

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

Deposit Revised Local Development Plan 2018–2033

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NB: page number above reference the respective two separate documents

Abbreviations

ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BBNP	Brecon Beacons National Park
CBEEMS	Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Site
CCC	Carmarthenshire County Council
EqIA	Equalities Impact Assessment
HIA	Health Impact Assessment
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
ISA	Integrated Sustainability Appraisal
(r)LDP	(revised) Local Development Plan (referred to as the Plan)
LPAs	Local Planning Authorities
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
PPP	Plans, Policies, and Programmes
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
PSB	Public Services Board
RIGS	Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAM	Site Assessment Methodology
SAC(s)	Special Area(s) of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SINC(s)	Site(s) of Importance for Nature Conservation
SLA(s)	Special Landscape Area(s)
SoNaRR	State of Natural Resources Report
SPA(s)	Special Protection Area(s)
SSSI(s)	Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest
TAN	Technical Advice Note
WLIA	Welsh Language Impact Assessment
WNMP	Welsh National Marine Plan
WwTW	Wastewater Treatment Works

1. Introduction

1.0.1 This document is the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) of Carmarthenshire County Council's Second Deposit Revised Local Development Plan (rLDP). It consists of the joint Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), alongside consideration to other strategies and assessments as outlined in paragraph 1.4. The SA/SEA is a combined process which meets their respective regulatory requirements.

1.0.2 The purpose of this assessment is to identify any likely significant economic, environmental, and social effects of a Local Development Plan (LDP), and to suggest relevant mitigation measures. This process integrates social equity, economic development, environmental protection, and cultural sustainability into all stages of LDP preparation and ultimately promotes sustainable development. It fosters an inclusive and transparent process when producing a LDP and helps to ensure that the LDP is integrated with other policies. This combined process is hereafter referred to as ISA.

1.0.3 The geographical scope of this assessment covers the whole of the County of Carmarthenshire (~2,370 km²), however, it also considers cross-boundary effects with the neighbouring Local Authorities of Ceredigion, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Powys and Swansea, in addition to the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. It also considers those targets and policies placed on Local Authorities from both a national and international level to ensure sustainability is adhere to across all spatial scales. The rLDP is not applicable to the area of the BBNP which is located within Carmarthenshire (~230 km²), however, this assessment does consider the potential wider impacts upon this area and further afield.

1.0.4 Over the course of the preparation of the rLDP, which has undergone several iterations, the accompanying SA/ISA process has assessed all chosen options and reasonable alternatives for their likely effects upon sustainability. The rLDP is a land-use plan which outlines the location and quantity of development within Carmarthenshire for a 15-year period between 2018 and 2033. The same timescale has been reflected throughout this ISA Report. This ISA Report accompanies, and should be read in conjunction with, the Second Deposit rLDP published.

1.0.5 This ISA report was published for consultation in January 2023 alongside the Second Deposit version of the rLDP, and supersedes a previous version originally published in January 2020. It provides a necessary record of the combined SA/SEA work that was undertaken as part of the Plan's preparation process between 2018 and 2023, and refers to the associated documents produced as part of the iterative process. The documentation previously published and summarised within this report include:

- SA - SEA Scoping Report (July 2018)
- SA - SEA Initial Report (December 2018)
- Site Assessment Methodology (February 2018, Updated September 2019)
- SA Report (1st) rLDP (including appendices) (January 2020)

1.0.6 Following the approach taken in the above-mentioned documents, an *integrated* approach (ISA) now explicitly highlights the pre-existing overlap between the incorporated requirements and considerations further discussed in paragraph 1.4. This approach is principally noted after Chapter 5 of this ISA Report.

1.0.7 Considering a key purpose of any LDP is to assist future decision-makers when determining the outcome of planning proposals, it is of equal importance that the findings within the present ISA Report are used amongst a range of decision-aids to ensure the provision of sustainable development.

1.1 Legislative Requirements

1.1.1 The completion of an SA is a statutory requirement for LDPs under Section 62(6) of *The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004*¹, the *Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005*² and associated guidance.

1.1.2 The *European SEA Directive 2001/42*³, transposed in Wales through *The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004*⁴ (the Regulations), 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.

1.1.3 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.

1.1.4 Planning Policy Wales⁵ (PPW) stresses the presumption in favour of sustainable development and that Local Planning Authorities (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.

1.2 SA and the LDP Process

1.2.1 Guidance on how to carry out an SA for a LDP is contained in the *Welsh Government Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (2020)*⁶, where SA is defined as a tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives.

1.2.2 This 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 allowing the potential sustainability implications of proposed options/policies to be considered and the process to be transparent. If necessary, the rLDP can be refined throughout its preparation to ensure it is a sustainable document.

Table 1 – Stages in the SA process and their relationship to LDPs. Adapted from the Development Plans Manual (Edition 3) March 2020.

SA/SEA Stage	LDP Stage
Stage A: Scoping	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).	

¹ [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#)

² [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Development Plan\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2005](#)

³ [Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment](#)

⁴ [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes \(Wales\) Regulations 2004](#)

⁵ [Planning Policy Wales - Edition 11 | February 2021](#)

⁶ [Development Plans Manual \(Edition 3\) March 2020](#)

<p>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).</p>	
<p>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)).</p>	
<p>A4 Identifying sustainability issues and problems which are relevant to the plan. Required by SEA Directive 2001/42/EC Annex I (d).</p>	
<p>A5 Develop SA framework against which the plan can be appraised.</p>	
<p>A6 Prepare and consult on the SA Scoping Report. Required by SEA Directive Article 5(4) and 6(3).</p>	
<p>Stage B: Assessment of Alternatives</p>	
<p>B1 Assess and mitigate the effects of the plan objectives using the SA framework.</p>	<p>Strategic Options and Preferred Strategy</p>
<p>B2 Develop reasonable alternatives. Required by SEA Directive Article 5(1) and Annex I (h).</p>	
<p>B3 Assess and mitigate the effects of the alternatives using the SA framework. Required by SEA Directive, Annex I (f) and (g).</p>	
<p>B4 Choose the preferred alternatives and provide an outline of reasons for selecting the preferred alternatives. Required by SEA Directive, Annex I (h).</p>	
<p>Stage C: Assessment of the Deposit Plan and Preparation of the Environmental Report</p>	
<p>C1 Assess and mitigate the effects of the Deposit plan using the SA framework. Required by SEA Directive, Annex I (f) and (g).</p>	<p>LDP Preparation and Deposit</p>
<p>C2 Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan. Required by SEA Directive, Article 9(c), Article 10, Annex I (i).</p>	
<p>C3 Consult on the Deposit Plan and Environmental Report. Required by SEA Directive, Article 6.</p>	
<p>Stage D: Consultation, Examination and Adoption of the Plan</p>	
<p>D1 Assess the effects of significant changes made to the Deposit plan by the SA framework. Required by SEA Directive, Article 5(2).</p>	<p>Submission Examination and Adoption</p>

D2(i) After the plan is adopted, the plan making authority must publish a Post Adoption Statement. Required by SEA Directive, Article 9(1).	
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects on implementing the LDP	
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

1.3.1 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 rLDP, its spatial scale, timescale and its main objectives.

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

Plans, Policies and Programmes that could have an impact upon the rLDP 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 A.

- **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 rLDP post adoption. An updated version of the baseline is presented in Appendix B.

- **A4 Identifying relevant issues and problems**

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

- **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 rLDP can be tested, and is presented in Appendix C.

- **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 several stakeholders, which were reported as an Appendix within the Initial SA. Amendments to the (now) ISA have been made because of these comments, where appropriate, and any comments considered to relate more to the LDP were noted and passed on to the planning officers for their consideration.

Stage B

1.3.2 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 is summarised in Chapter 5, and contains:

- **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 several 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 were assessed 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.

NB: Whilst the wording of the ISA Objectives remains unchanged, an *integrated* approach following this stage now highlights the pre-existing overlap between other strategies and assessments. Decision making influences have been updated.

Stage C

1.3.3 This ISA Report of the Deposit LDP has been prepared to comply with Stage C of the SA/SEA process (Environmental Report) and is to be published as part of the Second Deposit rLDP public consultation process.

- **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 proposed allocations. 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 5 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 ISA Report.**

This ISA report will be consulted alongside the rLDP Deposit Plan for a six-week period.

1.4 Links to Other Strategies and Assessments

1.4.1 This SA/SEA Environmental Report incorporates requirements under the *Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015*⁷ (WBFGA), *Equality Act 2010*⁸, *Environment (Wales) Act 2016*⁹, Technical Advice Note (TAN) 20¹⁰, and considerations under *Public Health (Wales) Act 2017*¹¹, into a single, non-exhaustive ISA which enables a more transparent, holistic, and rounded assessment of the sustainability implications of the growth options, objectives, policies, and proposals contained in the rLPD.

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

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

1.4.3 As outlined in the *Planning (Wales) Act 2015*¹², LDPs and LPAs must promote sustainable development in accordance with the WBFGA for the purpose of ensuring that the development and use of land contributes to improving the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. The WBFGA defines sustainable development as 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 well-being goals (Figure 1) were integral to the preparation of the ISA Framework.



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

1.4.4 The sustainable development principle requires Public Bodies to 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. It sets out five ways of working needed for Public Bodies to achieve the seven well-being goals, which are:

- Looking to the *long term* so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;

⁷ [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

⁸ [Equality Act 2010](#)

⁹ [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#)

¹⁰ [Technical advice note \(TAN\) 20: planning and the Welsh language](#)

¹¹ [Public Health \(Wales\) Act 2017](#)

¹² [Planning \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

- 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.

1.4.5 The WBFGA establishes Public Services Boards (PSBs) which are required to assess the state of well-being on a local level, set objectives, and produce a plan designed to improve well-being locally. The PSB for Carmarthenshire published their well-being plan¹³ in 2018 and set the four follow 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 can adapt to change; and
- **Prosperous People and Places:** To maximise opportunities for people and places in both urban and rural parts of our county.

1.4.6 To support the delivery of the well-being goals, Public Health Wales has published '*creating healthier places and spaces for our present and future generations*'¹⁴. This resource focuses on six priority areas of the built and natural environment that can positively impact on health and well-being, and these are:

- Walking and cycling infrastructure;
- Open spaces and green blue infrastructure;
- Food growing and retail environment;
- Community, health, and social care services provided from local facilities;
- Low levels of air pollution; and
- Sustainable building design.

1.4.7 Contribution towards achieving the national well-being goals and objectives, alongside the five-ways of working and the content of Carmarthenshire's Well-being Plan, must be intrinsic throughout the development of the rLPD and accompanying assessments (e.g., ISA, HRA etc) to be compliant with the requirements of the WBFGA. Additionally, the rLDP is also to consider the Council's own well-being objectives¹⁵.

Welsh Language

1.4.8 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) *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004*¹⁶ 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, and/or mitigation measures should be identified.

1.4.9 To supplement the assessment of Welsh Language in the ISA, a more detailed Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) has also been undertaken to support the evidence base

¹³ [Carmarthenshire Well-being Assessment 2017 and Plan 2018-2023](#)

¹⁴ [Creating healthier places and spaces for our present and future generations | 2018 Public Health Wales NHS Trust.](#)

¹⁵ [Well-being objectives | Cyngor Sir Gaerfyrddin Carmarthenshire County Council](#)

¹⁶ [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#)

and assess the impact of related strategies and policies. From the assessment of the First Deposit rLDP, specific policy amendments impacting upon the Welsh Language were made upon the findings of the previous WLIA undertaken by Iaithe and Burum¹⁷. An iterative approach continued between the ISA process and the WLIA for the 2nd Deposit rLDP. Again, undertaken by Iaithe and Burum, the conclusions made within this latest assessment will, where relevant, be adopted in the ISA, and the WLIA should be referred to for the supporting evidence and commentary with regards to the impact upon the Welsh Language¹⁸.

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

1.4.10 The *Equality Act 2010* requires Public Bodies to assess the impact of policies on different population groups to ensure discrimination does not take place and, where possible, promote equality of opportunity (referred to as the Equality Duty – Section 149) and deliver better outcomes for those who are socio-economically disadvantaged (Socio-Economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3). The Act requires *due regard* during the decision-making process and, therefore, screening of the nine protected characteristics¹⁹ to identify which characteristics the rLDP may influence. The EqIA undertaken for the rLDP also incorporates the Welsh Language.

1.4.11 It is important to note that public authorities subject to the Equality Duty are likely subject to obligations under the *Human Rights Act 1998*²⁰ and, therefore, consideration has also been made to incorporate the potential impact that decisions could have on human rights as part of the same process.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

1.4.12 The *Public Health (Wales) Act 2017* outlines the circumstances in which a Public Body must carry out a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). The Act defines a HIA as “an assessment of the likely effect, both in the short term and in the long term, of a proposed action or decision on the physical and mental health of the people of Wales or of some of the people of Wales”. The *SEA Directive* (Annex I (f)) requires human health to be considered as part of the assessment of environmental effects. Therefore, whilst there is no specific requirement to undertake a dedicated HIA, the health component of the SEA has been broadened to integrate both the physical and mental health objectives of a HIA.

1.4.13 As outlined by EU Guidance (2022)²¹, the notion of human health should be considered in the context of the interrelationship between all SEA factors stated in Annex I (f) and thus, indirect issues arising from the implementation of policies must also consider environmentally related health issues such as exposure to traffic noise, air pollutants, and water contamination.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016

1.4.13 Section 6 of the *Environment (Wales) Act 2016* requires Public Authorities which exercise their functions in relation to Wales have a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems (referred as the Section 6 Duty). To comply with this duty, Welsh Government Guidance²³ states that Public Authorities must embed the

¹⁷ [Carmarthenshire Draft Deposit LDP Welsh Language Impact Assessment. December 2019.](#)

¹⁸ Carmarthenshire Draft Deposit rLDP Welsh Language Impact Assessment. 2023.

¹⁹ Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation ([The Equalities Act 2010](#)).

²⁰ [Human Rights Act 1998](#)

²¹ [Guidance on the implementation of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment](#)

²³ [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016 | Guidance for Section 6 | Welsh Government](#)

consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, and projects, as well as their day-to-day activities.

1.4.14 Under Part 1 of the *Environment (Wales) Act 2016*, Area Statements were produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) which cover the Marine area and six land regions of Wales. The South West Wales Area Statement (SWWAS) covers the Local Authorities of Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, and Swansea, which represents 22% of the Country's population and 23% of the landmass.

1.4.15 The SWWAS was produced in 2020 against a backdrop of Welsh Government's declaration of a climate and a nature emergency. As such changes have been made to the rLDP, that reflect the priorities identified in the Statement and the interrelated nature of these two emergencies that are in themselves symptoms of the unsustainable management of natural resources and development, at the expense of future generations. Adapting to the climate and nature crises require a whole systems approach, and as such both issues feature across all the SWWAS themes which are Reducing health inequalities; Ensuring sustainable land management; Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity; and Cross-cutting theme: Mitigating and adapting to a changing climate.

Welsh National Marine Plan 2019

1.4.16 The *Welsh National Marine Plan 2019*²⁴ (WNMP) sets out a long-term vision for the sustainable development of Welsh seas. It has been adopted under the *Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009* in accordance with Section 51 and with Schedule 6 of the Act, and in conformity with the *UK Marine Policy Statement*²⁵. The WNMP is used to guide the Local Authority in decision making and, therefore, regard has been made to the Marine Plan in the review of policies.

The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

1.4.17 Under the *Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)*²⁶, the rLDP must be assessed to whether it would likely have a significant effect on a European site or an offshore European marine site (EMS), either standalone or in combination with other plans and projects, and directly or indirectly. The Directive is transposed into Welsh law via the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017*²⁷. 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.

1.4.18 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 during the initial 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.

1.4.19 Informal screening of the HRA 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.

²⁴ [Welsh National Marine Plan I Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government](#)

²⁵ [Statutory guidance I Marine Policy Statement \(MPS\)](#)

²⁶ [Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora](#)

²⁷ [The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 \(as amended\)](#)

2. Methodology

2.1 Approach

2.1.1 The ISA methodology has referenced guidance provided in several documents. These include:

- Welsh Government Development Plans Manual, Edition 3 (2020) ²⁸
- ODPM Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (2005) ²⁹
- ODPM A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005) ³⁰
- RTPI Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of SEA/SA for Land Use Plans (2018) ³¹
- EU Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment (2013) ³²
- EU Guidance on the implementation of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (2022) ³³
- EU Environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes: Directive 2001/42/EC ('SEA' Directive) rulings of the Court of Justice of the European union (2022) ³⁴

2.2 Undertaking the ISA

2.2.1 ISA is an iterative process and the outcomes of the appraisals have helped inform the final version of the Second Deposit rLDP published for consultation. Where elements of the rLDP have not changed from the Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy (published for consultation in December 2018) and First Deposit rLDP (published for consultation in January 2020), the previous respective SA appraisal remains valid and is either signposted to or reproduced in this ISA Report – as further outlined in Chapter 5. Chapter 6 reflects the appraisal of those elements within the Second Deposit rLDP which are novel, have been altered from the result of consultation, and or deemed necessary due to the updated baseline data.

2.3 The Integrated Sustainability Framework

2.3.1 The ISA Framework provides a consistent basis for describing, analysing, and comparing the sustainability effects of the objectives, options, specific policies, and proposals of the rLDP. The Framework is objective-led and, therefore, the strategic objectives and options outlined are assessed on its contribution to achieving the ISA objectives.

2.3.2 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

2.3.3 The full SA framework is provided in Appendix C. In summary, the objectives reflect the topics identified within Schedule 2 of the *SEA Directive* in addition to supplementary

²⁸ [Development Plans Manual \(Edition 3\) March 2020 | GOV.WALES](#)

²⁹ [Sustainability appraisal of regional spatial strategies and local development documents, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister - Publication Index | NBS \(thenbs.com\)](#)

³⁰ [A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

³¹ [RTPI | Strategic Environmental Assessment: SEA/SA for Land Use Plans](#)

³² [Guidance on integrating climate change and biodiversity into strategic environmental assessment - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)

³³ [SEA Guidance \(europa.eu\)](#)

³⁴ [Environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)

objectives relating to the integrated components, climate change and socio-economic factors, amongst others. The 15 ISA Objectives that make up the framework are shown in Table 2, as well as the corresponding SEA issue and integrated components those which relate to.

2.3.4 To aid in the assessment process each objective is supported by several sub-objectives and accompanying 'decision making criteria', which will facilitate the assessment process and assist in the interpretation of the main objective. Whilst remaining holistic in scope and not exclusively refining the consideration of integrated components (and associated potential impacts thereof) to specific sub-objectives, the integration of requirements under the Welsh Language is explicit within sub-objectives 10-1, 10-2, 10-3, 11-1; and for the EqIA (inc. associated duties) through 6-3, 10-1, 10-2, 10-3, 11-1, 13-1, 13-2, 13-3, 14-2, 15-2, 15-3, 15-4; among others. Additionally, considerations outlined in paragraph 1.4 are collectively encompassed in the decision-making criteria of ISA1, through the deliberation on whether the LDP will encourage needs to be met locally. Therefore, in this regard, truly sustainable development cannot be achieved unless the rLDP is likely to have a holistic positive and balanced effect upon the County, as determined through this appraisal and its integral components.

Table 2 – ISA Objectives and their relation to SEA Directive Issues and elements of the integrated components. * = including respective Equality and Socio-Economic Duties.

ISA Objective		ISA1 Sustainable Development	ISA2 Biodiversity	ISA3 Air Quality	ISA4 Climatic Factors	ISA5 Water	ISA6 Material Assets	ISA7 Soil	ISA8 Cultural Heritage & Historic	ISA9 Landscape	ISA10 Population	ISA11 The Welsh Language	ISA12 Health & Well-being	ISA13 Education and Skills	ISA14 Economy	ISA15 Social Fabric	
Corresponding SEA Issues			Biodiversity, fauna, flora	Air	Climatic factors	Water	Material assets	Soil	Cultural heritage inc. architectural...	Landscape	Population		Human health				
ISA Objective Integrated Components																	
WBFGA Goals	Cohesive	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Culture / Language	X					X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
	Responsible	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		
	Prosperous	X					X		X	X	X			X		X	
	Resilient	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	
	Healthier	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X			X	
	Equal	X		X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X	
	Welsh Language	X								X	X	X					X
	EqlA*	X					X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Mental Health (HIA)	X					X				X		X				X
	Area Statement	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X		X	X	X
Section 6 Duty	X	X	X	X	X		X		X								

2.4 Determining Effect Significance

2.4.1 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.

