IAS/profiles/profile?profileId=381&amp;geoTypeId=</a>  <a href="https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/?tab=el_home&amp;topic=population_health&amp;lang=en">https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/?tab=el_home&amp;topic=population_health&amp;lang=en</a>
	12-2 Provide access to health and recreation facilities and services	Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/access the facilities and services they need	Future Generations National Indicator 24 Wales National Survey
	12-3 Encourage walking or cycling as an alternative means of transportation	Percentage of people surveyed method of travel to work (a) On foot (b) By bicycle	Office of National Statistics - Travel to work methods and the time it takes to commute from home to work, Labour Force Survey <a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/labourproductivity/adhocs/008005traveltoworkmethodsandthetimeittakestocommutefromhometoworklabourforcesurvey2007to2016">https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/labourproductivity/adhocs/008005traveltoworkmethodsandthetimeittakestocommutefromhometoworklabourforcesurvey2007to2016</a>

		Total Annual Bicycle Counts (Carmarthenshire Active Travel)	Active travel reports <a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/travel-roads-parking/active-travel/#.W5EArumQzIU">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/travel-roads-parking/active-travel/#.W5EArumQzIU</a>
	12-4 Promote access to Wales' natural and cultural heritage	Amount of open space lost to development (ha)	Carmarthenshire County Council planning data
		Percentage of people attending or participating in arts, culture or heritage activities at least three times a year.	Future Generations National Indicator 35  <a href="https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/National-Survey-for-Wales/Sport-and-Recreation/percentageofpeoplewhoattendorparticipateinartcultureheritageactivities3ormoretimesayear-by-localauthority-year">https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/National-Survey-for-Wales/Sport-and-Recreation/percentageofpeoplewhoattendorparticipateinartcultureheritageactivities3ormoretimesayear-by-localauthority-year</a>
13 – Education and Skills	13-1 Provide accessible educational and training facilities which meet the future need of the area		
	13-2 Increase levels of literacy (in both Welsh and English) and numeracy	% of adults without basic numeracy and literacy skills	
	13-3 Promote lifelong learning	Level of highest qualification held by adults of working age in Wales (by Local Authority).	Future Generations National Indicator 8  <a href="https://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2018/180418-levels-highest-qualification-held-working-age-adults-2017-en.pdf">https://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2018/180418-levels-highest-qualification-held-working-age-adults-2017-en.pdf</a>

14 – Economy	14-1 To promote sustainable economic growth	Gross Value Added (GVA) per head	<a href="http://www.infobasecymru.net/IAS/profiles/profile?profileId=470&amp;geoTypeId=">http://www.infobasecymru.net/IAS/profiles/profile?profileId=470&amp;geoTypeId=</a> (South West Wales value)
	14-2 To provide good quality employment opportunities for all sections of the population	Amount of employment land lost to non-employment uses	CCC planning data
		Percentage of population in part and full time or self-employment	<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/research-statistics/electoral-ward-county-profiles/#.W5J2dOmQyUk">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/research-statistics/electoral-ward-county-profiles/#.W5J2dOmQyUk</a>
	14-3 To promote sustainable businesses in Wales	Number of active businesses in Carmarthenshire	<a href="http://www.infobasecymru.net/IAS/profiles/profile?profileId=456&amp;geoTypeId=">http://www.infobasecymru.net/IAS/profiles/profile?profileId=456&amp;geoTypeId=</a>
		Number of active business closures in Carmarthenshire	<a href="http://www.infobasecymru.net/IAS/profiles/profile?profileId=456&amp;geoTypeId=">http://www.infobasecymru.net/IAS/profiles/profile?profileId=456&amp;geoTypeId=</a>
15 – Social Fabric	15-1 Improve safety and security for people and property	Average annual crime level	<a href="https://www.police.uk/dyfed-powys/110/crime/stats/">https://www.police.uk/dyfed-powys/110/crime/stats/</a>
		Probability of feeling safe (by local authority)	<a href="#">Future Generations Indicator 25</a> <a href="https://gov.wales/docs/caecd/research/2017/170301-national-survey-who-most-likely-feel-safe-local-area-en.pdf">https://gov.wales/docs/caecd/research/2017/170301-national-survey-who-most-likely-feel-safe-local-area-en.pdf</a>

15-2 Promote the design of settlements that improve social fabric by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions	Probability of having a strong sense of community (by local authority area)	Future Generations indicator 27: <a href="https://gov.wales/docs/caecd/research/2017/170301-national-survey-who-most-likely-strong-sense-community-en.pdf">https://gov.wales/docs/caecd/research/2017/170301-national-survey-who-most-likely-strong-sense-community-en.pdf</a>
	Percentage of people agreeing that they belong to the area; that people from different backgrounds get on well together; and that people treat each other with respect.	Future Generations Indicator
15-3 Promote the deliverability of affordable housing	Proportion of affordable housing as a percentage of new homes delivered	
15-4 Improve accessibility to services, particularly for disadvantaged sections of society	Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/ access the facilities and services they need	Future Generations National Indicator 24 <a href="https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/?lang=en">https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/?lang=en</a>