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

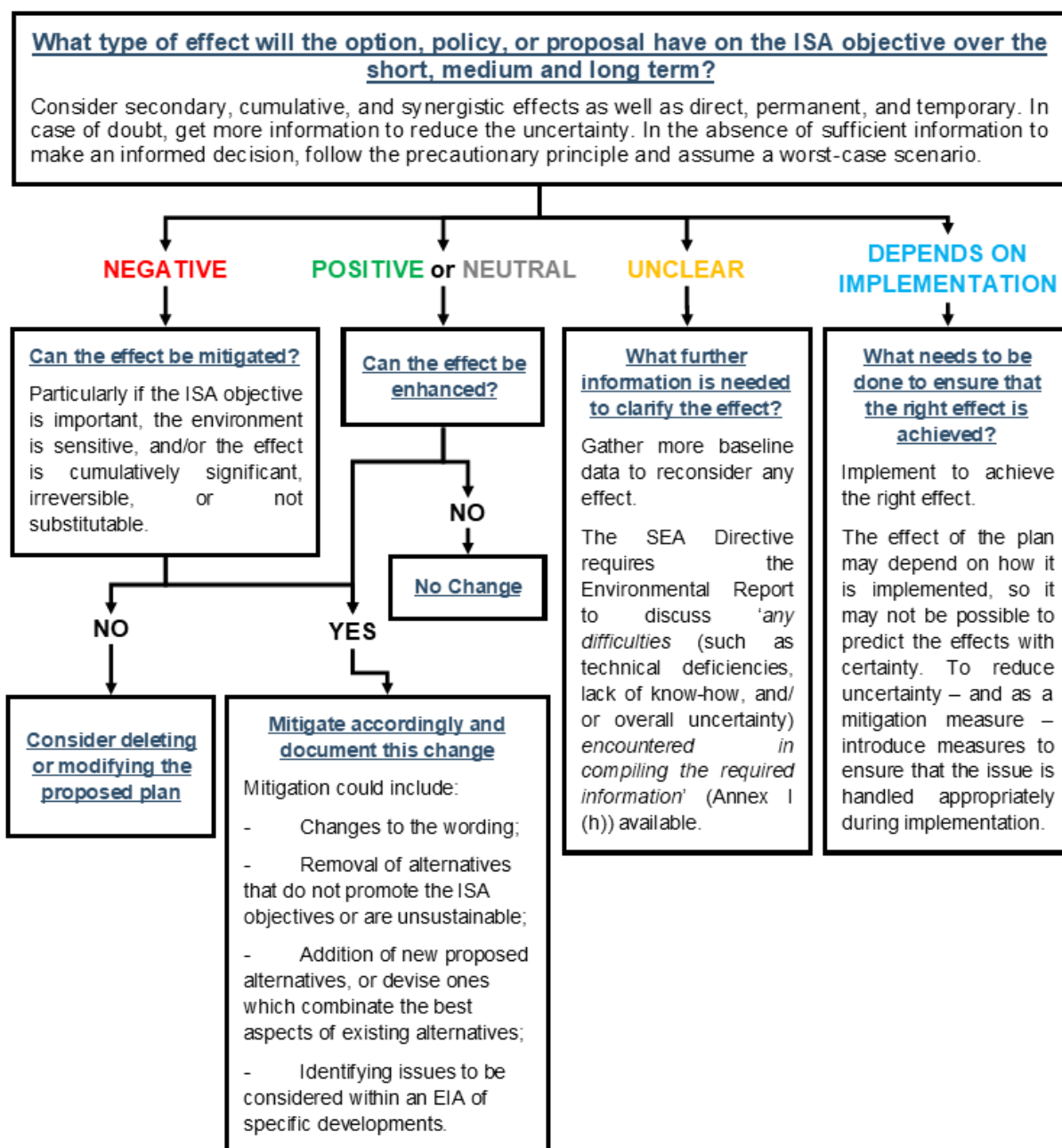


Figure 2 – The ISA Process assessing the effects of the rLDP and its components (adapted from ODPM A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005)).

2.5 Timescales

2.5.1 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. Therefore, the ISA will consider effects over three timescales.

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

2.5.2 For ease of comparability, timescales were standardised and are, therefore, consistent throughout this assessment. However, despite the definitive timescales stated above, those effects which may potentially exceed 20 years are included as Long Term (particularly relevant for air pollution and climate change).

2.6 Baseline Scenario

2.6.1 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 a revised plan. Establishing what the situation might be without the rLDP (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. The current plan would run from 2006 to 2021 and after that, there would be no plan in place unless the revised LDP was adopted and, therefore, this is the baseline scenario.

2.6.2 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 revised LDP and this has been considered as part of the assessment. A full list of relevant plans, programmes and policies is included in Appendix A. Regard is had to existing national planning policy including associated Technical Advice Notes (TANs).

2.7 Impact Matrices

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

Table 3 – ISA assessment criteria for draft policies and reasonable alternatives, as adapted from Welsh Government Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (2020).

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 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
I	Effect on the Sustainability objective depends on how the policy and allocations are implemented	Suggestions for implementation
0	Neutral effect compared to the current situation	Consider whether intervention could bring positive effects
?	Uncertain effect –more information needed	Consider where this will come from – who has it? What will be done about collecting it? When will it be collected?

2.7.2 A separate assessment criteria was developed to assess site specific criteria, in addition to preferred growth options and the ISA Monitoring Framework. This methodology is outlined in Section 6.8, Section 6.2, and Chapter 8, respectively. For clarity, unless a different matrices is otherwise stated, the presentation of assessment outcomes contained throughout this document used the criteria outlined in Table 3. Where appropriate, appendices contain their respective impact matrices for further convenience.

2.7.3 The SEA Directive also requires the analysis of ‘secondary, cumulative, synergistic, ... permanent and temporary, positive, and negative effects’ (Annex I(f)). Table 4 outlines the definition of secondary (or indirect), cumulative and synergistic effects, as considered in this ISA. Those identified thought this assessment are summarised in Section 6.9, although originated within respective commentaries.

Table 4 – Definitions of Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects. Adapted from A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, ODPM (2005).

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 because 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.

2.8 Mitigation and Recommendations

2.8.1 Where deemed appropriate, mitigation measures are recommended in alignment with the mitigation hierarchy (to avoid, minimise, or offset, in sequential order) to counter the likely adverse effects of the proposed options/policies contained within the rLDP. Additionally, potential enhancement opportunities were also identified, and further recommendations were made (as highlighted in Figure 2). These are primarily noted in the respective commentaries of the appraised subject matter. Given the iterative development between the rLDP and the ISA process, mitigation and enhancement measures were reported on a continual ad hoc basis and collaboration between those responsible for undertaking the rLDP/ISA was undertaken to best resolve identified likely adverse issues.

2.9 Technical Limitations and Uncertainties

2.9.1 As stated within the EU Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment (2013)³⁵, both climate change and biodiversity involve complex systems which are interwoven with range of socioeconomic and other environmental aspects of the built and natural environment. Therefore, this complexity of associated issues and cause-effect relationships is not exclusive to ISA4 and ISA2. Decision making influences within the ISA Framework includes those recommended within this EU Guidance (i.e., is the implementation of the proposed plan/policy likely to have any significant direct positive or negative effects on the expected future state of the environment in the study area?; is the implementation of the proposed plan/policy likely to significantly alter drivers or trends in the key issues?) to assist in the appraisal and help identify potential effects. However, limitations when identified are appropriately documented and discussed.

2.9.2 Some uncertainty may remain in predicting effects and determining significance. Alongside the complex variation in natural systems and how they are influenced by the human environment, considerations are made to the absence of sufficient data specified to the local context and/or current scientific understanding to fundamentally determine the causation of perceived effects. Therefore, it is accepted that the level of risk and uncertainty associated with cumulative effects increases at the strategic level because the scope is wider, and the issues typically larger. Where this has occurred, the uncertainty is identified within the appraisal matrices (as shown in Table 3) and, as a matter of precaution, is accompanied by mitigation measure to remediate potential adverse effects. Nevertheless, uncertainties in predicting effects and determining significance do not impact upon the robustness of this report.

2.9.3 To help overcome unknown factors within the proposed monitoring framework, proxy indicators were used when direct indicators are not presently available (e.g., ground ozone level). Additionally, the allowances made for adaptive management during the monitoring stage (as later discussed in Chapter 8) would enable appropriate remedial action to be taken in response to future changes and unanticipated adverse effects.

2.9.4 Due to the timing in preparing this present ISA report, demography and migration data from the Census 2021 was not included in the baseline at the time of consultation. These updates and any other releases aim be reflected later.

³⁵ [Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment \(2013\)](#)

3. Relevant Plans, Policies, and Programmes

3.0.1 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.

3.0.2 This Chapter summarises the relationship between the LDP and other plans, policies, and programmes (PPP) at all levels, and indicates how the requirements of other PPP have been considered in the development of the Plan through the ISA process.

3.0.3 A review of relevant PPP at international, national, regional, and local level has been undertaken within the SA Scoping Report. This is to identify the relationship between the rLDP and other applicable sustainability objectives that must be considered within this ISA. See Appendix A for a list of the relevant PPP and web links to their source. Where applicable, a description of the documents and their relevance to the Plan has been included, however, this does not include a definitive account of their contents. Whilst comprehensive, Appendix A is non-exhaustive and will be updated through the developmental stages of the ISA and rLDP to best inform the requirements of the Plan.

3.1 International Summary

3.1.1 The international level legislative instruments and strategies represent the highest tier of the sustainable development agenda that is then required to be transposed into Member State legislation. International legislation often subsequently informs the content of PPP at the national, sub-regional and local level that effectively directs on-the-ground delivery of the sustainability agenda.

3.1.2 Relevant United Nations (UN) conventions, treaties, and agreements (which the UK has ratified) help establish an international framework for promoting sustainable development across international, national, and local scales, and influence decision making across a range of concerns, including:

- Poverty Alleviation;
- Education & Gender Equality;
- Access to Clean Water & Food;
- Climate Change & Access to Renewable Energy;
- Sustained Economic Growth & Sustainable Development;
- Resilient Infrastructure & Innovation;
- Establishing Connected Communities With Reduced Inequalities; and
- Conservation of Environments, Nature, & Heritage.

3.1.3 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, Air Quality, & Renewable Energy;
- Establishing Sustainable Communities;
- Delivering Sustainable Transport Systems;
- Delivering Sustainable Waste Management;
- Managing Natural Resources Efficiently
- Establishing Patterns of Sustainable Production & Consumption;
- Promoting Social Inclusion & Fighting Poverty; and

- Conserving/Enhancing Biodiversity & Water Environment .

3.1.4 Reference is made to the transposition of European legislation into national law because of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and the implications of the *European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018*³⁶. 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

3.2.1 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.

3.2.2 Responding to local community needs through development is also a theme echoed through these 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.

3.2.3 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 several national level documents, as is the need to move towards capturing renewable technologies markets.

3.3 Local Summary

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

3.3.2 Local documents such as the Well-being Plan 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. The Council has declared both a Nature and Climate Emergency (in addition to Welsh Government) and is committed to resolving the fundamental issues driving these.

³⁶ [European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act 2018](#)

4. Environmental Baseline and Predicted Effects without rLDP Implementation

4.1 Baseline Summary

4.1.1 This section summarises the environmental baseline conditions of the County and provides an update to the Scoping Report and previous SA Report. The baseline information for the ISA 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 Environmental Report contains a commentary on the likely predicted effect on the environmental baseline, both with and without the implementation of the revised LDP.

4.1.2 The baseline information for Carmarthenshire has been collated under a series of headings and can be found in Appendix B. These heading have, in the interests of consistency, been grouped under broadly the same headings as those used within the existing adopted LDP. However, they have been changed to include Welsh language as a separate heading, to reflect the position of the Welsh language within the County and its communities.

4.2 Future Trends

4.2.1 The SA Scoping Report initially brought together a detailed analysis of the current state of the social, economic, and environmental situation across Carmarthenshire, in addition to those characteristic likely to be affected by the rLDP as well as relevant existing problems. The outcome of this has been updated to reflect more recent considerations which have since occurred, in addition to the increased evidence base/period now covered by the baseline.

4.2.2 Table 5 presents the likely evolution of the ISA objectives against the baseline aspects of the social, economic, and environmental situations, without the implementation of the rLDP. These likely future trends are either static, improving, or declining. Future trends were determined via the analysis of the baseline data and how these trends are expected to change over the Plan period. Further commentary on these trends can be found in Appendix B under each respective heading. A condensed summary has been provided below to clarify the determination of each outcome and how the Plan could response to this.

Table 5 – Likely evolution of the baseline aspects of the social, economic, and environmental situations in the absence of a rLDP.

ISA Objective	Future Baseline	Baseline Summary
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	Static	Despite several supportive regulations and strategies which are expected to be delivered within (or after) the Plan period, as this objective is, in part, a relation of the preceding objectives influencing 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, it was found that several are likely to be declining in absence of the rLDP. Therefore, the Plan will be crucial in directing and promoting sustainable development, and it must aim to resolve (where feasible) localised issues in the context of Carmarthenshire and the wider impacts that development may place.

ISA Objective	Future Baseline	Baseline Summary
ISA2 – Biodiversity	Declining	Multiple source evidence that biodiversity loss is accelerating at unprecedented levels. There have been some improvements in the status of individual species populations, however, SoNaRR shows that biodiversity is declining overall. The impact/implementation of associated plans (e.g., 30by30) are yet to reverse this. The Plan will be vital in limiting the effects of development upon biodiversity within the local area and safeguarding natural resources for future generations.
ISA3 – Air Quality	Improving	Air quality remains a risk to human health although has improved greatly since the 1970s. Whilst development will impact air quality, there are strict regulations particularly within the three AQMZs in Carmarthenshire. Levels of Nitrogen Dioxide currently breach legal levels in localised hotspots, although Air Quality Emission Indicators (StatsWales) show a declining trend for all air pollutants.
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	Declining	The consequences of climate change are predicted to be increasingly felt within Wales and there has been limited efforts to increase our resilience to such impact. Greenhouse gas emissions have reduced since the 1990s, despite some periods of increases. There are several associated plans including Net Zero (both locally and nationally). Development must be sustainable to contribute to mitigating climate related issues. New developments must be climate resilient and energy efficiency. Flood risk is increasing with Wales.
ISA5 – Water	Declining	Increased flooding poses a significant risk to many community within Carmarthenshire. With relation to phosphates, development and subsequent sewage will impact riverine SACs, negatively effecting water quality in addition to biodiversity and soil health. The Plan must mitigate diffuse pollution created by development and impacting upon water resource and quality, and factor in appropriate flooding models.
ISA6 – Material Assets	Improving	Wales is recognised as having the highest household recycling rate in the UK and is ranked third globally. There is limited extraction of Carmarthenshire’s finite resources. Efforts are made to promote the use of sustainable modes of transport. An increased focus towards electrifying the transport network is needed to meet future demand, alongside national policy.
ISA7 – Soil	Declining	Losses in soil carbon within habitat land have recently been observed, although appears stable elsewhere. Development will reduce finite soil resources and quality. Agriculture, wastewater treatment, and diffuse pollution continue to reduce soil health and biodiversity (factors which are interlinked). Regeneration of contaminated land is needed to conserve soil assets, including high quality agricultural land and high carbon soils (i.e., peatlands), and avoid further losses of soils to non-permeable surfaces and minimise soil erosion.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage & Historic Environment	Static	Assessment of Welsh monuments found 50% to be stable/improved and 50% worsened in condition. The County has several sites of archaeological importance, Special Landscape Areas, numerous listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered historic parks and gardens. As a requirement under WBFGA and various Acts, these factors must be preserved and conserved in the context of new development.

ISA Objective	Future Baseline	Baseline Summary
ISA9 – Landscape ^e	Declining	Landscape is inextricably linked and interconnected with habitat and the countryside which are under huge anthropogenic pressures (including climate change and urbanisation). Any change (including development) within the landscape of Carmarthenshire will negatively affect this irreplaceable resource.
ISA10 – Population	Improving	Birth rate in Carmarthenshire is declining (Carmarthenshire County Council, Sep 2018), and changes in demographics (inc. age structure) is apparent with more young people leaving the County (although this has seemed to fluctuate in more recent years. Despite this, population (190,073 in 2020) is projected to increase to ~193,765 by the end of the Plan period. Current LDP affordable housing policy continues to support affordable housing stock, and local policy targets for 2022-2027 include the creation of over 1000 affordable properties (promoting the retention of young people).
ISA11 – Welsh Language	Improving	Carmarthenshire is linguistically sensitive and has the highest number of Welsh speakers out of any County in Wales. Evidence from the Annual Population Survey suggests that the number of persons age 3 and over in the county who say they can speak Welsh since the time of the last Census in 2011 has grown significantly. Since March 2011 the number(+9,200) and percentage(+9.56%) of persons age 3 and over who say they can speak Welsh has grown to March 2018 and by a further 3,500 (5.4%) to March 2022. ³⁷ The national target is for one million Welsh speakers by 2050, and there have been notable increases in recent years. However, it is important to recognise localised changes/declines may occur. Inward migration and other factors (including age structure, and other demographics) may negatively impact the proportion of Welsh speakers by challenging language transition, particularly within rural areas in Carmarthenshire which are known strongholds for the Welsh Language. The ability to read, write and understand spoken Welsh fluctuates annually however, since 2014 rates have risen slightly to 45.2%, 42.5%, and 58%, respectively. Coupled with increases in the provision of Welsh medium schools, language immersion is likely to improve rates over the long-term, potentially mitigating the original adverse effect created by inward migration.
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	Declining	The County has an ageing population with increasing rates of overweightness/obesity (54%) and mental illnesses, amongst other ailments. Inequalities in life expectancy and mortality remain wide, with a growing disparity between females and males. Lack of access to health services and open spaces (GBI) remains to disproportionately affect many communities within Carmarthenshire. The impacts of COVID-19 remain to be experienced throughout the County and the health service. Secondary impacts on physical and mental health caused by fuel poverty and the cost-of-living crisis affects many throughout the UK. While Carmarthenshire has a high provision of public open spaces, open space assessment indicates areas of deficiency impacting upon 12-2 and 12-4.

³⁷ The APS estimates of Welsh language ability are historically higher than those produced by the Census.

ISA Objective	Future Baseline	Baseline Summary
ISA13 – Education and Skills	Improving	Overall, education rates in Wales are improving, and achievement in 2022 within Carmarthenshire were greater than the year prior. There are several recent/planned developments which support higher education (e.g., Canolfan yr Egin, Pentre Awel). Nevertheless, increasing population may place pressure on education services.
ISA14 – Economy	Static	Forecasts for 2023 indicate a -0.3% decline in UK GDP (Oct 2022). GDP in Wales fell by 2.4% (Jan – March 2020), 1.1% (Oct - Dec 2019), nevertheless, there have been positive increases within this period. There has been a -1.8% annual change in the economic activity rate within Carmarthenshire (working age) (Sep 2018). The County has several communities of deprivation (WIMD). The impacts of COVID-19, political and economic instability (e.g., Brexit, Cost of living crisis) remain high, and challenge most of Carmarthenshire’s communities. The Plan must direct growth to revitalise the local economy, and support employment and affordable housing, and complement Carmarthenshire’s Economic Recovery & Delivery Plan (and other regional/national strategies).
ISA15 – Social Fabric	Improving	Community cohesion has been increasing across Wales, with more people getting along and treating each other with respect (National Survey for Wales). Crime has fallen relative to previous years. Within Carmarthenshire, impacts from COVID-19 on homelessness has decreased, although pressures on housing stocks and affordable housing (and location thereof) remains a significant issue for people in both urban and rural settings (having consequential effects upon sense of place, and health and wellbeing).

5. What the SA has previously assessed?

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 Whilst there has been a continual dialogue between the SA (now ISA) process and the multiple iterations of the rLDP at various stages of progression (as demonstrated above), to aid clarity and avoid repetition within the present report, this following Section summarises the results of previously appraised components which were key in informing the Preferred Strategy to the Second Deposit rLDP.

5.1.2 The rLDP 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 Report³⁸. Following this, the First Deposit rLDP was published for consultation in January 2020 and was accompanied by an SA Report. Previously published assessments have been signposted within this Section for additional clarity.

5.1.3 Where appropriate, full matrices and accompanying commentary presented in these original reports are now provided in this section. The Vision, LDP Objectives, and Spatial Strategy within the Second Deposit rLDP are the same as those contained within the rLDP Preferred Strategy (2018). Additional Growth Options were presented in the First Deposit rLDP and assessed against the SA Framework within the accompanying SA Report (2020), and are, therefore, also presented within this Section. Nevertheless, further Growth Options were incorporated in the Second Deposit rLDP and these will be assessed in Chapter 6.

5.2 Details of the process

5.2.1 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. Several responses were received at this stage, and accepted changes were made to both the developing Plan and SA.

5.2.2 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 several sites being rejected and, therefore, not subject to SA. Several 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).

5.2.3 Several sites were also rejected because 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.

5.2.4 Following this, the First Deposit rLDP was published for consultation in January 2020 and was accompanied by the SA Report as part of the consultation documents. As a result of this, three responses were made regarding the SA and approximately 200 focus changes were suggested to be made for to the Plan.

5.2.5 Due to unforeseen circumstances, the First Deposit rLDP was then reacted from continuing to examination, chiefly in response to the findings of Nature Resources Wales' Compliance Assessment of Welsh River Special Areas of Conservation Against Phosphorus

³⁸ [Preferred Strategy | Initial SA Report December 2018](#)

Targets ³⁹, initiated through a recommendation made by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to adopt tighter targets of associated nutrient pollution.

5.2.6 Council on the 9th of March 2022 agreed to the Revised Delivery Agreement timetable and allow the preparation of a Second Deposit rLDP. This provided time to evaluate the implications and for essential evidence to be gathered and mitigation options to be developed to address the phosphate issue. It will also reflect and respond to Covid-19 recovery, the net zero carbon and decarbonisation agenda, the new Technical Advice Note 15 and Revised Flood Maps, and Future Wales: The National Plan 2040. The second revised Delivery Agreement was agreed by Welsh Government.

5.2.7 Where Focussed Changes remained relevant, the Second Deposit rLDP incorporated the previously agreed amendments and were subsequently reviewed and, where necessary, re-examined through the ISA (and HRA) to mitigate any potential implications.

5.3 Previous SA of the rLDP Vision

5.3.1 The draft rLDP Vision was initially presented in the Preferred Strategy. The Initial SA concluded that the draft Vision successfully addressed most aspects of the SA framework. Later, the SA recommended that minor changes were made to the wording, to make direct reference to the importance of Welsh Language within Carmarthenshire. Following feedback from the Initial SA Report and representations received during Preferred Strategy consultation (December 2018 to January 2019), the Vision was revised for its inclusion in the First Deposit rLDP. The revised Vision was then re-assessed against the SA Framework (Table 6).

Table 6 – Outcome from testing the draft Preferred Strategy (December 2018) and Deposit LDP (January 2020) Vision against the ISA Framework.