## Appendix 9 – Consultation Responses from Initial SA

Organisation/Comment	Response/Action
Natural Resources Wales – Sharon Luke	
General Comments	
We consider that Carmarthenshire’s landscape objective SA 9 links to a greater number of the strategic objectives that defined in Figure 3: Testing of Revised LDP Strategic Objectives against the Sustainability Objectives framework.	Noted. The landscape objective has been reassessed against the strategic objectives and has been linked to all relevant objectives.
Figure 4: Testing of Strategic Growth Options against the sustainability Objectives framework (Page 21). We consider there could be a direct link between growth options and SA9 Landscape. We anticipate that there could be effects e.g. an increased need for greenfield land and pressure on landscapes in a similar way to effects on SA2. There may be potential to mitigate these effects.	Agreed. The figure and supporting text has been amended to reflect impacts of Growth Options on SA2 – Biodiversity.
Section 4.2.1. We note the final bullet point acknowledges the potential to impact negatively on landscapes and cultural heritage.	The paragraph states that all growth has the potential to impact on landscape depending on the selection of sites and implementation of development (e.g. in terms of place making and design, materials used etc.). At the strategic level of detail provided by the preferred strategy is it difficult to say whether there will be negative impacts or not. However, at the deposit stage, there will be more detail on the allocated sites and their landscape context on which to make an assessment.
Figure 7 Testing of Revised LDP Strategic Policies against the Sustainability Objectives framework. We consider some additional strategic policies could have a negative effect on landscape e.g. SP3 and SP6, in a similar way as for biodiversity.	Agreed and amended to more closely reflect the potential impacts on SA2 – Biodiversity.
Figure 8 (page 102) Summary of Sustainability Appraisal of Preferred Strategy. We are not comfortable with the position that the preferred strategy has no negative effect on landscape.	Figure 8 is a summary of all previous sustainability appraisals carried out in the document. It does not conclude that there are no negative effects on

	Landscape, and highlights some potential issues for conflict including SP8, SP12, SP18 and SP19, as well as areas of uncertainty or areas where further information or detail may be required. This figure has now been amended to reflect changes made in other sections of the document as a result of NRW's comments.
Table 8 (page 106) Draft Sustainability Monitoring Framework refers only to Special Landscape Areas in relation to landscape, whereas Appendix 2 Data sources (page 117) refers to the number of developments refused in design grounds and the number approved on previously developed land. We ask for clarification as to the monitoring method used for landscape.	Noted, the additional monitoring data sources have been added to Table 8 to provide a more robust method of monitoring landscape.
<b>Pembrokeshire Coast National Park - Martina Dunne</b>	
<b>Comments on Appraisal of the LDP Strategic Options and Alternatives:</b>	
Spatial Options, appraisal against SA Objective 5. Mitigation for this is effectively now a legislative requirement. SuDS are required for new development under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010). As well as providing mitigation for flash flooding SuDS collect, filter and slowly release water back into the environment.	Agreed, with SuDS now in place, this mitigation is now a legislative requirement and this will be considered as such in the deposit plan.
<b>Comments on Appraisal of LDP Strategic Policies:</b>	
SP6 Employment and the Economy, assessments against SA4. Caveat with "but an increase in industry related traffic as per the commentary on air quality under SA3?"	Agreed. Will add in reference to industry related traffic.
<b>General Comments</b>	
On the whole a very balanced assessment, PCNPA support all of the changes to policy suggested by the SA.	Noted.
Missing update/re-issued review of plans and programmes and baseline information. The PPP currently available on the website is missing the	Noted. Will amend deposit plan to include missing LDPs for Pembrokeshire Coast NP and Pembrokeshire CC.

adopted Local Development Plans for Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and Pembrokeshire County Council.	
Suzy Erskine	
General Comments	
<p>2.2.4 The 15 SA Objectives that make up the framework include: ☐ SA2 Biodiversity SA3 Air Quality SA4 Climactic Factors SA5 Water SA7 Soil ☐ SA9 Landscape ☐ SA12 Health and Well-being SA13 Education and Skills SA14 Economy SA15 Social Fabric Regarding the above: Biodiversity is not just about green tourism. If we are to be truly sustainable we could start growing a wider diversity of crops in Wales. Currently only a tiny percentage of farm-land is used for market gardens or fruit trees. We could be growing our own food here and increasing the biodiversity as a result as well as improving the resilience of our local economy and improving people's health. Please let's plant more trees for wildlife, holding water in the soil and enjoying cleaner air. Sheep have been allowed to keep the hillsides bare for so long most people believe that's how they should look. Not so! With trees on the hillsides, our villages won't be flooding, because the trees take up the water and hold on to the soil.</p>	<p>Noted. These are all valid comments which will be considered in the SA of the deposit plan.</p>