	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
Draft Vision (2018)	+	+	?	?	?	+	?	?	?	+		+	+	+	+
Deposit Vision (2019)	+	+	?	?	?	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
+	Positive alignment between Vision & Sustainability Objective														
?	Unknown alignment between Vision & Sustainability Objective														
	No direct link between Vision & Sustainability Objective														
-	Potential conflict between Vision & Sustainability Objective														

5.4 Previous SA of the Strategy Objectives

5.4.1 Whilst the Strategic Objectives within the current Adopted LDP were utilised as a starting point for the identification of strategic objectives for the rLDP, the emergence of contextual and policy drivers including the Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015 and the signing of the Swansea Bay City Deal in 2017, created need for them to be reviewed. From the outset, Carmarthenshire Well Being Plan’s wellbeing objective themes were utilised to group the Plan’s Strategic Objectives to ensure that a local interpretation of wellbeing is interwoven into the strategic objectives and the Plan’s strategy.

³⁹ [Compliance Assessment of Welsh River SACs Against Phosphorus Targets I NRW](#)

5.4.2 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 here (Figure 3) and are also presented, with accompanying commentary, in Table 4 and Figure 3 of the Initial SA Report.

5.4.3 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 outlined within the SA Report for the First Deposit rLDP.

Figure 3 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
SO1	+	+	+	+	+				+			?			
SO2	+	?			?	+			?	+		+			+
SO3	+								+	+	+				+
SO4	+		+	+		+			+	+	+			+	+
SO5	+						+	+	+		+	+			
SO6	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+			+	+		+
SO7	+		+	+	+	+			+						
SO8	+			+		+			?	+		+			+
SO9	+	+						+	+	+	+				+
SO10	+							+	+	+	+				+
SO11	+								+	+	+		+		+
SO12	+	-	-	?	-	?			-	+	?	+	+	+	+
SO13	+	-	-		-			-	?	+	?	+	+	+	
SO14	+		+	+	+	+			-	+		+	+	+	+

+	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

5.5 Previous SA on the Growth Options

5.5.1 The rLDP must consider population, housing, and economic growth within the County over the fifteen-year plan period. As a consequence of the Revised Delivery Agreement, there has been multiple appraisals of potential Growth Options due to the consideration of new/updated projections by the developing rLDP as they are released. For clarity, there has essentially been three groups of Growth Options and the first two groups (as presented initially within the Preferred Strategy Report 2018, and then in the 1st Deposit rLDP) are deliberated in sequential order within this following Section. Please refer to the respective published reports for further information.

NB: None of the growth option presented below were later considered in the final Plan. Those presented in Section 8 of the Second Deposit rLDP are later assessed in Section 6.3 of this report.

5.5.2 To inform the number of dwellings that will need to be provided for by the LDP, Edge Analytics were first commissioned to provide a range of different demographic projection scenarios termed 'Strategic Growth Options'. The Edge Analytics Report ⁴⁰ 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 ⁴¹, Carmarthenshire's Strategic Regeneration Plan ⁴² and Employment Sectoral Study ⁴³, linking economic growth, population change and housing.

5.5.3 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

5.5.4 They also considered two employment-led scenarios:

- Fixed Commuter Rate
- Reducing Commuter Rate

5.5.5 These different demographic projection scenarios were tested in line with PPW and the Welsh Government Development Plans 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 the Initial SA Report (see Table 5) and are summarised in Table 7 below:

⁴⁰[Carmarthenshire Population & Household Forecasts October 2018](#)

⁴¹[Home | Swansea Bay City Deal](#)

⁴²[A strategic regeneration plan for Carmarthenshire 2015-2030 – Transformations](#)

⁴³[EMPLOYMENT SECTORAL STUDY I REPORT NO 70031978-001](#)

Table 7 – Carmarthenshire Demographic Scenario Projections 2018-2033 (Source: Population & Household Projections Topic Paper, December 2018). * = over plan period

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

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

5.5.7 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 growth options presented in the Preferred Strategy concluded that **Growth Options 1 and 2** perform better 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. Additionally, **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.

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

5.5.14 Following on from this, it was anticipated that Welsh Government would publish the 2017 sub-national Population and Household projections in time to be considered for the 1st Deposit rLDP. However, the release of these projections has been delayed and so considering 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 report⁴⁴ 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 8.

⁴⁴ Edge Analytics – Carmarthenshire Population and Household Forecasts Addendum, Sept 2019

Table 8 – Carmarthenshire Population Growth Scenario Projections 2018 – 2033. Edge Analytics Addendum 2019

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).			
Change over plan period (2018 – 2033)		Dwellings required	
Population (%)	Households (%)	Annually	Total over plan period
+ 9.6%	+ 12.0%	671	10,065

PG 10 year (2019 Addendum Report)			
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

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.			
Change over plan period (2018 – 2033)		Dwellings required	
Population (%)	Households (%)	Annually	Total over plan period
+ 7.6%	+ 10.5%	585	8,769

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

5.5.16 The effects of each of the revised growth options were assessed against the SA Framework (Figure 4), and a full commentary is provided in Appendix 6 of the SA Report (2020).

Figure 4 – SA of Growth Options (Merged: Figure 4 Initial SA of Preferred Strategy Report 2018 and Table 14 SA Report of 1st Deposit rLDP 2020)

Growth Option (dwellings per annum)	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
Preferred Strategy Report 2018 (as contained within the Initial SA Report 2018)															
Option 1 (224 dwellings)	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	0	+			--	-	--	?	--	--
Option 2 (436 dwellings)	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	0	+/-			-	-	-	?	-	-
Option 3 (470 dwellings)	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	0	+/-			-	-	-	?	-	-
Option 4 (482 dwellings)	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	0	+/-			-	-	-	?	-	-
Option 5 (659 dwellings)	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	0	+/-			+	+	?	?	+	+
Option 6 (939 dwellings)	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	0	+/-			+	+	?	?	+	+
Option 7 (1,160 dwellings)	-	-	-	-	-	0	-			+	+/-	+	?	++	+
Option 8 (1,313 dwellings)	-	-	-	-	--	0	-			+	+/-	+	?	++	+
1st Deposit rLDP Preferred (as contained within the SA Report 2020)															
PG Long Term (671 dwellings)	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	0	+/-			+	-	?	+/-	+	+
PG 10 Year (589 dwellings)	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	0	+/-			+	-	?	+/-	+	+
PG Short Term (585 dwellings)	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	0	+/-			+	-	?	+/-	+	+

5.5.17 It was determined that 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 and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) is considered and, where possible, ensure the provision of public goods (including air purification) through the protection of natural assets and ecosystem services.

5.5.18 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 management and transport solutions into new development. Protecting GBI 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.

5.5.19 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.

5.6 Previous SA of the Spatial Options

5.6.1 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.

5.6.2 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.

5.6.3 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.

5.6.4 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.

5.6.5 The *LDP Preferred Strategy (2018)* initially detailed six spatial options for consideration (Table 9). The *Initial SA of the Preferred Strategy (2018)* assessed these six options against the SA 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 below in Table 10, and are also presented in Figure 5 of the Initial SA Report.

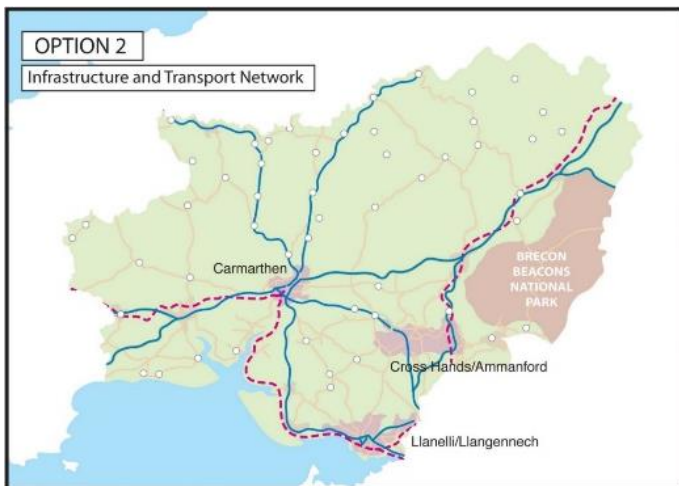
Table 9 – Summary of Spatial Options (as reported in the Draft Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy December 2018)



Option 1 – Sustainable Distribution

Option 1 focusses growth proportionally across a hierarchy underpinned by the principles of sustainability. In doing so, this option:

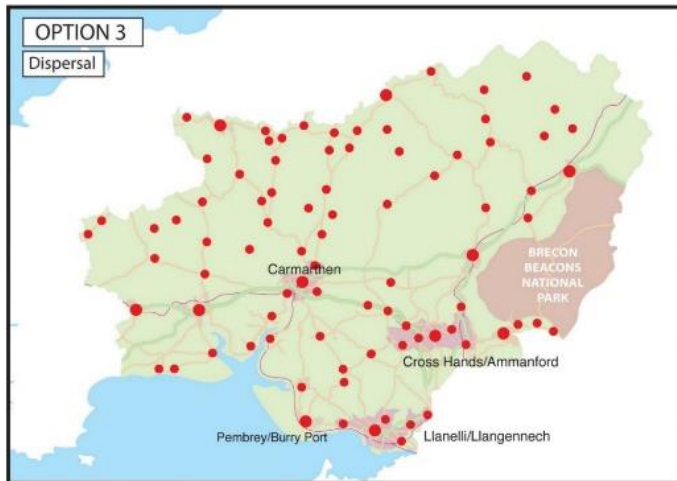
- Encourages the dispersal of employment, housing, and other types of development to identified settlements and village groups or clusters in a manner reflective of their existing scale, population and availability of facilities and services.
- Reflects the diversity of the County and growth is apportioned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



Option 2 – Infrastructure and Transport Network

Option 2 looks at the existing provision of utility infrastructure and the highway network across the County and aims to focus most 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.

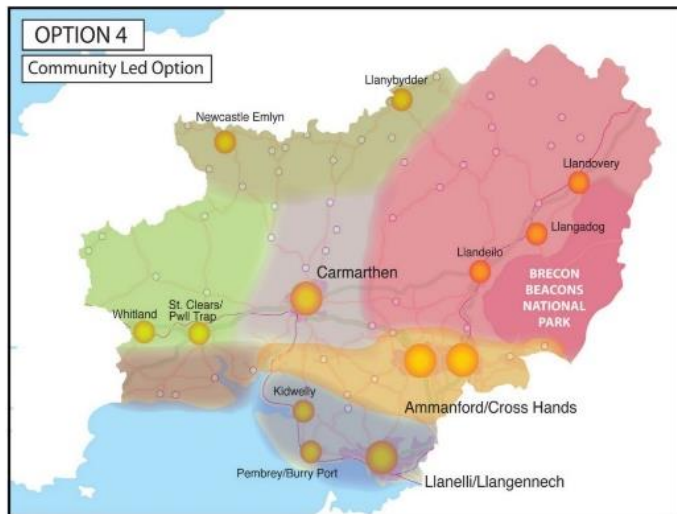


Option 3 – Dispersal

Option 3 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

Option 4 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.

It encourages 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.

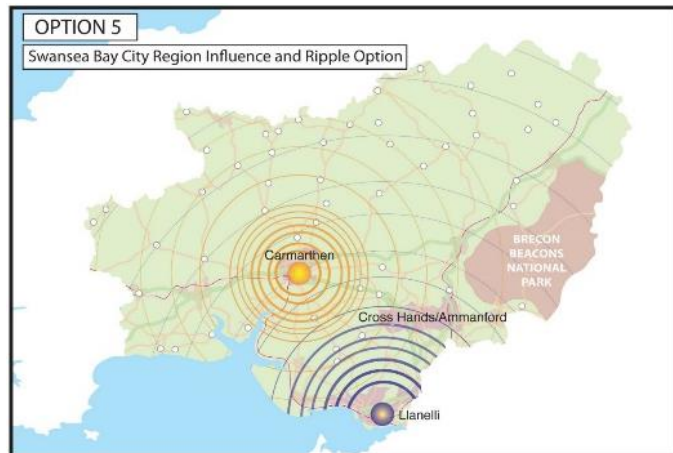
It should reflect an understanding of local communities and focus growth in areas where it is needed to support communities and their aspirations for future growth and ongoing sustainability of facilities and services. This is likely to result in the allocation of smaller sites and a higher proportion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

Option 5 – Swansea Bay City Region Influence and Ripple

Option 5 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.
- 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 most growth focussed within 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

Option 6 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 most 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.

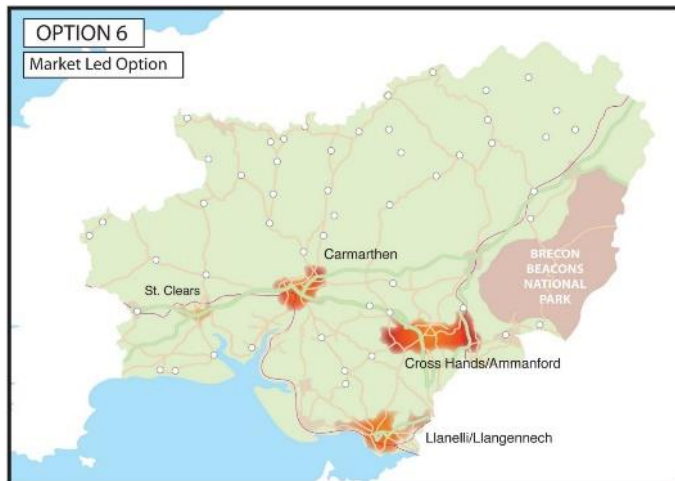


Table 10 – Summary of the SA of Spatial Options (Source: Figure 5 Initial SA Report of Preferred Strategy December 2018)

ISA Objective	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
ISA1 Sustainable Development	+	-	-	+	?	?
ISA2 Biodiversity		+			+	
ISA3 Air Quality	-	-	-	-	-	-
ISA4 Climatic Factors	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	-
ISA5 Water	+/-	+	-	+	-	-
ISA6 Material Assets	+	-	-	+	-	-
ISA7 Soil		+	-		+	+
ISA8 Cultural Heritage						
ISA9 Landscape			-			
ISA10 Population	++	-	-	++	+/-	+/-
ISA11 Welsh Language	+	-	-	+	+/-	-
ISA12 Health and Wellbeing	+	-	-	++	+/-	+/-
ISA13 Education and Skills	+	-	-	+	++	?
ISA14 Economy	+	-	-	+	++	?
ISA15 Social Fabric	+	-	-	++	-	-

5.6.6 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 Spatial Options presented in the Preferred Strategy concluded the following:

- **Options 1 and 4** both perform well overall against the sustainability framework, particularly in terms of economy, improving social fabric and addressing the needs of both rural and urban areas. This contrasts with **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, particularly 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 because of the job creation and skills associated with the Swansea Bay City Region (i.e., Yr Egin, which houses S4C's offices) that will help to retain young people in the County.

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

Hybrid Option – Balanced Community and Sustainable Growth

5.6.8 As a result of the Initial SA and subsequent stakeholder engagement, it was recommended that a hybrid option be considered as the preferred spatial option, which reflects several characteristics with positive impacts from all of six options above.

5.6.# 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.

5.6.9 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. Please refer to the SA Report for further commentary.

5.6.10 The hybrid option was then assessed against the SA 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 below in Table 11, and are also presented in Figure 6 of the Initial SA Report. This remained the preferred option for both the 1st Deposit and 2nd Deposit rLDP.

Table 11 – 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 Previous SA of Strategic & Specific Policies

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

5.7.2 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 (Chapter 5). The results of this assessment are set out in Figure 7 and Section 5 of the Initial SA Report.

5.7.3 Following the assessment, the Initial SA also made several 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 of the SA Report.

5.7.4 Since the Preferred Strategy, many of the Strategic Policies were rewritten for the both the 1st and 2nd Deposit Plan and as such, many of the recommendations were considered but suggested wording changes no longer relevant. Additionally, since the 1st Deposit rLDP, significant restructuring (alongside changes in wording) now makes any respective comparison between how they are presented within the current rLDP and throughout its development history difficult. Therefore, to avoid misinterpretation within this ISA report, please refer to Chapter 5 of the Initial SA (2018) and Section 6.4 of the SA Report (2020) for their respective appraisals and signposts for commentary.

5.7.5 The assessment (and associated commentary) of the specific policies initially presented within the 1st Deposit rLDP can be found within Section 6.6 of the SA Report (2020). Whilst many of the specific, some have been significantly altered and an addition two specific policies have been added entirely.

5.8 Technical Limitations and Uncertainties Previously Identified

5.8.1 The main limitations of the SA process at the LDP Preferred Strategy stage was the fact that there is uncertainty over the exact location of development and the number of houses on each site due to the broad nature of the Strategy at this stage of the plan making process. For this reason, only broad conclusions could be reached by the SA about the different likely effects of alternative growth scenarios and spatial distributions. Nevertheless, the SA report of the 1st Deposit rLDP similarly emphasised the importance of mitigation adequately addressing several identified issues, 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

5.8.2 Whilst the development of the 1st Deposit rLDP took on-board the above considerations, the unforeseen postponement created by the issue of phosphate levels in protected riverine SACs within the County (as previously mentioned) provided an opportunity to incorporate, collaborate upon, and consider additional topical issues which had been raised in the meantime. For example, this includes the Council's declaration of both a Climate and Nature Emergency, and introducing a new policies which incorporates NRW's guidance for developments which effect phosphorus sensitive SACs.

5.8.3 Within the SAs of the Preferred Strategy and 1st Deposit rLDP, the identified uncertainty relating to the capacity of water and sewerage infrastructure to facilitate growth

and its impact upon biodiversity has since been addressed in light of the associated collaboration between the LDP Policy team , NRW and DCWW, in addition to works specifically commissioned by the Council and undertaken by Arcadis ⁴⁵ and Ricardo ^{46 47} to increase our collective understanding potential related issues, risks, and mitigation options uniquely applicable to the context of the County.

5.9 Summary of Previous Initial SA and SA Report

5.9.1 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 SA 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.

5.9.2 However, as is the case with any development, some potential negative impacts remained, with regards to biodiversity, air quality and climatic factors. Nevertheless, with suitable mitigation in place, this negative impact can be reduced. Some mitigation measures had already been considered within the Preferred Strategy because 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 SA also suggested some changes to the wording to strengthen the sustainability of the Strategic Policies (see Appendix 4 of the SA Report).

5.9.3 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.

5.9.4 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.

5.9.5 The SA Report of the 1st Deposit rLDP further highlighted the potential negative effects of development, with regards to biodiversity, air quality and climatic factors. Nevertheless, it found that the ‘protective’ and prescriptive nature of many of the assessed specific policies provided mitigation for potential negative effects in the implementation of other policies. Additionally, the appraisal initially outlined in Appendices 6 and 7 (of the SA Report) recommendations that will provide and/or strengthen mitigation which can decrease the risk of these predicted – several of these have been expanded upon and strengthened (where needed) within this ISA report.

⁴⁵ Carmarthenshire Phosphate Catchment Reduction Strategy & Statement of Common Ground accompanying the rLDP (2022)

⁴⁶ [Nutrient Budget Calculator Guidance I A guide on how to calculate a phosphorus budget for a development](#)

⁴⁷ [NUTRIENT MITIGATION OPTIONS TECHNICAL REVIEW Guidance On Phosphorus Mitigation Options For Use In Carmarthenshire](#)

6. Integrated Sustainability Appraisal 2nd Deposit rLDP

6.0.1 Section 5 of this report has outlined the process by which the ISA process has influenced the Vision, Growth Options, Spatial Option and Strategic Policies contained in the Preferred Strategy and 1st Deposit, which has ultimately formed the basis of the Second Deposit rLDP. Section 5 also refers to details of previous appraisals presented within the Initial SA of the Preferred Strategy Report and the SA report of the first Deposit rLDP.

6.0.2 The rLDP 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 ISA has informed the content of the Second Deposit Plan and presents the outcomes of appraisal of the Strategic Policies (Section 6.4), Specific Policies (Section 6.6), and Site Allocations (Section 6.8).

6.1 ISA of Deposit Plan Vision and Strategic Objectives

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

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.

6.1.2 While no alteration in the wording of the Vision have been made since the First Deposit rLDP, it has been reassessed (Table 12) in line with a more holistic definition of ‘*environmental qualities*’ which was perceived to include all corresponding SEA environmental issues (as previously outlined in Table 2).

Table 6 – Outcome from testing the draft, deposit, and revised deposit LDP Vision against the ISA Framework. * as contained within the previous SA Report.

	ISA1	ISA2	ISA3	ISA4	ISA5	ISA6	ISA7	ISA8	ISA9	ISA10	ISA11	ISA12	ISA13	ISA14	ISA15
Deposit Vision (2019) *	+	+	?	?	?	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Second Deposit Vision (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
+	Positive alignment between Vision & Sustainability Objective														
?	Unknown alignment between Vision & Sustainability Objective														
	No direct link between Vision & Sustainability Objective														
-	Potential conflict between Vision & Sustainability Objective														

6.1.3 The rLDP Strategic 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.

6.1.4 Several contextual issues emerged after the publication of the First Deposit rLDP and include matters which whilst beyond the Plan’s sole control have impacted upon its preparation and content. As stated in paragraph 5.7 of the Plan, these are UCI 1 Response to the publication of the NRW Guidance on Phosphate Levels in protected Riverine SACs; UCI 2 Recognise and reflect the impacts arising from Covid-19; UCI 3 Declaration by the Council of a Climate Emergency; UCI 4 Declaration by the Council of a Nature Emergency; UCI 5 Ten Towns Initiative.

6.1.4 Given these topical issues which the Strategic Objectives outline are now addressed, a reappraisal was undertaken to incorporate these minor contextual changes and assess the Strategic Objectives against the ISA Framework (Table 13). Commentary on this process can be found in Appendix D. Overall, the 14 Strategic Objectives show positive alignment with the principles of Sustainable Development and perform well against the ISA Framework, with very few potential conflicts highlighted. This demonstrates that aspects of sustainability have been fully considered throughout the development of the Strategic Objectives.

6.1.5 For many of the Sustainability Objectives, their impacts are unknown as the outcome depends on the implementation of development, type of activity, or location. The appraisal also highlights some potential conflicts with regards to Biodiversity, Air Quality, Water, Cultural Heritage, and Landscape (factors which are inextricably interlinked and, therefore, difficult to separate potential effects). These uncertain and potentially negative impacts should, where possible, be resolved through the detailed rLDP policies and appropriate mitigation. Nevertheless, the enhancement those potentially positive impacts outlined will also be dependent on the Plan’s policies.

Table 13 – Appraisal of Strategic Objectives presented within Section 7 of the Second Deposit rLDP (2022) (see Appendix D for commentary)

	ISA1 Sustainable Development	ISA2 Biodiversity	ISA3 Air Quality	ISA4 Climatic Factors	ISA5 Water	ISA6 Material Assets	ISA7 Soil	ISA8 Cultural Heritage	ISA9 Landscape	ISA10 Population	ISA11 Welsh Language	ISA12 Health and Wellbeing	ISA13 Education and Skills	ISA14 Economy	ISA15 Social Fabric
SO1	+	+	+	+	+		+	?	+			?		?	?
SO2	+	?			?	+		?	?	+		+	?		+
SO3	+								+	+	+		+	+	+
SO4	+		+	+		+			+	+	+	+		+	+
SO5	+	?					+	+	+		+	+	?	?	?
SO6	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			+	+		+
SO7	+	+	+	+	+	+	?		+	?		+	+	+	+
SO8	+		+	+		+			?	+		+			+
SO9	+	+						+	+	+	+	+			+
SO10	+							+	+	+	+			+	+
SO11	+	?						+	+	+	+		+		+
SO12	+	-	-	?	-	?	?	?	-	+	?	+	+	+	+
SO13	+	-	-	?	-			-	?	+	?	+	+	+	
SO14	+		+	+	+	+			-	+		+	+	+	+

+	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

6.2 ISA of the Preferred Growth Strategy

6.2.1 As examined in Section 5.5, the projections of growth proposed for the rLDP has been through several iterations since the first options appraised. Growth options can utilise several factors such as population projections, demographics (e.g., age structure and household change), previous housing completions, and current/predicted housing needs and stocks. To best inform the rLDP, and as part of plan making process, several reports were commissioned to provide an option which most suited the local context. Whilst the ISA process did not solely determine the most appropriate growth option, the findings contained within this following section helped to inform the decision-making process and ensure that the likely adverse implications upon aspects of sustainability are minimised.

6.2.2 This process is first noted when 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.

6.2.3 Following this, Edge Analytics were commissioned for an addendum upon their previous work which provided three additional option growth as considered within the 1st Deposit rLDP. Growth Option PG 10 year (2019) comprised of 8,835 dwellings (2018–2033) became the Preferred Growth Strategy resulting in a reduction of 1052 dwellings compared with the previously chosen option. As shown in Figure 4 above and alluded to in Section 5.5 of the SA Report, this was determined to have little impact upon the SA scoring.

6.2.4 Given the period lapsed between this previous growth options and the likely changes to the factors outlined above in paragraph 6.2.1, Turley were commissioned and produced two reports to provide updated growth options to best inform the 2nd Deposit rLDP. These options are outlined (Table 14) and then assessed against the ISA Framework below:

Table 14 – Summary of Housing and Economic Growth Scenarios 2018 – 2033 (as contained within the Turley Addendum 2022), merged with approximate household figures calculated from 81,505 in 2018 * 49.

Principal 2018-Based WG Projection (2018)			
Change over plan period (2018 – 2033)		Dwellings required	
Population (%)	Households (~%) *	Annually	Total over plan period
+ 3.3 %	+ 5.2 %	291	4,359

WG 2018-based “High Population” Variant (2018)			

⁴⁹ [Households by Local Authority and Year \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)

Change over plan period (2018 – 2033)		Dwellings required	
Population (%)	Households (~%) *	Annually	Total over plan period
+ 5.0 %	+ 6.7 %	378	5,670

Ten-Year Trend-Based Projection (2022)			
Change over plan period (2018 – 2033)		Dwellings required	
Population (%)	Households (~%) *	Annually	Total over plan period
+ 7.7 %	+ 10.4 %	588	8,822

Fifteen-Year Trend-Based Projection (2022)			
Change over plan period (2018 – 2033)		Dwellings required	
Population (%)	Households (~%) *	Annually	Total over plan period
+ 8.5%	+ 11.0 %	618	9,272

Baseline Employment-Led Scenario (2022)			
Change over plan period (2018 – 2033)		Dwellings required	
Population (%)	Households (~%) *	Annually	Total over plan period
+ 8.7%	+ 11.7 %	662	9,933

Rebased Principal Projection (2022)			
Change over plan period (2018 – 2033)		Dwellings required	
Population (%)	Households (~%) *	Annually	Total over plan period
+ 9.4%	+ 12.3 %	697	10,461

6.2.4 The effects of each of the revised growth options were assessed against the ISA Framework, scored using Table 15, and a full commentary is provided in Appendix E. A summary is provided in Table 16. It was not considered realistic to include an alternative relating to business as usual (i.e., the current LDP position) as the rLDP is required by WG guidance to use the WG growth projections (WG 2018-based (2018)) as a starting point. Nevertheless, the previous Preferred Growth Option (PG 10 Year (2019)) outlined in the 1st Deposit LDP has been included for additional context.

Table 15 – Specific assessment criteria for Growth Options, as adapted from Welsh Government Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (2020). Whilst comparable to the scoring matrix outlined in Table 3, the ‘I’ criterion (the effect depends on how the policy/allocations are implemented) was removed to reduce ambiguity of potential implementation. * = Suggestion for the formation of policy to enhance/mitigate the effect of the Preferred Growth Option.

Symbol	Predicted Effect (Compared to the current situation)	Initial Mitigation Suggestions *
++	Very positive effect – likely to result in substantial progress towards the ISA objective.	Consider whether very positive effect can be further enhanced through policies
+	Positive effect - likely to result in some progress towards the ISA objective.	Consider whether positive effect can be further enhanced through policies
+/-	Positive and negative effects – the subject of the appraisal would help some elements of the ISA objective whilst hindering others.	Policies should look to mitigate negative effects and enhance those positive effects
-	Negative effect – likely to be somewhat detrimental to achieving the ISA objective.	Mitigation measures will be needed to reduce severity or effect of growth option.
--	Very negative effect – likely to be substantially detrimental to achieving the ISA objective.	Significant mitigation measures will be needed to reduce severity or effect of growth option.
0	Neutral effect compared to the current baseline situation	Consider whether policy interventions could bring positive effects
?	Uncertain effect (more information needed)	Consider where this will come from – who has it? What will be done about collecting it? When will it be collected?

Table 16 – Summary of the ISA of the rLDP revised Growth Options (see Appendix E for commentary). * in line with WG 2018-based (2018) projection.

Growth Options	ISA1 Sustainable Development	ISA2 Biodiversity	ISA3 Air Quality	ISA4 Climatic Factors	ISA5 Water	ISA6 Material Assets	ISA7 Soil	ISA8 Cultural Heritage	ISA9 Landscape	ISA10 Population	ISA11 Welsh Language	ISA12 Health and Wellbeing	ISA13 Education and Skills	ISA14 Economy	ISA15 Social Fabric
1st Deposit rLDP Preferred Growth Option (re-assessed*)															
PG 10 Year (2019) 8,835 dwellings	+	+/-	-	+/-	+	0	+	+/-	+/-	++	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+
2nd Deposit rLDP Preferred Growth Options															
WG 2018-based (2018) 4,359 dwellings	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	0	+	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+/-
“High Population” (2018) 5,670 dwellings	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	0	+	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+/-
Ten-year trend (2022) 8,822 dwellings	+	+/-	-	+/-	+	0	+	+/-	+/-	++	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+
Fifteen-year trend (2022) 9,272 dwellings	+/-	-	-	-	+/-	0	+/-	-	-	++	-	+/-	+/-	+	+
Employment-led (2022) 9,933 dwellings	+/-	--	--	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	--	++	--	+/-	+/-	++	+
Rebased principal (2022) 10,461 dwellings	+/-	--	--	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	--	++	--	+/-	+/-	++	+

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

6.2.6 The revised growth options all offer similar issues and opportunities when assessed against the ISA Framework. All options support growth in the population and are, therefore, likely to have positive effects on population, economy, and social fabric. This is due to the predicted in-migration of people of working age and younger who will go some way to readdressing the aging population in Carmarthenshire.

6.2.7 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, the four revised growth options provide a balance between environmental and socio-economic factors when compared with higher growth projections which are likely to be substantially detrimental to achieving ISA2, ISA3, and ISA9.

6.2.8 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. However, four options provide a balance of socio economic and environmental factors when compared to higher growth options Employment-led and Rebased principal (2022). This two options scored very similarly to those projections contained in the Preferred Strategy given the higher number of dwellings.

6.2.9 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. However, the three lowest projection may also provide some benefits in this regard.

6.2.10 Previous evidence on the predicted effects of the growth options on ISA11 Welsh Language⁵⁰ identified both positive and negative effects, although these negative effects are outweigh any benefits at level projections of growth options. For in-depth analysis and commentary on growth options on ISA11, please refer to the WLIA.

6.2.11 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 ISA Objectives.

6.2.12 It was concluded that the preferred growth option would be Ten-Year Trend-Based Projection (2022) 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 ISA Objectives such as Biodiversity, Air Quality, Water, Soil, Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Welsh Language.

6.2.13 As is the case with any development, some potential negative impacts remained, with regards to biodiversity, air quality, climatic factors, and the Welsh language. However, with suitable mitigation in place, these negative impacts can be reduced.

6.2.14 As this ISA did not evaluate the evidence for which the Ten-Year Trend-Based Projection is based upon, the rLDP team and Council decision makers will need to ensure that this figure is not too high to cause significant environmental issues, but also not too low to prevent further strain the housing market and not fulfil the economic potential of the County. Nevertheless, in term of promoting sustainable development (ISA1) and meeting the need for future generations, the chosen option is more likely to deliver more affordable housing than the two lower projections.

⁵⁰ Carmarthenshire Draft Deposit LDP Welsh Language Impact Assessment. December 2019.

6.3 ISA of the Preferred Spatial Option

6.3.1 The preferred spatial option for the second Deposit rLDP has not been changed since the Preferred Strategy and, therefore, there is no need to reassess the option at this stage. The initial 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.

6.3.2 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.

6.3.3 Alongside the Preferred Growth Option, it is difficult to determine what effects are attributed to economic, social, and environmental uncertainties, alongside factors such as changes to national level policy, on the appraisal at this strategic, high-level stage. Further commentary relating to the secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects can be found within the SA Report.

6.4 ISA of the Strategic Policies

6.4.1 Following the public consultation of the Preferred Strategy and the 1st Deposit rLDP, several policies were amended to reflect feedback and comments, including those recommendations made in the Initial SA and SA report. All policies in addition to those which have been revised were then re-screened against the ISA Framework to consider whether they would result in likely significant effects. The amended policies and the ISA commentary of the reassessment are listed in Appendix F. The results of the re-assessment against the ISA Framework are presented in Table 17.

Table 17 – Summary of the ISA of the rLDP Strategic Policies (please see Appendix F for commentary).

	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	SP19
ISA1		+	+/-			+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+/-	+	+	++	++		
ISA2	-		-	-	-		-	0	+/-			+	-	++	0	+	+	-	-
ISA3	-	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+/-	0	+	0	+/-	++	+	+	0	+	++	-	
ISA4	-	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+	0	+	-	+/-	++	+	+	0	++	+	-	
ISA5						0	?	0	+			+	-	+	0	+	0	-	0
ISA6	+	0	+/-	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	++	0	+
ISA7								0	-	-		+	-	+	0	0	0	-	-
ISA8								+	+/-	0		+		+	++	0	0		
ISA9		+		+/-				0	-			+	-	+	+	0	0	-	
ISA10	++	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	0	0
ISA11	+/-	+/-	?	+/-	+	++	+	++		?	?	+	+/-	0	+	0	0	0	0
ISA12	+	0	+	+	+	++	0	0	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	0
ISA13	+	0	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	?	+	0	0
ISA14	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	+	++	+	++	+	+	?	0	+	+
ISA15	+	+	++	+	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	+	++	+	+	?	+	0	0

6.5 Mitigation & Recommendations – Strategic Policies

6.5.1 Table 18 summarises the assessment of the potential impacts of the Strategic Policies.

6.5.2 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 rLDP policies, they can provide mitigation for potential negative effects in the implementation of other policies. Appendix F has identified the rLDP’s policies which mitigate any negative impacts and uncertainty of the Strategic Policies.

6.5.3 Table 18 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 18 – Summary of proposed mitigation/enhancement measures for rLDP Strategic Policies. For those policies not listed below, the proposed mitigation measures outlined in full commentary within Appendix F were considered to resolve residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainties.

Strategic Policy	Proposed Mitigation/Enhancement
<p>SP 2: Retail and Town Centres</p>	<p>Mitigation for any air quality impacts could be further strengthened by making a specific reference to the protection and enhancement of GBI within and adjacent to AQMA’s in policy PSD12 Light and Air Quality.</p> <p>Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by rLDP Specific Policies.</p>
<p>SP 3: Sustainable Distribution – Settlement Hierarchy</p>	<p>Thoughts should be made to paragraph 4.2.24 (PPW) relating to the potential cumulative effects of development occurring throughout the plan period within the open countryside (and tier 4 settlements). Multiple developments permitted under local needs housing could have a permanent adverse effect upon the landscape, and limit accessibility to services, sustainable travel, and community facilities. Local needs should have a locational and/or resource requirement aspects, and also help to ensure the viability of the local community - providing benefits for support socio-economic ISA objectives.</p>
<p>SP 5: Affordable Homes</p>	<p>Suggested that due to likely need for affordable housing in rural as well as urban areas of Carmarthenshire, policy ISP4 make specific reference be made in the supporting text to the protection of the natural environment when locating affordable housing.</p> <p>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. Also reference how access to facilities should be enhanced through PSD6: Community Facilities.</p>
<p>SP 6: Strategic Sites</p>	<p>Within the supporting text, consider referencing the fact that likely 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 (with some relation to CCH4).</p>

<p>SP 7: Employment and the Economy</p>	<p>Suggested that supporting text make specific reference to the fact that employment developments may also including GBI such as landscaping and buffer zones.</p>
<p>SP 8: Welsh Language and Culture</p>	<p>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 five or more houses in rural areas and ten or more in urban areas in every community, irrespective of the percentage of Welsh speakers.</p>
<p>SP 10: Gypsy and Traveller Provision</p>	<p>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 ISA recommends that this is retained as a buffer to the adjoining railway line.</p> <p>Existing GBI corridors should also be maintained as buffer zones to mitigate any negative impacts on landscape.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Council give due consideration as to whether SP9 complies with the policy requirements contained in Policy CCH5 – 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 SP10 to the Council.</p>
<p>SP 12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places</p>	<p>Suggest specific reference is made to net benefits for biodiversity, ecological resilience, energy efficient design as well as resource efficiency.</p> <p>Suggest reference to use of sustainable materials as well as techniques.</p> <p>Suggest reference to recycling of waste under criteria (j).</p>
<p>SP 14: Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment</p>	<p>Suggested changes to the policy wording to strengthen the requirement to protect and enhance the natural environment; Remove reference to PPW and TAN5 to include ‘all National Policy and legislative requirements’; use different terminology to align with current focus (i.e., net benefits for biodiversity). While the net-benefits for biodiversity approach by Welsh Government does not currently utilise a metric, supporting text should have reference to paragraphs 6.4.5 and 6.4.21 within PPW.</p> <p>Specific reference should be made in the supporting text to the Council’s Duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.</p> <p>Specific reference should be made to the motion on nature conservation that was passed by Council in 2020 that resulted in a nature emergency being declared by Carmarthenshire County Council. The rLDP should be explicit in how it seeks to address this.</p>
<p>SP 15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment.</p>	<p>Although this policy does not directly impact on ISA3 – 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</p>

	<p>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 refer to the fact that the historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource, and is 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>
<p>SP 16: Climate Change</p>	<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 rLDP should be explicit in how it seeks to address this.</p> <p>The policy does not mention the benefits of GBI to mitigating and increasing resilience to the effects of climate change, in particular as carbon sinks. Reference to GBI would result in a change from no effect to positive effects on ISA7 – Soil. The ISA recommends that specific reference should be made to the multifunctional benefits of GBI for climate change resilience and mitigation in this policy.</p>
<p>SP 17: Transport and Accessibility</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>SP 18: Mineral Resources</p>	<p>To provide further mitigation of this policy against ISA4 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 underground coal gasification.</p> <p>To mitigate for residual impacts on ISA7 – 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 <i>in situ</i>.</p> <p>Although <i>MR1 Mineral Proposals</i> goes some way to mitigating any residual negative impacts on ISA9 – Landscape, it is suggested that additional wording on the protection of Landscape character and visual amenity in this policy to reinforce its importance. Additionally, consider the need for outlined potential hydrological impacts (SPZ) affecting ISA5.</p>

SP 19: Waste Management	<p>Policy should include a criterion stating that no significant impacts in the environment should occur because 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 ISA9 – 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 GBI for visual, noise and air pollution screening.</p>
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6.6 ISA Specific Policies

6.6.1 The Deposit rLDP contains 78 Specific Policies as listed in Table 19. These are divided over 18 strategy policies. Note that SP6 does not contain any specific policies and is, therefore, not included below.

Table 19 – rLDP Strategic and Specific Policies

Strategic Policies	Specific Policies
SP1: Strategic Growth	SG1: Regeneration and Mixed-Use Sites
	SG2: Reserve Sites
	SG3: Pembrey Peninsula
SP2: Retail and Town Centres	RTC1: Protection of Local Shops and Facilities
	RTC2: Retail in Rural Areas
SP3: Sustainable Distribution – Settlement Framework	SD1: Development Limits
SP4: 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

Strategic Policies	Specific Policies
	HOM7: Renovation of Derelict or Abandoned Dwellings
	HOM8: Residential Caravans
	HOM9: Ancillary Residential Development
SP5: Affordable Homes Strategy	AHOM1: Provision of Affordable Homes
SP7: Employment and the Economy	AHOM2: Affordable Homes – Exceptions Sites
	EME1: Employment – Safeguarding of Employment Sites
	EME2: Employment – Extensions and Intensification
	EME3: Employment Proposals on Allocated Sites
	EME4: Employment Proposals on Non-Allocated Sites
SP8: Welsh Language and Culture	EME5: Home Based Businesses
SP9: Infrastructure	WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments
	INF1: Planning Obligations
	INF2: Healthy Communities
	INF3: Broadband and Telecommunications
	INF4: Llanelli Wastewater Treatment Works Catchment Surface Water Removal
SP10: Gypsy and Traveller Provision	INF5: Rural Allocations outside Public Sewerage System Catchments
SP11: The Visitor Economy	GTP1: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation
	VE1: Visitor Attractions and Facilities
	VE2: Holiday Accommodation
	VE3: Touring Caravan, Camping and Non-Permanent Alternative Camping Accommodation
	VE4: Static Caravan and Chalet Sites and Permanent Alternative Camping Accommodation

Strategic Policies	Specific Policies
SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places	PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking
	PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
	PSD4: Green and Blue 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
SP13: 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
SP14: 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

Strategic Policies	Specific Policies
	NE5: Coastal Management
	NE6: Coastal Development
	NE7: Coastal Change Management Area
SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment	BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas
SP16: Climate Change	BEH2: Landscape Character
	CCH1: Renewable Energy within Pre-Assessed Areas and Local Search Areas
	CCH2: Renewable Energy Outside Pre-Assessed Areas and Local Search Areas
	CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points
	CCH4: Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources
	CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
	CCH6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Developments
SP17: Transport and Accessibility	CCH7: Climate Change – Forest, Woodland and Tree Planting
	TRA1: Transport and Highways Infrastructural Improvements
	TRA2: Active Travel
	TRA3: Gwili Railway
	TRA4: Redundant Rail Corridors
SP 18: Mineral Resources	TRA5: Highways and Access Standards in Development
	MR1: Mineral Proposals
	MR2: Mineral Buffer Zones
SP 19: Sustainable Waste Management	MR3: Mineral Safeguarding Areas
	WM1: Sustainable Waste Management and New Development
	WM2: Landfill Proposals

Strategic Policies	Specific Policies
	WM3: Agricultural Land – Disposal of Inert Waste

6.6.2 Each Policy has been assessed against the ISA Framework and the findings are discussed in detail in Appendix G, although summarised below.

6.6.3 Overall, the appraisal found that the specific policies would have largely positive effects overall, particularly on those ISA Objectives that relate to socio-economic sustainability. Many of the Plan policies facilitate sustainable development, including those related to the protection and enhancement of the environment, in addition to those policies relating to design which promotes sustainability and placemaking. The effect on ISA1 for residential, affordable homes, retail, employment, tourism, and infrastructure is generally depends on how the policy and allocations are implemented due to the potential to exceed environmental limits (1-4), although mitigating measures suggested address this. Nevertheless, 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 (working in synergy supporting 1-2 and 1-4). 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. Additionally, it recognises that affordable housing is an important factor in promoting long-term economic and social health among individuals experiencing inequalities, and also seeks the inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups into society as demonstrated by *GTP1: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation*.

6.6.4 The rLDP plan policies also seek to maximise the health and wellbeing of Carmarthenshire’s population. *PSD7: Protection of Open Space* 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, *TRA2 Active Travel* seeks to connect development and spaces with safe and attractive active travel routes, to encourage healthier travel choices. The requirement created for certain developers to conduct a HIA (*INF2: Healthy Communities*) addresses the potential influence distribution can place upon associated services. Additionally, *PSD8: Provision of New Open Space* is aligned with FIT standards and promotes long-term benefits associated with recreation and outdoor amenities.

6.6.5 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. Several 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 *SP14: 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. Soil assets are further conserved through promoting the regeneration of previously developed land, and the thought given to peatlands and allocation placement help to protect soil carbon.

6.6.6 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 to ensure widespread community permeance and the retention of services, over the long-term. Nevertheless, this is predicted to have differing implications on ISA3 Air Quality and ISA4 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 (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. Through *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. *PSD3 GBI Network* can also help to mitigate for these impacts as increasing GBI in urban areas can have many benefits including filtering of pollutants and carbon sequestration.

6.6.7 Conversely, providing 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. *CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging* 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 ⁵¹.

6.6.8 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 because of climate change should also be fully considered. *CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance* goes some way to mitigating this risk, however its wording could be strengthened to be more dynamic through the 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 GBI Networks through *PSD3* is also important to reduce and mitigate for the effects of climate change, and can have 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. Several 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 and achieving net zero.

6.6.9 A summary of the ISA of the Specific Policies is provided in Table 20.

⁵¹ Planning Policy Wales Version 11, Figure 9.

Table 20 – Summary of ISA of rLDP Specific Policies (please see Appendix G for commentary)

rLDP Specific Policy	ISA1	ISA2	ISA3	ISA4	ISA5	ISA6	ISA7	ISA8	ISA9	ISA10	ISA11	ISA12	ISA13	ISA14	ISA15
SG1: Regeneration and Mixed-Use Sites		-	-	-	-	+	+/-			++	+/-	+	+	++	+
SG2: Reserve Sites		-	-							+	+/-			++	
SG3: Pembrey Peninsula		-	-	-	-	+	+/-			++	+/-	+	+	++	+
RTC1: Protection of Local Shops and Facilities	+	0	+/-	+/-	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+
RTC2: Retail in Rural Areas		-	+	+		+	-	0		+	+	+	+	+	+
SD1: Development Limits		+/-	+/-	+		+	+/-			+	?	+	+	++	++
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			-			-	0		+/-	+	?	0	0	0	+
HOM6: Specialist Housing			0	0		+	0			+	+	+	0	+	+
HOM7: Renovation of Derelict or Abandoned Dwellings		-	-			+/-	+	+	+	+	?	0	0	0	+
HOM8: Residential Caravans			0	0				0		+	?	0	0	+	0
HOM9: Ancillary Residential Development			0			-	0	0		+	?	+	0	0	+
AHOM1: Provision of Affordable Homes		-				0				++	+			+	++
AHOM2: Affordable Homes – Exceptions Sites		-				0	-			++	+			+	++
EME1: Employment – Safeguarding of Employment Sites	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	+

rLDP Specific Policy	ISA1	ISA2	ISA3	ISA4	ISA5	ISA6	ISA7	ISA8	ISA9	ISA10	ISA11	ISA12	ISA13	ISA14	ISA15
EME2: Employment – Extensions and Intensification	I	I	-	-	I	+	I	I	I	+	+	+	+	++	+
EME3: Employment Proposals on Allocated Sites	I	-	-	-	I	+	I	0	I	+/-	+	+	+	++	+
EME4: Employment Proposals on Non-Allocated Sites	I	-	-	-	I	+	I	I	0	+	+	+	+	++	+
EME5: Home Based Businesses	I	I	0	0	I	-	0	0	I	?	?	?	+	++	+
WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	++	+	+	+	++
INF1: Planning Obligations	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
INF2: Healthy Communities	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	++	+	+	+
INF3: Broadband and Telecommunications	I	-	+	+	0	+	?	0	I	+	+	+	+	++	+
INF4: Llanelli Wastewater Treatment Works Catchment Surface Water Removal	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	+	0
INF5: Rural Allocations outside Public Sewerage System Catchments	I	+/-	0	0	+	+	+/-	0	+/-	+	?	+	0	+	+
GTP1: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	I	I	0	-	I	+	-	0	I	+	?	+	+	+	++
VE1: Visitor Attractions and Facilities	+/-	-	I	I	I	I	I	?	I	?	?	+	+	++	+
VE2: Holiday Accommodation	+/-	-	I	I	I	I	I	?	I	?	?	+	+	++	+
VE3: Touring Caravan, Camping and Non-Permanent Alternative Camping Accommodation	+/-	-	-	-	I	-	I	?	I	?	?	+	0	++	+
VE4: Static Caravan and Chalet Sites and Permanent Alternative Camping Accommodation	+/-	-	-	-	I	-	I	?	I	?	?	+	0	++	+
PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking	++	I	0	0	+	0	I	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+
PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods	++	I	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network	++	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+

rLDP Specific Policy	ISA1	ISA2	ISA3	ISA4	ISA5	ISA6	ISA7	ISA8	ISA9	ISA10	ISA11	ISA12	ISA13	ISA14	ISA15
PSD4: Green and Blue Infrastructure – 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
RD1: Replacement Dwelling in the Open Countryside		-	-	-/+	0	-	?			+	+/-	+/-	0	+	
RD2: Conversion and Re-Use of Rural Buildings for Residential Use		-	-	-	0	-	?			+	+/-	+/-	0	+	
RD3: Farm Diversification			+	+	0	0	0			0	+/-		+	+	
RD4: Conversion and Re-Use of Rural Buildings for Non-Residential Use		-	+/-	+/-	0	+	0			0	+			+	
RD5: Equestrian Facilities			-	-	0	-	0	0		0	?	0		+	0
NE1: Regional and Local Designations	+	++	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+
NE2: Biodiversity	+	++	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+
NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness	+	++	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+

rLDP Specific Policy	ISA1	ISA2	ISA3	ISA4	ISA5	ISA6	ISA7	ISA8	ISA9	ISA10	ISA11	ISA12	ISA13	ISA14	ISA15
NE4: Development within the Caeau Mynydd Mawr SPG Area	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+
NE5: Coastal Management	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
NE6: Coastal Development		+	0	+/-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
NE7: Coastal Change Management Area	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	+
BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	+	0	+	0	0	+	+
BEH2: Landscape Character	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	++	+	0	+	0	+	+
CCH1: Renewable Energy within Pre-Assessed Areas and Local Search Areas	+	+/-	+	++	+	+	0		+/-	0	0	0	+	+	0
CCH2: Renewable Energy Outside Pre-Assessed Areas and Local Search Areas	+	+/-	+	++	+	+	0		+/-	0	0	0	+	+	0
CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+
CCH4: Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources	+	+	0	+	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance	+	+	0	++	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+
CCH6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Developments	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+/-	0	0	0	?	+	+
CCH7: Climate Change – Forest, Woodland and Tree Planting	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	?	+	+/-
TRA1: Transport and Highways Infrastructural Improvements		-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	-			0	0	+/-	+	++	+
TRA2: Active Travel	+		++	++	+	++	-			+	0	++	+	+	+
TRA3: Gwili Railway		-	+			+	-	+		+	0	+	0	+	+
TRA4: Redundant Rail Corridors	+		+	+/-	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+
TRA5: Highways and Access Standards in Development	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0

rLDP Specific Policy	ISA1	ISA2	ISA3	ISA4	ISA5	ISA6	ISA7	ISA8	ISA9	ISA10	ISA11	ISA12	ISA13	ISA14	ISA15
MR1: Mineral Proposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I	I	0	0	-	0	+	0
MR2: Mineral Buffer Zones	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	+
MR3: Mineral Safeguarding Areas	0	-	-	0	0	0	-	I	-	0	0	0	0	+	0
WM1: Sustainable Waste Management and New Development	+	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+
WM2: Landfill Proposals	-	-	-	-	I	-	I	I	-	0	0	I	0	+	0
WM3: Agricultural Land – Disposal of Inert Waste	+/-	-	0	0	?	+/-	+	I	I	0	0	0	0	+	0

6.7 Mitigation and ISA Recommendations – Specific Policies

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

6.7.2 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 F has identified the plan policies which mitigate any negative impacts and uncertainty of the Strategic Policies. The full commentary including mitigation measures for Specific Policies are detailed in Appendix G.

6.8 ISA of Proposed Allocations

6.8.1 This section discusses how the candidate sites proposed for Carmarthenshire were identified and appraised. In determining where housing and employment growth could be directed spatially, the LDP Policy team considered the existing land bank of housing and employment land, scheduled completions, windfall sites and information received from landowners and developers on potential candidate sites. This resulted in an excess of 900 possible development sites.

Appraisal Methodology

6.8.2 A modified approach was taken to the appraisal of individual candidate development sites.

6.8.3 It was decided that the ISA (incorporating the requirement under SEA) would be integrated into the Site Assessment Methodology (SAM), utilising the site-specific information gathered in Stages 1 and 2 to determine the sustainability of sites against the ISA Framework. The decision-making questions in the SAM provide a measurable and more informed assessment of sustainability than the ISA Objectives alone. The questions in Stages 1 and 2 were reviewed as to their compatibility with each of the ISA objectives. Where there was only partial or incomplete coverage of the ISA objectives, SAM questions were modified, or new questions added. This approach ensures that questions are cross referenced as to their compatibility with ISA Objectives at each consideration.

6.8.4 Answers to the decision-making questions within the SAM resulted in a sustainability ‘score’ against each of the ISA Objectives, in line with the key shown in Table 21. Where mixed or negative effects are predicted, mitigation measures were identified. This process (and the accompanying proforma) has been heavily amended since the previous assessment of candidate sites within the SA Report (and, therefore, these are not comparable).

Table 21 – ISA assessment criteria for assessment of candidate sites, as adapted from Welsh Government Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (2020).

Symbol	Predicted Effect and Suggested Action
++	Very positive effect – the proposed site significantly complies with ISA Objective.
+	Positive effect – the proposed site complies with ISA Objective. Consider whether positive effect can be further enhanced through relevant policies.
+/-	Positive and negative effects – the proposed site complies with some elements of the ISA Objective whilst hindering others. Consider mitigation for negative effects.
-	Negative effect - the proposed site conflicts with ISA Objective.

	Site may be inappropriate for development. Consider mitigation.
--	Very negative effect – the proposed site significantly conflicts with ISA Objective. Site may be inappropriate for development. Consider significant mitigation.
0	Neutral effect compared to the current situation. Consider whether policy intervention could produce positive effects.

6.8.5 The Integrated SA/SEA components of this assessment are responsible for the evaluation and consideration of several ‘reasonable options’ against the ISA Framework. This includes the evaluation of sites which are considered as ‘reasonable’ alternatives, in that they are deliverable and have no fundamental constraints.

6.8.6 As stated, each candidate site that progressed to Stage 3 was subject to an assessment against rLDP and ISA objectives. It is not the role of the ISA to decide on the alternative to be chosen for the rLDP, but to provide information to make the decision-making process more reliable and transparent. As set out in the SAM, sites which failed to meet the Preferred Spatial Strategy or were deemed unviable and undeliverable (subject to information known to the Council at that time), were not considered to be realistic alternatives for inclusion within the Plan and, therefore, not taken forward for consideration at stage 3 of the site assessment. Therefore, the selection of the range of sites considered for assessment at stage 3 deliberated the filtering process of stages 1 and 2, which resulted in the identification of sites which had a realistic prospect of being found sound – given that the process had demonstrated that there was an absence of overriding constraints and that the sites were capable of delivering housing growth in accordance with the rLDP Preferred Strategy.

6.8.7 To ensure full integration between plan-making and ISA processes, one joint pro forma was agreed by the ISA and planning teams and was consequently filled in by the officer responsible for each cluster of candidate development sites. The Site Allocation Proformas document contains the full site assessment and is summarised in Table 22.

Table 22 – Appraisal criteria used on site assessment pro forma for the ISA of sites.

ISA Objective	Question(s) in site assessment pro forma
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	Q1 Is the site compatible against the location of future growth presented in the Preferred Strategy? Q7. What is the proposed use of the site?
ISA2 – Biodiversity	Q5. Is the site located within or immediately adjacent to any sites designated for importance to nature conservation? Q19 Does the site contain high carbon soil (i.e., peat)? Q25. Will the site be connected to a public wastewater treatment works (WWTW) with nutrient headroom, or does it have adequate provision for a compliant private sewage treatment system?
ISA3 – Air Quality	Q14. Does the site have suitable access to public transport and/or active travel route? Q19. Is the site within or immediately adjacent to an AQMA?
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	Q4. Is the site located within a flood risk zone as identified in the TAN 15 Development Advice Maps? Q14. Does the site have suitable access to public transport and/or active travel route? Q7. What is the proposed use of the site?

ISA Objective	Question(s) in site assessment pro forma
	Q23. Are there any significant concerns set out in the SFCA - Stage 1 which could impact on the delivery of the site?
ISA5 – Water	Q4. Is the site located within a flood risk zone as identified in the TAN 15 Development Advice Maps? Q23. Are there any significant concerns set out in the SFCA - Stage 1 which could impact on the delivery of the site? Q25. Will the site be connected to a public wastewater treatment works (WWTW) with nutrient headroom, or does it have adequate provision for a compliant private sewage treatment system?
ISA6 – Material Assets	Q14. Does the site have suitable access to public transport and/or active travel route? Q16. Is the site within reasonable distance to: a) Employment Provision b) Retail Provision c) Other Services/Facilities Q18. Is the site located within or adjacent to a mineral buffer zone?
ISA7 - Soil	Q10. Will the proposal involve the re-use of suitable previously developed land and/or buildings? Q20. Does the site contain high carbon soil e.g., peatlands? Q21. Does the site contain high quality agricultural land (grade 1, 2, 3a)? Q25. Will the site be connected to a public wastewater treatment works (WWTW) with nutrient headroom, or does it have adequate provision for a compliant private sewage treatment system?
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage	Q6. Is the site located within or immediately adjacent to any Scheduled Monuments? Q9. Would the development of the site have a detrimental impact on the character and setting of the settlement or its features?
ISA9 – Landscape	Q9. Would the development of the site have a detrimental impact on the character and setting of the settlement or its features? Q10. Will the proposal involve the re-use of suitable previously developed land and/or buildings? Q22. Is the site located within or immediately adjacent to any Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS)?
ISA10 – Population	Q7. What is the proposed use of the site? Q16. Is the site within reasonable distance to: a) Employment Provision b) Retail Provision c) Other Services/Facilities
ISA11 – The Welsh Language	Q7. What is the proposed use of the site? Q27. Does the location and/or scale of the site have the potential to have a detrimental impact on Welsh Language?
ISA12 – Health and Wellbeing	Q7. What is the proposed use of the site? Q14. Does the site have suitable access to public transport and/or active travel route? Q15. Does the site have access to green space, leisure, and recreational facilities that are within a reasonable distance?

ISA Objective	Question(s) in site assessment pro forma
ISA13 – Education and Skills	Q7. What is the proposed use of the site? Q14. Does the site have suitable access to public transport and/or active travel route? Q17. Is the site within a reasonable distance to education facilities?
ISA14 – Economy	Q7. What is the proposed use of the site? Q16. Is the site within reasonable distance to: a) Employment Provision b) Retail Provision c) Other Services/Facilities
ISA15 Social Fabric	Q7. What is the proposed use of the site? Q14. Does the site have suitable access to public transport and/or active travel route? Q15. Does the site have access to green space, leisure, and recreational facilities that are within a reasonable distance? Q16. Is the site within reasonable distance to: a) Employment Provision b) Retail Provision c) Other Services/Facilities

6.8.8 Each site that has progressed to Stage 3 of the Site Assessment Methodology has been subject to an assessment against the rLDP Site Assessment Methodology (of which the ISA is an integral informant). Whilst the SAM would not have been the sole indicator for a site’s appropriateness for allocation in the deposit Plan (or indeed its identification as a reasonable alternative), this approach has played an integral and iterative role alongside the HRA. The integral and informing role of these assessments in site selection includes providing information so as to facilitate a reliable and transparent approach to Plan making.

6.8.9 In recognition of the above, Table 23 contains sites which have been identified as reasonable alternatives. These sites would have performed suitably in terms of the rLDP Site Assessment Methodology (of which the ISA is an important component). Reference should be made to the rLDP Site Assessment Table, which has been prepared in support of the deposit rLDP, to attain the reasons as to why the sites have not been allocated in the deposit rLDP.

Table 7 Table of reasonable alternative sites

Settlement	Site Ref	Site Name
Rhydaman/Ammanford/Betws	SR/004/002	Enc. 9005 Myddynfych Drive
	SR/004/003	Enc. 0851 Dol Y Derwen, Myddynfych
	SR/004/004	Land rear of 140 Penybanc Rd. Penybanc
	SR/004/008	Land at Pontamman Road, Ammanford
	SR/004/009	Land off Parklands Road Penybanc
	SR/004/011	Land at Werddu Road
	SR/004/022	Land off Colonel Road, Betws
	SR/004/025	Land at Corronation Terrace, Maesquarre Rd.
	SR/004/026	Land off Colonel Rd. Betws
	SR/004/027	Land off Pentwyn Rd., Betws
	SR/004/028	Land at Golwg y Mynydd, Betws
	SR/004/031	Land off Maesquare Rd, Betws
	SR/004/032	Land adjoining Parc Fferws, Penybanc

Settlement	Site Ref	Site Name
	SR/004/035	Land rear of Llys Havard, Betws
	SR/004/039	Land off Woodland Park, Betws
Bancyfelin	SR/007/003	Land to the North East of Bancyfelin School
Porth Tywyn / Pen-Bre / Burry Port / Pembrey	SR/016/013	S8.3 Burry Port Redevelopment Land
Capel Hendre	SR/018/002	Land off Lotwen Road
	SR/018/003	Land adjacent Maes y Gelynnen, Waterloo Road
Capel Iwan	SR/019/001	Land west of Mount Pleasant, Capel Iwan
	SR/019/003	Land adjacent to Bro Hendy, Capel Iwan
	SR/019/004	Land opposite Bro Hendy, Capel Iwan
	SR/019/008	Land part of Cruglwyd, Capel Iwan
Caerfyrddin / Carmarthen	SR/021/021	Land off Trevaughan Road, Carmarthen
	SR/021/028	Land North of Brynteg, College Road
Carwe / Carway	SR/023/003	Land adj. to Culla Road roundabout (B4317) Carway
Cefneithin	SR/026/003	Land off Carmarthen Rd., Cefneithin
	SR/026/004	Land off Heol-Yr-Ysgol, Cefneithin
Cross Hands	SR/031/007	Depot and adjacent woodland
	SR/031/008	Land off Bryngwili Rd, Cross Hands
	SR/031/009	Cross Hands Development Land
Cwmann	SR/034/002	Land Opposite Lleinau
Cwmgwili	SR/040/004	Land at Coed y Cadno, Cwmgwili
Dre-fach / Drefach (Tumble)	SR/049/005	Land at Lower Field, Gwendraeth School
	SR/049/010	Land off Heol Cwmbach
	SR/049/011	Site 1 Land West of Derwen Road, Cwmmawr, Drefach
	SR/049/012	Site 2 Land West of Derwen Road, Cwmmawr, Drefach
	SR/049/014	Land off Heol Cwmmawr
Drefach Felindre	SR/050/001	Land adjacent to 8 Meiros Lane, Drefach Felindre
Glanaman / Garnant	SR/064/011	Land off Heol Felen, Garnant
	SR/064/017	Land off Heol Felen, Garnant,
	SR/064/002	Land off Heol Cowell, Garnant
Gorslas	SR/067/005	Land at Black Lion Road
	SR/067/012	Land off Church Rd., Gorslas
	SR/067/013	Land at Black Lion Road, Gorslas
	SR/067/015	Land off Church Road, Gorslas
Yr Hendy / Hendy / Fforest	SR/069/003	Land at Fforest Road
	SR/069/004	Golfen Fawr Farm, Llanedi Road, Fforest
	SR/069/007	Land adjacent to Clos y Wern
	SR/069/014	Land part of Oaklands, Bronallt Road, Fforest
	SR/069/015	Land at Fforest Road
Cydweli / Kidwelly	SR/074/005	Land adjacent to Caeffynnon, Kidwelly
	SR/074/008	Land off Monksford Street, Kidwelly
	SR/074/009	Land off Pembrey Road
Lacharn / Laugharne	SR/075/002	Land opposite Pludds Meadow
	SR/075/006	Option 2, Site C, Land off the A4066 Laugharne
Llanddarog	SR/078/002	Land at Rear of Maes y Llwyn

Settlement	Site Ref	Site Name
Llandybie	SR/082/013	Llandybie Recreation Ground
Llanedi	SR/084/004	Land rear of Garreg Lwyd, Llanedi
Llanelli (yn cynnwys / including Llangennech)	GA2/h56	Llys Y Bryn, PENCEILIOGI
	SR/086/022	Land at Junction of A4138 & Dafen Rd.
	SR/086/052	Land at Heol Trostre
	SR/086/057	Land at Trostre Road, Trostre
	SR/086/076	Land off Aber Llchwyr, Llangennech
SR/086/077	Land at Morlais, Pontardulais Road, Llangennech	
Llanfihangel-ar-Arth	SR/088/006	Land at Heol Mafon, Llanfihangel-ar-Arth
Llan-non / Llannon	SR/100/001	Land at Heol Morlais
	SR/100/008	Land off Heol y Plas, Llannon
	SR/100/009	Land off Fountain Rd., Llannon
Mynyddygarreg	SR/116/007	Land off Meinciau Road, Mynyddygarreg
	SR/116/008	Land off Meinciau Road, Mynyddygarreg
	SR/116/009	Land off Meinciau Road, Mynyddygarreg
	SR/116/010	Land South of Meinciau Road, Mynyddygarreg
Pentywyn - Llanmilo / Pendine - Llanmiloe	SR/126/001	Land adjacent to Crofters Rest, Pendine
Pen-y-groes / Penygroes	GA3/h36	Adj Clos y Cwm
	SR/132/006	Lambfields, Gate Road, Penygroes
	SR/132/007	Land at Waterloo Road, Penygroes
Pontyberem / Bancffosfelen	SR/138/006	Land off Gwendraeth Row, Llannon Road
	SR/138/007	Land adjacent to Kingdom Hall, Llannon Rd.
	SR/138/009	Field North of Gwendraeth Row, Pontyberem
Saron (Ammanford)	SR/149/010	Land off Dyffryn Road, Saron
	SR/149/011	Land off Saron Road, Saron
San Clêr / St Clears / Pwll Trap	SR/150/006	Land adjacent to Heol Goi, St Clears
	SR/150/014	Land adj. New House Farm, Pwlltrap
	SR/150/015	Land North of Maesybryn, St. Clears
	SR/150/017	Land at Heol Llaindelyn, St. Clears
	SR/150/019	Land at Station Road
	SR/150/022	Land adjacent to Selwyn Forge, Tenby Rd.
	SR/150/033	Land at Glasfryn St Clears
SR/150/036	Adjacent to Britania Terrace, St Clears, (Area C)	
Tre-lech / Trelech	SR/156/003	Land adjoining Maes Cawnen, Trelech
Y Tymbl / Tumble	SR/158/006	Land at Maesgwern Tumble
	SR/158/008	Land off Llannon Road, Upper Tumble
Tycroes	SR/159/011	Land off Pontardulais Road, Coopers
Hendy-gwyn / Whitland	SR/163/005	Ty Newydd, Ael Y Bryn Farm

6.8.10 A detailed assessment of these reasonable alternative sites against the ISA framework will follow as part of an iterative approach to plan making.

6.8.11 Table 24 provides a summary of ISA of all sites allocated in the plan at the conclusion of the site selection process.

6.8.12 The total number of units on proposed allocations that can be delivered through the Plan amounts to approximately 200 units. The allocated sites were deemed those that met the

Preferred Strategy regarding sustainable location, creating sustainable communities, and facilitating sufficient growth which meets the projected demand for housing and employment. As assessed via the ISA, these allocations were predicted to have the most likely significant positive effects when balancing a range of socioeconomic and environmental issues, and were deemed the most viable and deliverable over the plan period.

6.8.13 Those sites which have already received planning permission and have been constructed or are under construction following the start of the rLDP plan period, only stages 1 and 2 (not 2b) have been completed. Those sites which have had planning permission granted but are not yet under construction have been assessed at all stages.

Table 24 - ISA Summary of rLDP Allocations per cluster including Strategic, Retail/Employment, Mixed Use, Housing, and Gypsies & Travellers sites.

Site Ref	Name	ISA1	ISA2	ISA3	ISA4	ISA5	ISA6	ISA7	ISA8	ISA9	ISA10	ISA11	ISA12	ISA13	ISA14	ISA15
Cluster 1																
Cluster 2																
Cluster 3																
Cluster 4																
Cluster 5																
Cluster 6																

Formatting of the assessment contained within Table 24 to follow.

6.9 Summary of Site Allocations

6.9.1 Specific ISA commentary for each allocation can be found in the respective Site Allocation Assessments Proformas supplied within the rLDP, grouped per cluster. The purpose of this section to provide an overall evaluation of the commonly noted likely effects per purpose type of allocation presented above. Whilst no recommendations are explicitly made here, it is predicted that the implementation of the proposed policies (as assessed in the aforementioned sections) will mitigate the identified adverse impacts. For clarity, while sites were initially assessed within the SA Report (2020), changes made to the SAM/ISA process has led to their re-assessment.

6.9.2 The appraisal of housing site allocations identified a range of likely effects, attributable to the differences in the local context. All were found to have a likely negative effect on biodiversity (ISA2) and most had other negatives effects upon environment-based objectives due to the construction and habitation of new housing developments which is likely to increase in the consumption of natural resources, led to habitat/species disturbance, and add to existing levels of air, water, and sound pollution - consistent with the assessment outcome upon related policies (i.e., SP1, SP4, SP5). The impact upon biodiversity, soil, landscape, and cultural heritage is primarily driven by the fact that many sites are greenfield developments and, therefore, collectively poses a cumulative risk to these factors. Allocations using previous developed land would likely reduce the predicted risk imposed by greenfield developments such as reduced ecological connectivity, soil function/health, landscape character and nearby heritage assets. Nevertheless, most allocations were found to positively promote access to community facilities, education, and employment, alongside amenity resources such as open space. Collectively, the scale of site allocations would help to meet the varied housing needs of growing and aging population over the Plan period.

6.9.3 Mixed-use and strategic sites were found to have similarly effects to those stated above, although predicted to have an additional positive effect upon the economy (alongside site specific effects such as Pentre Awel and Yr Egin promoting education and health and wellbeing). Despite the significant social-economic benefits these sites are likely to foster, their large footprint is likely to represent substantial losses of greenfield and associated natural resources, including higher tier agriculturally important soils. Additionally, Gypsy and Traveller sites will help promote inclusion and ensure local needs are met.

6.9.4 Employment sites were predicted to have a major positive impact upon the economy and, as all were found to be in area of sufficient accessibility/transport, will collectively help to ensure that a variety of career opportunities are delivered over the Plan period. On an individual level, these sites will benefit their respective communities and local economy, and may facilitate learning new skills. Although partly dependent on the businesses ultimately operating on these premises, likely negatively effects will be created upon biodiversity, air quality, and material assets through an increase in resource consumption. Collectively, the scale of employment/retail allocations (as supported by housing provision) would help to meet the economic potential and increase prosperity of the County over the Plan period.

6.9.5 As discussed within individual commentary, a limited number of allocations were found within or immediately adjacent to phosphate sensitive SAC catchments (34 allocations), in addition to Registered Historic Landscapes (26), AQMAz (6), Scheduled Moments (5), and peatlands (1). Where appropriate, proposed mitigative policies were suggested.

6.9.6 Several allocations were in areas determined at present or future risk of flooding, potentially hindering efforts to promote climate resilience. Mitigation measures must ensure that this risk (alongside the appropriateness of allocation siting) is sufficiently remediated. It is important to highlight that the secondary and cumulative effects from these allocations may increase flooding risk of existing properties, particularly if located within the same catchment.

6.10 Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects

6.10.1 In accordance with the *SEA Directive* (paragraph 2.7.3), the purpose of this section is to predict and evaluate the likely cumulative and synergistic effects of all policies and site allocations presented within the rLDP. Table 25 is a summary of those effects noted within commentary within the assessment of the Strategic Policies (Appendix F), Specific Policies (Appendix G), and within individual site appraisals.

Table 25 – Summary of Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic effects of all policies and site allocations in the rLDP.

ISA Objective	Overall Score	Description
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	The rLDP encourages development to incorporate principles of sustainability by promoting a greater consideration of the socioenvironmental system. Therefore, the cumulative effect placed upon ISA1 arisen from the allocation is predicted to be positive. Where feasible, mitigating policies work in synergy to promote living within environmental limits (SP12, SP15, SP16), nevertheless this remains dependent on how the policy and allocations are implemented.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	+/-	Many mitigating policies work in synergy to maintain, enhance, and promote biodiversity resources, habitats, and the resilience of ecosystems, throughout the County (likely upholding the Section 6 Duty). As foreseen by the likely effect of ISA from rLDP allocation biodiversity gross loss will occur (especially for greenfield and rural sites). In accordance with the mitigation hierarchy outlined within the relevant specific policies in SP15, it is promoted that in new development would first avoid negative effects. Additionally, the cumulative impact of requiring developments to create net benefits for biodiversity is likely to be significantly positive, and the consideration made for the management of invasive species (contained within PSD1) compliments this. Whilst this requirement is substantial and goes beyond offsetting the impacts associated with creating new developments, the cumulative secondary effects from disturbance, increased air/soil/noise pollution, and (potentially) landscape alteration is likely to lead to detrimental impacts for biodiversity within the County but also transient species, and wherever the effects of environmental pollution are felt.
ISA3 – Air Quality	+/-	Several policies are likely to synergistically reduce the need to travel by encouraging walking and cycling, and the siting of new development has thought to the provision of public transport infrastructure. Nevertheless, the scale of the development proposed in the rLDP (e.g., growth in housing and employment) and the secondary impact of those factors (i.e., increasing traffic, resource consumption) is likely to lead to a cumulatively increase in air pollutants. This may be partially offset by the additional provision of electric chargers within new developments, aligning with national policy. Over the long-term, it is difficult to determine at this stage the effect upon ground level ozone, however widespread siting of new development is predicted to reduce pressure on AQMAs. The cumulative effect of development is predicted to increase air pollution although is likely to not pose a concentrated risk.

ISA Objective	Overall Score	Description
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	The increased flooding risk associated with the long-term impact of Climate Change may exacerbate present issues and pose a future (long term) risk to new developments within certain flood zones (although due consideration of TAN15 DAMs and SFCA has been given, there are extensive flood risk areas throughout the County and not all allocations are free from risk). It is difficult to determine at this stage whether proposed GBI, SuDS, (including certain mitigation measures under CCH4) would synergistically counteract the effects of flooding on a strategic level, however, the cumulative impacts from the widespread distribution of allocations according to SP3 are predicted to be both positive and negative (4-2 and 4-3). The scale of the development proposed with the rLDP (e.g., growth in housing and employment) and the secondary impact of those factors (i.e., increasing traffic, resource consumption) is likely to lead to a cumulatively gross increase in greenhouse gas emissions. It is dependent on the implementation of national and local policy whether this would be a net increase, although baseline data suggests it is unlikely for this to occur during the plan period.
ISA5 – Water	+	With reference to the reason why revisions of the rLDP had to be undertaken, the cumulative effects from implementing the proposed mitigation outlined in specific policy CCH4: Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources, will minimise diffuse pollution and safeguard water quality of water resources within the affected areas, in addition to cumulatively increase water quality through the County. This has secondary effects on the protection of biodiversity, soil health, and landscape integrity, ensuring their enjoyment for future generations. New development coupled with the promotion of SuDS, PSD3/12, SP14, CCH4 are likely to synergistically increase water efficiency, safeguard coastal areas (and avoid impacts of erosion), and/or mitigate pollution.
ISA6 – Material Assets	+/-	The setting of allocations and the integration of different modes of transport through the promoting sustainable modes of transport and thoughtful access as a design consideration, work in synergy to ensure access needs are met locally and across the County. This as a secondary impact, is likely to reduce air emissions associated with travel and provide residents access to community facilities (especially within sustainable villages). Specific policy WM1 is dedicated to the promotion of the sustainable management of waste in all new development as a method of encourage higher rates of recycling and reduce the production of waste. Whilst cumulatively the impact across all allocations is likely to be significant, it is unlikely to offset an overall increase in the consumption of finite resources and waste generation by the creation of additional developments.
ISA7 – Soil	+/-	Whilst promoting the regeneration of contaminated land, the cumulative losses of finite quality soil resources from development occurring on greenfield sites (and those rates highly through the ALC in addition to a few instances of peatlands) will be widespread. Nevertheless, the distribution settlement framework ensures negative impacts are not concentrated within a given area, and is more likely to lead to the utilisation of dispersed brownfield fields throughout the County

ISA Objective	Overall Score	Description
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage & Historic Environment	+/-	SP15 and multiple specific policies within the rLDP work in synergy to promote sustainable design which reflects local character and distinctiveness, in addition preserve assets of cultural and historic significance by either avoiding or mitigating negative impacts arisen from new development, as feasibly possible. In principle, this achieved by necessitating development is respectful to local context through appropriate setting, and design which enhances the cultural and historic qualities of the area. However, cumulative impacts attributed to the loss of greenfield and open spaces may irreplaceably alter landscape integrity and vista to/from associated Conservation Areas and Scheduled Monuments. The provisions made to Listed Buildings within BHE1 ensure their conservation provides social, cultural, economic, and environmental benefits are retained for future generations, and provide a sense of place which influences wellbeing and social fabric.
ISA9 – Landscape	+/-	The influence on landscape from development remains site specific however, the sustainable distribution settlement framework (SP3) generally ensures that no one place would undergo significant landscape/townscape changes throughout the plan period and ensures that the scale of further development is in keeping with that of the existing. Encouragements are made to the future use of derelict land (contaminated). BHE2: Landscape Character and PSD1 (alongside requirements made for specific types of development e.g., CCH1/2/7) is likely to synergistically ensure new development reflects local context through consideration of layout and landscape design, and that it is appropriate to the characteristics of the specific site and local area. However, synergistic negative effects on ISA9 are attributed to the loss of Carmarthenshire’s unique greenfield sites and open spaces through several anthropogenic pressures (e.g., directly from development, or indirectly through air/water pollution and climate change). Additionally, whilst mitigation will cumulatively help avoid/mitigate negative impacts (as aforementioned), the effects of development in Tier 4 (rural villages with no development limits) cannot be ruled out completely.
ISA10 – Population	++	The spread, variety, and scale of allocations, in addition to the provision for sustainable, climate-resilient, and affordable housing, cumulatively ensures housing need is met for both urban and rural communities, leading to the retention of younger people, the inclusion of disadvantaged and/or minority groups, and facilitating growth of the Welsh Language, for present and future generations. Housing in rural areas will likely ensure the long-term viability of local community facilities, contributing to social inclusion, access to education and employment, and leading to air quality benefits within this areas. Employment-related developments and supportive policies relating to existing businesses will likely have secondary demographical impacts.

ISA Objective	Overall Score	Description
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+	In keeping with Welsh Language requirements and Carmarthenshire’s linguistic sensitivity, a key consideration of the rLDP is to encourage growth of the Welsh language and culture. This is upheld through dedicated policies SP8 and WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments and is implied through others including PSD1 by requiring development to reflect local context (e.g., cultural characteristics) and PSD9 (advertisements and bilingualism). With considerations made to the number and setting of new development allocations, and additional synergistic influence from requiring proposals to submit a Welsh Language Impact Assessment or Language Action Plan (scale dependent), further development is predicted to cumulatively uphold ISA11 by helping to provide homes for the next generation of Welsh Speakers (encouraging the retention of young people) and provide non-Welsh speaking families (including those from inward migration) access to Welsh-language learning opportunities the long-term, coupled with increases in Welsh-medium schools (and strategic sites). With these requirements in place in conjunction with the sustainable distribution settlement framework (SP3), it is unlikely that the scale of development in both rural and urban communities would discernibly dilute rates of Welsh speaking.
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+	Sustainable design related policies and the requirement made under the provisions of open space (5+ dwellings) for recreation will work synergistically alongside the protection afforded to the natural and historic environment to promote (and ensure the permeance of) access to Wales’ natural and cultural heritage, creating active, healthy lifestyles, and mental health and wellbeing benefits. Alternative means of transportation through walking or cycling will add to this, in addition to the secondary effects of promoting electric vehicles which will likely reduce noise and air pollution.
ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	The distribution of allocations through the sustainable settlement framework (SP3) likely ensures that no cumulative negative pressure is placed upon local educational capacity, placements and facilitates. This assess will have the secondary effect of contributing increasing literacy and numeracy levels. The promotion of Welsh Language through WL1 is also likely to increase levels of literacy. The provision of strategic sites and employment/retail land and the protection afforded to the natural and historic environment will work synergistically to improve a range of opportunities for life-long learning.
ISA14 – Economy	++	The cumulative impact of allocating employment/mixed-use sites and supporting employment-rated development for existing businesses (e.g., farm diversification, home based businesses) is predicted to be a major positive benefit to local employment rates and provide quality employment opportunities for all sections of the population (including green jobs through an improved focus on renewable energy). Strategic sites facilitating technological innovation will not only directly support the economy and local communities, but potentially attracts further investment. Improved health and wellbeing, social fabric, educational opportunities, and levels of attainment, in addition to promoting the inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups into society (e.g., Gypsy and Traveller sites) and the retention of young people, will would further improve the employability of Carmarthenshire’s workforce, and synergistical improve the local economy and interrelated socioeconomic factors.

ISA Objective	Overall Score	Description
ISA15 – Social Fabric	++	SP12 and the theme of multiple specific policies promotes the design of settlements to improve social fabric by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions. The likely effects arisen from these policies will interact with those obtained from the promotion of affordable housing and the sustainable distribution settlement framework (SP3), to improve accessibility to services and create high-quality urban fabric, in addition to the likely continuation of services in rural areas for future generations.

7. ISA Summary

7.0.1 Overall, the rLDP 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 and more affordable housing, access to open space and active travel facilities.

7.0.2 As is the case with most development, some potential negative effects are predicted, with particular regards to biodiversity, air quality, water quality and climatic factors. However, these negative impacts can be reduced and/or avoid entirely with the proposed mitigation measures. This ISA (incorporating the SA/SEA Environmental Report) of the rLDP Deposit Plan makes several recommendations that will provide or strengthen mitigation which can decrease the risk of these predicted. These are outlined in Appendices F and G. Most suggestive enhancements to mitigation measures made by this appraisal have already been implemented within the rLDP, due to the iterative nature of both documents. Typically, these consisted of minor alterations to wording to strengthen policies that would further safeguard their influence upon the ISA objectives. Collectively, this has ensured that sustainability is upheld, and has been fully considered at all parts of the plan making process.

7.0.3 With relation to assessing the effects upon biodiversity, the conclusions of the HRA found that the Deposit Plan will have no likely significant effect, either alone or in combination, on any European sites, except for several identified potential effect mechanisms. These include general disturbance effects on SPA Assemblages of Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Site (CBEEMS), in addition to specific noise and light pollution effects as a result of SG3 and growth located upon the Pembrey Peninsula; habitat fragmentation by growth proposed in Principal Centre 3 Ammanford/Cross Hands potentially impacting Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC; Surface water contamination with potential effects on River Tywi SAC, River Teifi SAC, CBEEMS and Cardigan Bay SAC; and the disturbance of otter features as a result of particular identified allocations. As mitigation measures were considered as part of the HRA assessment, it was concluded that these aspects of the Plan will have no adverse effect on the integrity of any European sites (assuming the recommendations are effectively implemented). Additionally, a targeted action plan has been developed to resolve likely adverse impacts upon water resources (i.e., compliance issues and the integrity of riverine SACs) for those allocations located within a phosphate sensitive catchment – mitigating those adverse effect upon ISA5 highlighted in Table 24. In conclusion, these factors work in synergy with the cumulative impact of requiring certain developments to create net benefits for biodiversity, likely create positive effects for ISA2 and aid efforts towards the Nature Emergency.

7.0.4 Discussed below, the integrated components of this assessment have ensured all statutory requirements place upon the Local Authority, in addition to those undertaken to ensure a more holistic approach, have been considered with relation to the scope and function of the rLDP.

7.0.5 The EqIA was undertaken at several developmental stages throughout the preparation of the rLDP and noted the potential for high impacts in the following characteristics; Age, Disability, Race, and the Welsh language; alongside the need to uphold the Social-Economic Duty. Mitigation measures are explicitly highlighted within these assessment (Appendix I), although commentary has been further reflected where relevant (particularly within the assessment of the strategic/specific policies), and suggested monitoring has been outlined to ensure no disproportionate effect is placed upon all protected characters. Overall, the policies

appraised in this present report were predicted to have no likely disproportionate adverse effect upon protected characteristics. In addition to the ISA Report, a follow up EqIA will be conducted following consultation to ensure all amendments adhere to equality principles.

7.0.6 Analogous with the commentary provided/signposted within this present ISA report, the WLIA findings that the Preferred Spatial Strategy for rLDP is a minor positive, compared to business as usual – although please refer to paragraph 2.5.3 in the WLIA stating the caveats surrounding any assumptions and the likelihoods which help signify the magnitude of potential change. However, given the demographical variation in each cluster, particular differences are likely to be seen within Amman Gwendraeth (cluster 3). The chosen Preferred Growth Option was found to have a realistic possibility of encouraging and realising an overall growth in the number of Welsh speakers – particularly amongst younger age groups. While some uncertainty remains due to the lack of robust evidence, the WLIA concludes that it is difficult to determine the secondary, cumulative, and synergistic effects upon the Welsh Language.

7.0.7 While no likely negative effects were predicted to be directly place upon physical and mental health (HIA), environmentally related health issues attributed from exposure to traffic noise, air pollutants, and water contamination were found to be secondary effects. The rLDP has promoted principles of placemaking, good design, and specific mitigation measures in response these effects. Additionally, the provision of new open spaces, active travel, and promoting access to assets of natural and cultural heritage, were identified to have a positive and cumulative influence upon the collective health of local communities. Nevertheless, the following proposed monitoring framework has taken a particular focus to include multiple indicators associated with these attributing factors to ensure these issues are sufficiently addressed.

7.0.8 Consideration to the WBFGA well-being goals, accompanied by those from Carmarthenshire's PSB and Council, were integral to the preparation of the Plan. The findings of this assessment indicate that the rLPD has the potential to support improvements in the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of the County (compared with the current baseline), given the relation to the ISA Framework. However, while remaining dependent upon a myriad of forces outside the scope of the rLDP, it is important that the Plan's policies and associated mitigate measures are effectively implemented to achieve this, and, as such, over 23 Supplementary Planning Guidance are planned to aid contextual understanding of the of interpretation policies, ultimately supporting the provision of sustainable development.

8. Monitoring Framework

8.0.1 The *Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (Article 17)*⁵² require that the significant environmental effects of the Plan be monitored so that any *unforeseen adverse effects* can be appropriately remediated. The *SEA Directive* further recognised that it may be difficult to identify and implement monitoring mechanisms for unexpected effects, or, where such monitoring takes place, to attribute adverse effects to implementation of the Plan. In accordance with the associated European Commission guidance (paragraph 8.12)⁵³, unforeseen adverse effects are understood as ‘...*shortcomings of the prognostic statements in the Environmental Report (e.g., regarding the predicted intensity of an environmental effect) or unforeseen effects resulting from changes of circumstances, which have led to certain assumptions in the environmental assessment being partly or wholly invalidated*’.

8.0.2 Monitoring helps understand the impacts of the implementation of the Plan (as a whole) and ensures evidence is kept up to date, which will ultimately assist in future reviews of the rLDP. Monitoring needs to consider both the likely positive and negative effects of the rLDP. It must also examine cumulative, secondary, and synergistic effects over and above the effects of the individual measures, and throughout the lifespan of the Plan. In keeping with the integrated nature of the present assessment, the requirements under Article 17 have been met in addition to all ISA objectives and, therefore, by extension so have those considerations and requirements stated in paragraph 1.6.

8.0.3 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 will typically include the analysis of the reasons for missing the target with feedback provided to those responsible for Plan and their subsequent review of the Policy in question.

8.0.4 Supplementary to the monitoring of environmental effects, all ISA themes and all but one objectives have been screened into the ISA Monitoring Framework, which is outlined in Table 27 alongside reference to the intended sources of information. ISA objectives without a corresponding monitoring indicator are due to the current absence of suitable indicator (on a local level), and whilst national indicators (including WBAFG) would work in some instances, these are deemed unsuitable as they are beyond the sole influence of the Plan itself. Whilst much of the data will come from within the Authority, reliable external sources are also featured (which were initially identified within the baseline information, Table 11 of Appendix B).

8.0.5 The proposed assessment criteria is outlined in Table 26. Within the AMR, outcome of this assessment criteria will be accompanied with a detailed commentary of how this outcome was determined (an analysis of all relevant data associated with that indicator and an overall conclusion). Potential remedial actions that could be taken if a significant negative effect is identified (e.g., review aspects of the Plan that are causing the effects and make amendments where appropriate, develop mitigation measures), and thresholds for remedial action are also provided.

8.0.6 To avoid duplication between the monitoring carried out for the ISA (incorporating the SEA requirement) and the rLDP, some indicators have been combined for the two processes to aid clarity (as indicated in Table 27 by an asterisks). The full rLDP Monitoring Framework is set out in Chapter 12 of the Deposit Plan. Monitoring activities and reporting will be incorporated within the rLDP Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). Monitoring will commence

⁵² [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes \(Wales\) Regulations 2004](#)

⁵³ [Implementation of directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment](#)

once the rLDP has been adopted. There may be certain circumstances (e.g., changes in legislation, developments in data collection/indicators allowing for the observation of an unforeseen adverse impact) which may require the ISA Monitoring Framework to be amended (i.e., adaptive management). If this were to occur, this will be explicitly highlighted and reasoned within the corresponding AMR.

Table 26 – Proposed ISA Monitoring Framework assessment criteria applicable to the individual assessment of monitoring indicators in addition to the overall summary of the ISA objective.

Symbol	Description	Remedial Action (including trigger point, where appropriate)
+	Target(s) achieved.	No action required.
+/-	Targets have been achieved whilst others have not (only applicable to the overall summary of those ISA objectives with multiple monitoring indicators).	Refer to the specific outcome of the individual monitoring indicators.
-	Target(s) not achieved and there are concerns over implementation of the Plan and/or specific policy(s).	Appropriate remedial action needed (action triggered by trigger point indicated outlined within the rLDP, or target missed for four consecutive AMR periods, or whenever deemed necessary by those responsible for undertaking the ISA monitoring to respond to significant adverse impacts, uncertainties, and future changes beyond the Plan's immediate control).
0	Target(s) has not been achieved but there no concerns over implementation the Plan and/or specific policy(s) (potentially impacted by external factors beyond influence of the Plan itself).	No action required. If uncertain, seek additional information/data sources and re-evaluate, where possible.
?	No conclusion can be drawn at this stage.	Seek additional information/data sources and re-evaluate, where possible.
N/A	Not applicable	Consider relevance of monitoring indicator assessing the ISA objective and review ISA Framework, if necessary.

Table 27 – Proposed ISA Monitoring Framework. Those indicators concerning the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan, as necessitated by Article 17 (SEA), are highlighted in grey. * = Indicator relates to rLDP Monitoring Indicator (MI) as found in Chapter 12 (rLDP).

ISA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Target	Data Source
ISA1 Sustainable Development			
1-1 To live within environmental limits	Monitored via ISA2, ISA3, ISA4, ISA5, ISA6, ISA7		
1-2 To ensure a strong, healthy, and just society	Monitored via ISA10, ISA11, ISA12, ISA13, ISA14, ISA15.		
1-3 To achieve a sustainable economy	Monitored via ISA6, ISA10, ISA14.		
1-4 To remove barriers and promoting opportunities for behavioural change	* MI. 36 – Local Indicator: Production of SPG on Placemaking and Sustainable Places. Post Adoption: All development applications granted in accordance with SP12 and SPG, where appropriate.	Adopt SPG by October/November 2024 Post Adoption: All development applications are granted in accordance with SP12.	Carmarthenshire County Council (Planning Department)
	Percentage of people who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local areas by local authority and year	Annual increase	National Survey Indicators (StatsWales) https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/National-Survey-for-Wales/Local-Area-and-Environment/percentagewhofeelabletoinfluencedecisionsaffectingtheirlocalareas-by-localauthority-year
	% of adults (16+) living in households in material deprivation within Carmarthenshire	Annual reduction	National Survey Indicators (StatsWales) https://statswales.gov.wales/v/MRi5/Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation by local authority (gov.wales)
	% of households in Carmarthenshire which live in poverty (household income is less than 60% of the GB median income)	Annual reduction	Carmarthenshire County Council (e.g., Annual Report For Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire)
ISA2 Biodiversity			
2-1 To promote resilience of ecosystems by avoiding the damage or fragmentation of designated sites, habitats, and	Number of planning applications granted which have an adverse effect on the: a) SACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites	No applications granted which have had an adverse effect on a), b) c), and/or d)	Carmarthenshire County Council (Planning Department)

ISA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Target	Data Source
protected species and to encourage connectivity.	b) integrity of designated site for nature conservation c) favourable conservation status/objectives of European protected species d) priority species and habitats		
	All development applications granted in accordance with SP 14 (including the containing specific policies), where appropriate.	No applications granted against the specialist advice of the Rural Conservation.	Carmarthenshire County Council (Rural Conservation)
2-2 To protect, enhance and create appropriate wildlife habitats and wider biodiversity in urban and rural areas	% of permitted developments that incorporate biodiversity enhancement (including net benefits for biodiversity), and/or mitigation strategies.	All applications granted have due consideration to their impact upon biodiversity and incorporate mitigation in accordance to the mitigation hierarchy whenever necessary.	Carmarthenshire County Council
	* MI. 38 – Local Indicator: The provision of Green and Blue Infrastructure in the County (ha).	Annual increase	
	* MI. 40 – Local Indicator: The amount of identified open space lost to development. Also provide the area (ha) of greenspaces and/or protective environmental designations in Carmarthenshire for additional context.	No identified open space should be lost to development except where in accordance with Policy PSD7	
	* MI. 43 – Local Indicator: Continue to work towards securing a minimum of 100 ha of suitable habitat for the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly within the Caeau Mynydd Mawr SPG project.	Increase in every AMR period in the area of managed habitat in suitable condition; or increase in the favourable condition of habitat within the project area.	Caeau Mynydd Mawr Project Steering Group Carmarthenshire County Council – Performance Improvement Management System (PIMS)
ISA3 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.	Annual reduction	Future Generations Indicator 4 https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Air-

ISA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Target	Data Source
			Quality/airqualityindicators-by-localauthority Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) monitored by Carmarthenshire County Council Public Health. Air Quality Wales
	Number of breaches of EU/UK NO2 Air Quality objectives in AQMAs within Carmarthenshire. a) Llanelli b) Llandelio c) Carmarthen	No breaches of NO2 within a), b), and c).	Air Quality Wales
3-2 To reduce levels of ground level ozone	All development applications granted in accordance with CCH3, where appropriate.	All applications granted meet the requirement set out in CCH3 where applicable.	Carmarthenshire County Council
	As of 2023, ground ozone is not routinely monitored within Carmarthenshire. Unless monitoring was to begin during the plan period, a reduction in motor vehicle traffic inferring an increased use of public transport, or walking/cycling infrastructure, has been used in proxy (unless another suitable indicator becomes apparent). See below.	(same as below)	(same as below)
3-3 To reduce the need to travel through appropriate siting of new developments and provision of public transport infrastructure	A reduction in motor vehicle traffic (Total volume of traffic calculated as vehicle miles).	Annual decrease in total volume (vehicle miles) of traffic.	Total volume (vehicle miles) of traffic – Department for Transport (DfT) https://roadtraffic.dft.gov.uk/local-authorities Road traffic statistics - Local authorities across Great Britain (dft.gov.uk)
ISA4 Climatic Factors			
4-1 To reduce the emission of greenhouse gases	Annual local authority carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions dataset (revised)	Annual decrease in total volume of CO2 emitted.	The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1008815/2005-

ISA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Target	Data Source
	NB: Other greenhouse gases not currently measured sufficiently on a local authority level (include if becomes available within the Plan period)		19_Local_Authority_CO2_emissions.csv/preview
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	MI. 51 – Key Indicator: Amount of highly vulnerable development (by TAN15 paragraph 5.1 development category) permitted in C2 flood risk zones not meeting all TAN15 tests (paragraph 6.2 i-v).	No applications permitted for highly vulnerable development in C1 and C2 flood risk zone contrary to NRW advice.	
	All development applications granted in accordance with NE 7 (including the containing specific policies), where appropriate.	No applications granted which do not adhere to NE 7	
4-3 To encourage all new developments to be climate resilient	All development applications granted in accordance with SP 12 and SP 16 (including the containing specific policies), where appropriate.	No applications granted which do not adhere to SP 12	Carmarthenshire County Council (Planning Department)
4-4 To encourage energy conservation and higher energy efficiency	All development applications are encouraged to maximise energy efficiency (paragraph 11.496) in accordance with SP 16 (including the containing specific policies), where appropriate.	Number of applications granted which demonstrate high energy efficiency (satisfactory to national building standards, requirements, and targets).	Carmarthenshire County Council Reference is made to https://gov.wales/energy-efficiency-strategy
4-5 To minimise energy consumption and promote renewable energy sources	The amount of energy produced in the County from renewable sources through the: a) Number of, and b) Installed capacity permitted renewable energy and low carbon technology developments. Relates to * MI. 53	Annual increase in a) and b)	Carmarthenshire County Council (Planning Department)
ISA5 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	NRW Abstraction management plans https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/water-management-and-quality/water-available-in-our-catchments/?lang=en

ISA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Target	Data Source
	Number of water bodies at 'good' classification status or above for a) Ecological status b) Chemical status (presented as a % off all monitored waterbodies)	a) Increase b) Increase	Natural Resources Wales Water Watch https://waterwatchwales.naturalresources.wales.gov.uk/en/
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	Static / No reduction	Reference: https://gov.wales/topics/planning/buildingregs/approved-documents/part-g-sanitation/?lang=en CCC Building Control
	All development applications granted do not adversely impact upon Source Protection Zones (SPZs) and undertake a Hydrogeological Risk Assessment, whenever necessary.	All applications granted have due consideration to their hydrogeological impact and incorporate mitigation whenever necessary.	Carmarthenshire County Council
5-3 To minimise diffuse pollution from urban and rural areas	% of permitted sites that incorporate SuDS or other sustainable water management.	Increasing	
	MI. 54 Local Indicator: Production of SPG on Water Quality – Protected Riverine SACs Post Adoption: All development applications granted in accordance with SP16 and CCH4 (including corresponding SPG), where appropriate.	Adopt SPG by October/November 2024 Post Adoption: All development applications are granted in accordance with CCH4.	
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 Part G of Schedule 1 and regulation 36 to the Building Regulations 2010. * MI. 1 – Indicator Required by Legislation: Number of net additional open market dwellings and affordable homes built in the Plan area (proxy – assuming all development meet building regulations).	All applications granted have due consideration to these requirements.	Specific reference is made to https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/building-regulations-guidance-part-g-sanitation-hot-water-safety-and-water-efficiency.pdf
	Reference to monitoring indicators within 4-2.		

ISA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Target	Data Source
5-5 To make space for water, and minimise and reduce flood risk	Number of properties (homes and businesses) at medium or high risk of flooding from rivers and the sea	Static/Reduce	Future Generations National Indicator 32 https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Flooding/environment-and-countryside-state-of-the-environment-our-local-environment-properties-at-risk-of-flooding
ISA6 Material Assets			
6-1 Minimise the use of finite resources and promote higher resource efficiency and the use of secondary and recycled materials	* MI. 59 – Local Indicator: The amount of hard rock landbank	Maintain a minimum aggregate landbank of 10 years for hard rock	Carmarthenshire County Council
	* MI. 60 – Local Indicator: The amount of sand and gravel landbank	Maintain a minimum landbank for sand and gravel of 7 years.	
6-2 Promote the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, and recycle	Percentage of Waste reuse/recycling/composting (by Local Authority)	Increase annually	StatsWales https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Waste-Management/Local-Authority-Municipal-Waste/annualreuse recyclingcompostingrates-by-localauthority-year
6-3 Encourage needs to be met locally	* MI. 63 – Local Indicator: Monitor planning permissions for waste management facilities	Maintain sufficient capacity to meet local need (in accordance with Council strategies and policies)	Carmarthenshire County Council
	* = MI.27 – The delivery of key infrastructure that underpins the Plan's strategy	Monitor the development of new infrastructure, such as road and rail improvements, utility, and biodiversity enhancements.	Carmarthenshire County Council
	* MI. 29 – Local Indicator: Production of SPG on Planning Obligations.	Adopt SPG by October/November 2024	

ISA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Target	Data Source
	Post Adoption: Ensure Planning Obligations are sort in in accordance with INF1 and SPG (and relating to NE4, NE3, NE1, PSD8, PSD6, SP9, AHOM2).	Post adoption: All applications granted have due consideration to these requirements as forehold by the % of developments which Planning Obligations were made.	
	Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/access facilities and services they need	Increase in the percentage of adults (16+) that agree with this statement.	National Survey Indicators 25 https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/National-Survey-for-Wales/Local-Area-and-Environment/percentageofpeoplesatisfiedwithaccesstofacilitiesandservices
6-4 Promote the use of more sustainable resources	Total final energy consumption at local authority level (ktoe) (until electric cars are more frequently monitored at local authority level)	Increase in bioenergy; Decrease in all other non-renewable fuel sources.	The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/total-final-energy-consumption-at-regional-and-local-authority-level-2005-to-2020
	* MI. 55 Local Indicator: Produce SPG on Electric and Ultra Low Emission Vehicles in Developments Post Adoption: Ensure Electric Vehicle Charging Points are sort in in accordance with CCH3 and SPG	Adopt SPG by Summer 2025 Post adoption: All applications granted have due consideration to these requirements	
6-5 Improve the integration of different modes of transport	* MI. 56 – Local Indicator: Progress toward the implementation of identified road scheme	Implementation in accordance with the delivery timetables	Carmarthenshire County Council (Planning Department)
	* MI. 58 – Local Indicator: Implementation of Welsh Government Road Schemes – including Llandeilo Bypass	n/a - contextual information	
6-6 Promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport (e.g., cycling and walking)	* MI. 57 – Local Indicator: Amount of walking and cycling infrastructure granted planning permission	Increase in the number of schemes permitted	

ISA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Target	Data Source
ISA7 Soil			
7-1 To promote the regeneration of contaminated land. (previously developed land)	Amount of new development (ha) permitted on previously developed land (brownfield redevelopment and conversions) expressed as a % of all development permitted.	Increase and maintain	Carmarthenshire County Council (Planning Department)
7-2 To avoid loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces and minimised soil erosion	Monitored by 5-3.		
7-3 To reduce SO2 and NOx emissions, and nitrate pollution from agriculture	No indicator currently available.		
ISA8 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 against the advice of built heritage.	No development permitted against the advice of built heritage and, where appropriate, mitigation is followed.	Carmarthenshire County Council
	* MI. 50 – Local Indicator: Production of SPG on the Built and Historic Environment. Post Adoption: Ensure all development proposals are in accordance with SP15 and SPG, where appropriate.	Adopt SPG by December 2025 Post adoption: All applications granted have due consideration to these requirements	
	* MI. 49 – Local Indicator: Production of SPG on Archaeology Post Adoption: Ensure all development proposals are in accordance with SP15 and SPG, where appropriate.	Adopt SPG by October/November 2024 Post adoption: All applications granted have due consideration to these requirements	
8-2 To promote high quality design reflecting local character and distinctiveness	Number of applications refused on design grounds.	No developments permitted which are contrary to rLDP policies.	Carmarthenshire County Council (Planning Department)

ISA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Target	Data Source
ISA9 Landscape			
9-1 To protect and enhance landscape/townscape from negative effects of land use change	<p>MI. 48 Local Indicator: Production of SPG on Landscape Character.</p> <p>Post Adoption: Ensure all development proposals are in accordance with SP14 and SPG, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Adopt SPG by Summer 2025.</p> <p>Post adoption: All applications granted have due consideration to these requirements</p>	Carmarthenshire County Council
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 upon landscape.	No developments permitted which are contrary to rLDP policy.	
9-3 To encourage appropriate future use of derelict land (assumed previously developed land)	Monitored by 7-1		
ISA10 Population			
10-1 Ensure suitable, affordable housing stock with access to education and employment facilities	* MI. 13 – Key Indicator: The level of affordable housing completions monitored against the plan’s overarching target.	To deliver 1700 affordable homes in total by 2033. To deliver 113 affordable homes annually.	Carmarthenshire County Council
	* MI. 14 – Key Indicator: Tenure of affordable housing completions.	Tenure split (social rented and intermediate) in line with need identified in the Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA).	
	* MI. 15 – Key Indicator: Trends in key determinants of market conditions and viability such as, house prices, land values, build costs.	Policy requirements are reflective of the current economic circumstances and financial viability.	Council Valuers

ISA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Target	Data Source
	* MI. 16 – Key Indicator: Delivery of the affordable housing policy - thresholds and percentage targets for each housing allocation site with a permission.	The proportion of affordable dwellings permitted on residential allocations should be in accordance with Policy AHOM1.	Carmarthenshire County Council
10-2 Promote the retention of younger people	Reduced outward migration of people aged a) 0 – 14 b) 15 – 29 c) 30 – 44 who reside in Carmarthenshire	Decrease annually	Internal migration flows from Welsh local authorities to the rest of the UK – StatWales https://statswales.gov.wales/v/MRid Migration between Wales and the rest of the UK by local authority, flow, sex and age (gov.wales)
10-3 Promote inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups in society	% of people agreeing that they belong to the area; that people from different background get on well together; and that people treat each other with respect.	Increase	Well-being of Wales: indicators (Local Authority) Table Well-being of Wales: indicators Well-being People, communities and equalities Data Home - InfoBaseCymru
	* MI. 31 – Key Indicator: Gypsy and Traveller sites / pitches built on allocated sites.	To provide the required pitches identified within the GTAA.	Carmarthenshire County Council
ISA11 The Welsh Language			
11-1 Encourage growth of the Welsh language and culture	* MI. 26 – Local Indicator: % of people who can speak Welsh	Increase the proportion of Welsh speakers in the County	Future Generations National Indicator 24 Wales National Survey Carmarthenshire County Council
	* MI. 25 – Local Indicator: Planning applications supported by Welsh Language Action Plans or Welsh Language Impact Assessments	All planning applications supported in accordance with Policy WL1.	Carmarthenshire County Council

ISA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Target	Data Source
	* MI. 24 – Local Indicator: Production of SPG on Welsh Language and New Developments. Post Adoption: Ensure all development proposals are in accordance with SP8, WL1, and SPG, where appropriate.	Adopt SPG by October/November 2024. Post adoption: All applications granted have due consideration to these requirements	
	* MI. 37 – Local Indicator: Production of SPG on advertisements (guidance on bilingual requirements)	Adopt SPG by Summer 2025 Post adoption: All applications granted have due consideration to these requirements	
ISA12 Health and Well-Being			
12-1 Create opportunities for people to live active, healthy lifestyles through planning activities	* MI. 30 – Local Indicator: Production of SPG on Health Impact Assessments. Post Adoption: Ensure all development proposals are in accordance with SP7, INF2 and SPG, where appropriate.	Adopt SPG by Summer 2025. Post adoption: All applications granted have due consideration to these requirements	Carmarthenshire County Council
	% of adults who reported being overweight or obese	Decreasing	Health (local authority) Reports Home - InfoBaseCymru
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	Active travel reports https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/travel-roads-parking/active-travel/#.W5EARumQzIU
	Reference to 6-3: Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/access facilities and services they need	See relevant indicator within 6-3	
12-3 Encourage walking or cycling as an alternative means of transportation	Monitored by ISA6 (6-6) * = MI.49		

ISA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Target	Data Source
12-4 Promote access to Wales' natural and cultural heritage	Monitored by ISA2 (2-2) * MI. 40, MI. 43		
	Percentage of people attending or participating in arts, culture, or heritage activities at least three times a year (by Local Authority).	An annual increase in the percentage of adults (16+) attending.	Stats Wales https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/National-Survey-for-Wales/Sport-and-Recreation/percentageofpeoplewhoattendorticipateinartcultureheritageactivities3ormoretimesayear-by-localauthority-year
ISA13 Education and Skills			
13-1 Provide accessible educational and training facilities which meet the future need of the area	Pentre Awel – Delivery of zone one element of the site.	Granting of permission for the site during the Plan period.	Carmarthenshire County Council
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).	Annual increase in the % of 18-64 year olds reported having a level 3 + qualification.	Wellbeing of Wales: National Indicator 8 https://gov.wales/wellbeing-wales-national-indicators
ISA14 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	MI. 20 – Key Indicator: Employment land take-up against employment allocations.	No permissions on employment land permitted (ha) on allocated employment sites	Carmarthenshire County Council
	Status of employed persons within the Local Authority	Increases in the number of: a) Total in Employment b) Employees c) Self-employed d) Full-time e) Part-time	StatsWales https://statswales.gov.wales/v/MU8T

ISA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Target	Data Source
	* MI. 22 – Local Indicator: Employment land lost to other land uses (includes identified existing and/or proposed employment sites)	No loss to other uses unless it can be justified through LDP policy.	Carmarthenshire County Council
	* MI. 23 – Local Indicator: Planning permissions for employment uses outside of identified existing or proposed employment sites where they are contrary to the provisions of Policy EME4	Ensure that employment uses outside of proposed and/or identified existing employment sites are in accordance with Policy EME4	
14-3 To promote sustainable businesses in Wales	* MI. 4 – Local Indicator: Vacant Retail Units of commercial properties	Reduce vacancy rates of commercial properties within defined town centre boundary.	Retail and Town Centre Audit
	* MI. 34 – Local Indicator: Total economic impact of tourism in Carmarthenshire	n/a - contextual information	STEAM Report prepared by GTS UK (Carmarthenshire CC Marketing and Media Annual Report)
	* MI. 35 – Local Indicator: Production of SPG on Alternative Luxury Camping Post Adoption: Ensure all development proposals are in accordance with SP11, VE1, VE2, and SPG, where appropriate.	Adopt SPG by October/November 2024 Post adoption: All applications granted have due consideration to these requirements	Carmarthenshire County Council
ISA15 Social Fabric			
15-1 Improve safety and security for people and property	Average annual crime level (Carmarthenshire)	Annual decrease	Police UK https://www.police.uk/pu/performance/
15-2 Promote the design of settlements that improve social fabric by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions	Percentage of people who agree that there is good community cohesion in their local area by local authority and year	Increase Annually	Stats Wales https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/National-Survey-for-Wales/Local-Area-and-Environment/percentageofpeoplewhoagreethatthereisgoodcommunitycohesionintheirlocalarea-by-localauthority-year

ISA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Target	Data Source
	(1-4) * MI. 36 – Local Indicator: Production of SPG on Placemaking and Sustainable Places. Post Adoption: All development applications granted in accordance with SP12 and SPG, where appropriate.	(see 1-4)	Carmarthenshire County Council (Planning Department)
15-3 Promote the deliverability of affordable housing	Monitored by 10-1		
15-4 Improve accessibility to services, particularly for disadvantaged sections of society	Reference to 6-3: Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/access facilities and services they need	See relevant indicator within 6-3	

9. Consultation and Next Steps

9.0.1 This ISA report will be available for public consultation alongside the rLDP Deposit Plan for a 6-week period starting the 30th of January 2023 (TBC). A non-technical summary is also available, in addition to the full version of this 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

9.0.2 The ISA report and rLDP 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 during advertised opening hours.

9.0.3 Responses to this consultation may be made online at 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.

9.0.4 Please note that this ISA report is for the second Deposit version of the Revised LDP and supersedes the previous SA report originally published in January 2020. Any representations submitted in relation to the original Deposit Plan and SA report will not be considered or rolled over as part of this consultation. Therefore, any representations previously submitted should be resubmitted as part of this consultation. Previous representations will no longer be considered and will not be submitted to the Inspector for consideration at the examination in public.

9.0.4 Your views on this ISA Report of the rLDP Deposit Plan 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

Please include 'ISA' within the subject line.

9.0.5 Representations must be received by 4:30pm on the 24th of March 2023 (TBC). Comments submitted after this date will not be considered.

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Appendix A: Review of Relevant Plans, Policies, and Programmes

Appendix A: Review of Relevant Plans, Policies, and Programmes

International: Plan, Policy, or Programme
<p>Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal 1992 (UNEP) https://www.unep.org/resources/report/basel-convention-control-transboundary-movements-hazardous-wastes</p>
<p>Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972 (UNESCO) https://whc.unesco.org/archive/convention-en.pdf</p>
<p>Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 (UNEP) http://www.biodiv.org/default.shtml</p>
<p>Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context 2017 (UNECE) https://unece.org/DAM/env/documents/2017/EIA/Publication/1733290_pdf_web.pdf</p>
<p>Convention on Migratory Species 1979 (UNEP) http://www.cms.int/</p>
<p>Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001 (UNESCO) http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001246/124687e.pdf#page=56</p>
<p>EU Directive 1999/31/EC (The Landfill Directive) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A31999L0031</p> <p>This 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>. 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>

EU Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive)

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32000L0060>

This Directive establishes a framework for the protection and management of surface waters, including rivers, lakes, intertidal/coastal waters, and ground waters in the EU. Its objectives are to prevent further deterioration and enhance the aquatic environment; achieve good ecological and chemical water quality for all surface waters and ground waters unless it is impossible or prohibitively expensive; and promote sustainable water management based on long-term protection of water resources.

EU Directive 2001/42/EC (Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/eudr/2001/42>

The UK has published [practical guidance](#) on applying this Directive to the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

EU Directive 2006/118/EC (Groundwater Directive)

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

EU Directive 2006/7/EC (Bathing Waters Directive)

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

EU Directive 2008/50/EC (New Air Quality Framework Directive)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/quality/legislation/existing_leg.htm

EU Directive 2008/98/EC (Waste Framework Directive)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework/index.htm>

EU Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm

This 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. 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.

EU Directive 91/271/EEC (Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-urbanwaste/index_en.html

EU Directive 91/676/EEC (Nitrates Directive)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-nitrates/directiv.html>

This Directive concerns the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources with the intention of redirecting agriculture toward greater sustainability. The Directive aims to protect fresh, intertidal/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 92/43/CEE (Habitats Directive)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm

This 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.

European Landscape Convention: Florence Convention 2000

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-landscape-convention-florence-20-october-2000>

General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/1d861dfb-ae0c-4638-83ab-69b234bde376>

<p>Glasgow Climate Pact https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2021_10_add1_adv.pdf</p>
<p>Kyoto Protocol 1997 (United Nations) http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php</p>
<p>Paris Agreement 2016 (United Nations) https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf</p>
<p>Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Draft) https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf The draft framework will be presented for consideration at UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) next meeting of its 196 Parties at COP-15, December 2022.</p>
<p>Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 1971 (UNESCO) http://www.ramsar.org/</p>
<p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 1992 (UNEP) http://www.unep.org/Documents.multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=78&ArticleID=1163&l=en</p>
<p>Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2015 https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1 This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. The contained 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all 193 United Nations Member States in 2015. SDGs seek to tackle a wide range of issues facing both developed and developing countries, and include poverty, inequality, climate change, inclusive societies and access to health and education.</p>
<p>United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2016 https://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/A-RES-66-207_88100.pdf</p>
<p>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 1994 https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/background_publications_htmlpdf/application/pdf/conveng.pdf</p>
<p>UK: Plan, Policy, or Programme</p>
<p>Air Quality: UK National Air Pollution Control Programme 2019 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-quality-uk-national-air-pollution-control-programme</p>

As required by the revised National Emission Ceilings Directive 2016/2284/EU, the National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) sets out measures and analysis for the legally binding 2020 and 2030 emission reduction commitments (see Section A1e.5), and how this can be met across the UK.

Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46>

The means by which Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) are afforded legal protection, however, 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.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012>

These 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 UK and to avoid any pollution or deterioration of habitats of wild birds in exercising of all relevant functions.

There are many sites of ecological / geological importance in the county and in this regard, Carmarthenshire has several sites considered to be of international importance for nature conservation. These Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated under European legislation, and within Carmarthenshire include:

- SPA: Burry Inlet (also a Ramsar site), Carmarthen Bay, and Elenydd Mallaen.
- SAC: Afon Teifi, Afon Tywi, Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries, Carmarthen Bay Dunes, Cwm Doethie - Mynydd Mallaen, Caeau Mynydd Mawr, Cernydd Carmel, and Bristol Channel Approaches.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37>

This 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) ranging in size from small fields to large areas of mountain sides and long rivers, covering

a combined total of 17,088 hectares. 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 (NRW) has responsibility for identifying, notifying, and protecting SSSIs. The Act also places a duty on all highway authorities to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) for their area.

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.

Environment Act 1995

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/25>

This Act sort the establishment of sponsored bodies (e.g., NRW) within each of the four countries (as revised). It provides for the transfer of rights, property, and liabilities, with specific regard to the environment. Such responsibilities include making provisions with respect to the control of pollution, the conservation of natural resources and the conservation or enhancement of the environment; National Parks; contaminated land and abandoned mines; and fisheries. The Act also places a duty on the Council to periodically review and assess air quality within its locality. The Air Quality Objectives are set out in the Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations 2010. The [Environment Act 2021](#) is part of a new legal framework for environmental protection post-Brexit, and aims to improve air and water quality, protect wildlife, increase recycling and reduce plastic waste.

Environmental Protection Act 1990

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43>

This Act seeks to improve the protection of the environment through several provisions including the control of pollution arising from certain industrial and other processes, imposing duties to keep public places clear of litter and clean, and to amend the law relating to the control of hazardous substances on, over or under land. 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 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.

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/>

This Act changes the way that coping with the increasing pressures posed by climate change, notably water management. Reference is made to Schedule 3 (January 2019) which mandates Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) on all developments over 100m². The Council is a designated Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Act.

Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23>

This Act 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:

- A new system for marine planning that will cover all the key marine activities;
- Marine Licensing powers were delegated to NRW 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.
- Facilitate the creation of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) to assist in the conservation of marine plants and animals or geological/geomorphological features.

Nature Positive 2030

<https://jncc.gov.uk/our-role/the-uk/nature-positive-2030/>

Nature Positive 2030 has been produced by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Natural England, NRW, NatureScot and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency; and consists of two reports – [a Summary Report](#) and [an Evidence Report](#). Several significant commitments have been made response to the crisis of biodiversity loss, notably through the Leaders' Pledge for Nature launched at the United Nations General Assembly in 2020, and the 30by30 commitment to protect 30% of our land and seas for nature by 2030. Through *Nature Positive 2030*, the five statutory nature conservation bodies of the UK have come together to identify how the UK can succeed in achieving these commitments along with ensuring that nature recovery plays its critical role in achieving net zero.

Securing the Future: Delivery UK Sustainable Development Strategy 2005

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

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy covers the period up to 2020 and is based upon five principles which are living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy, and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.

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

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2017/567>

These Regulations require certain developments to be subject to an assessment of their environmental impact before planning permission can be determined.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/>

There are numerous related Welsh Statutory Instruments that amend the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) including [TCPA \(Use Classes\) \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Order 2022](#) and [TCPA \(General Permitted Development etc.\) \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Order 2022](#).

UK Climate Change Programme 2006

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

This 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.

UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189>

This Framework was developed in response to the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD's) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS) 2011. The former of these, alongside the Aichi Targets, have now expired and the post-2020 is expected to be discussed in December 2022.

Voluntary National Review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uks-voluntary-national-review-of-the-sustainable-development-goals>

The UK's first Voluntary National Review sets out clearly and comprehensively collective efforts on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals since their adoption in 2015. National frameworks capture government priorities in relation to the Goals, with work taking place on multiple levels to strengthen delivery across the UK. This approach recognises and respects the devolution settlements in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Each is responsible for implementing its own policies in areas of devolved competence, resulting in approaches that respond to national and local needs.

Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/>

These Regulations transpose Directive 2000/60/EC in national law. The WFD required 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. It also places various functions and duties on NRW and the Welsh Government to regulate the water environment and it is complemented by other directives including the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Nitrates Directive, both adopted in 1991, and the Bathing Waters Directive, revised in 2006.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

The Act covers protection of wildlife, the countryside, the prevention of 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.

National: Plan, Policy, or Programme

Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2013/7/contents>

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. 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.

Agriculture (Wales) Bill (2022 Draft)

<https://senedd.wales/media/51ncc5s0/pri-ld15330-e.pdf>

This Bill will underpin the delivery of the Sustainable Land Management (SLM) agriculture framework in Wales. A full explanation of the SLM objectives and monitoring process is given in the Bill's explanatory notes. The Bill will also alter the Forestry Act 1967 to give NRW the power to add conditions to amend, suspend or revoke felling licenses to prevent felling that would contradict other environmental legislation, and bans the use of snares and glue traps.

All Wales Plan 2021–2025: Working Together to Reach Net Zero (2022)

<https://gov.wales/working-together-reach-net-zero-all-wales-plan>

The Plan showcases commitments to action which have been made across Wales. [Welsh Government has also published other documents on Net Zero.](#)

Beyond Recycling Circular Economy Strategy 2021

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/beyond-recycling-strategy-document.pdf>

A Strategy which set to make the circular economy in Wales a reality through responsible resources management. It also references the integrated assessment on the impact of the Beyond Recycling strategy on Well-being of Future Generations Act and specifically children's rights.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3>

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 NRW with a 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.
- 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 several existing environmental regulatory regimes including marine licensing, and land drainage and flood risk management.

Section 6 of the Act places a legal obligation on public bodies to 'maintain and enhance biodiversity' in the exercise of their functions. Section 7 of that Act requires Welsh Ministers to publish and maintain lists of species and habitats of 'principal importance' for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing that biodiversity. Awareness of the presence of any priority habitat or species is of importance in the consideration of land for development within the local authority planning process to discharge its duty to conserve biodiversity.

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (2021)

<https://gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040>

Future Wales is the development plan for Wales. It influences all levels of the planning system in Wales and shapes both Strategic and Local Development Plans prepared by councils and national park authorities. It addresses key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, achieving decarbonisation and climate-resilience, developing strong ecosystems, and improving the health and well-being of communities.

Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (Wales) (2015)

<https://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/Guidance/Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-Wales.pdf>

This provides guidance on the planning and design of outdoor sport, play and informal space, formulated on '*a broad recommendation that 6 acres (2.4 hectares) of accessible green space per 1,000 head of population enables residents of all ages to participate*'. The document was revised to reflect policy changes including the National Planning Policy Framework and now includes recommendations on the provision of amenity and natural green space.

Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/4>

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 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Historic Environment (Wales) Bill 2022

<https://senedd.wales/media/qofjukzx/pri-ld15211-e.pdf>

The first statue produced from the consolidation of Bill concerning the historic environment (as implemented through the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019). This Bill safeguards the effective protection and management of the historic environment so that it can continue to contribute to the well-being of Wales and its people.

Housing (Wales) Act 2014

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/7>

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.

Local Development Plan Manual (Edition 3) 2020

<https://gov.wales/development-plans-manual-edition-3-march-2020>

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.

One Wales: One Planet (2009)

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/829/One%20Wales-%20One%20Planet%20%282009%29.pdf>

This Scheme states 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. [A supplementary ecological footprint calculator and practice guidance has also been published.](#)

People, Places, Futures: The Wales Spatial Plan 2008 (update)

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/people-places-future-the-wales-spatial-plan-update-2008.pdf>

The Wales Spatial Plan (WSP) provides an overarching policy context for spatial planning and development in Wales by establishing cross-cutting national priorities over the next 20 years. Carmarthenshire is situated within three of the six sub areas identified in the WSP.

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) – land-use planning issues at the 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.

Planning Policy Wales: Edition 11 (2021)

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

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) is the national land-use planning policy document for Wales. It is used by Local Planning Authorities to inform policies and land-use allocations 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 policy is supplemented by Technical Advice Notes (TAN), circulars, and policy clarification letters, and together they provide our national planning policy framework.

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

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/mtan1-aggregates.pdf>

MTAN1 states 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.

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

<https://gov.wales/minerals-technical-advice-note-mtan-wales-2-coal>

MTAN2 sets out detailed advice on the mechanisms for delivering the policy for coal extraction through surface and underground working and provides advice on best practice. It also identifies how impacts should be assessed, what mitigation measures should be adopted, and the environmental and social costs of operations so that they are properly met by the operator.

PPW Technical Advice Note 1: Joint Housing Land Availability Studies (2015):

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan1-joint-housing-land-availability-studies.pdf>

TAN1 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 set out the need for action in situations where an insufficient supply is identified.

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

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-10-tree-preservation-orders>

TAN10 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)

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-11-noise>

TAN11 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 considered during the consideration of proposals for residential development.

PPW Technical Advice Note 12: Design (2016)

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-12-design>

The purpose of TAN12 is to equip those involved in the design of development with advice on 'Promoting sustainability through good design' and 'Planning for sustainable buildings' and how this 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. TAN12 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. These including 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)

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-13-tourism>

TAN13 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)

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-14-coastal-planning>

TAN14 describes the role of local planning authorities and the range of sectoral and regulatory controls with regard to marine and coastal development. TAN14 also details several issues which must be considered because of their potential effects on physical processes and ground conditions, as well as the overall balance, sensitivity, and conservation of the area. Additionally, it contains guidance around the planning considerations and issues to be included in LDPs and in the determination of planning applications.

PPW Technical Advice Note 15: Development, Flooding and Coastal Erosion (2021)

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan15-development-flood-risk.pdf>

TAN15 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 document supplements the Development Advice Map (DAM) published by NRW. Whilst eventually replacing the original TAN15 published in 2004, [the new TAN15 and Flood Map for Planning has been suspended until 1 June 2023](#).

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

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-16-sport-recreation-and-open-space>

TAN16 sets out 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. Additionally, TAN16

discusses development management issues regarding the design of facilities and spaces, and noise and accessibility, and also considers how planning agreements can help to ensure the provision and maintenance of facilities.

PPW Technical Advice Note 18: Transport (2007)

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-18-transport>

TAN18 describes how to integrate land use and transport planning. It explains how transport impacts should be assessed and mitigated; and includes advice on transport related issues when planning for new development.

PPW Technical Advice Note 19 Telecommunications (2002)

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-19-telecommunications>

TAN19 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. It also 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 2: Planning and Affordable Housing (2006)

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-2-planning-and-affordable-housing>

TAN2 provides guidance on the use of the planning system in delivering affordable housing. It 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 20: Planning and the Welsh Language (2017):

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-20-planning-and-welsh-language>

TAN20 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. [Updated in 2017, TAN20 brings together the policy advice and the practical guidance on the Welsh Language into a single document.](#)

PPW Technical Advice Note 21: Waste (2014)

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-21-waste>

TAN21 requires monitoring to ensure sufficient landfill and treatment capacity, identify whether the spatial pattern of provision is appropriate to fill identified needs, and discover if 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 South West Wales region.

PPW Technical Advice Note 22: Sustainable Buildings (2011)

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/1531/wd58.pdf>

TAN22 provides the national planning policy on sustainable buildings, guidance on the standards of sustainable building assessment, design solutions to meet these standards and, additionally, guidance on low carbon buildings. The TAN also provides guidance development of policies and strategic sites.

PPW Technical Advice Note 23: Economic Development (2014)

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-23-economic-development>

TAN23 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):

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-24-historic-environment>

TAN24 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 Technical Advice Note 3: Simplified Planning Zones (1996)

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-3-simplified-planning-zones>

TAN3 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. TAN3 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)

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-4-retail-and-commercial-development>

TAN4 provides guidance on the role of land use planning in retail and commercial development, including retail strategies, master planning and Place Plans; testing of retail need and sequential approach to development; retail impact assessments; and Local Development Orders.

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

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-5-nature-conservation-and-planning>

TAN5 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*”. [In 2018, there was notice published of the revised procedure regarding European Protected Species \(EPS\) licencing.](#)

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

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-6-planning-sustainable-rural-communities>

TAN6 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)

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-7-outdoor-advertisement-control>

TAN7 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)

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan8-renewable-energy_0.pdf

TAN8 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, and should be read alongside TAN 8.

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

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-07/091222direct53.pdf>

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.

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and our Well-being (2019)

<https://gov.wales/sustainable-management-natural-resources-guide>

This Guidance relates to improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales through taking an ecosystem approach to managing natural resources.

The Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water, Soil and Air for Wales (2011)

<https://gov.wales/code-good-agricultural-practice-protection-water-soil-and-air-wales-2011-no20>

This Code provides advice and guidance for farmers and land managers to minimise the risks of causing pollution. It also provides a reference source for the legal requirements for farmers and land managers with respect to air, soil, and water. It also contains references to related legal requirements such as planning, access and biodiversity.

The Future Generations Report 2020

<https://www.futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/FGC-Report-English.pdf>

Under the statutory duty of the Future Generations Commissioner, the Future Generations Report provides an assessment of the improvements which public bodies should make in relation to their well-being objectives, and is published every five years.

The Future of Welsh Law: A Programme for 2021 to 2026

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/pdf-versions/2021/9/2/1632221277/the-future-of-welsh-law-accessibility-programme-2021-to-2026.pdf>

Through the enactment of the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019, this programme looks to make law more accessible in Wales. It plans to draft consolidation Bills on both the Historic Environment and Planning into individual statutes.

The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales (FCERM) (2020)

<https://gov.wales/national-strategy-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-wales>

The Strategy sets out how to manage the risks from flooding and coastal erosion across Wales. It sets objectives and measures for all partners to work towards over the life of the document, which is anticipated to be 10 years unless significant policy updates are required prior to that time. Whilst measures are designed to be clear and deliverable over the next decade, the Strategy has been drafted with a longer-term, strategic view, recognising the nature of flood and coastal erosion risk with respect to the challenges of climate change. In this way, it will work alongside other strategic plans for shoreline management, infrastructure, and planning.

The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales 2020–21 (refreshing The Nature Recovery Plan for Wales)

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-10/nature-recovery-action-plan-wales-2020-2021.pdf>

In Wales, the National Nature Recovery Action Plan sets out how Wales will address the Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the associated Aichi biodiversity targets in Wales. A set of indicators will also be developed to measure the progress of the Nature Recovery Action Plan against objectives. To accompany the plan, a Nature Recovery Framework sets out the roles and responsibilities of the key players for delivery of action for biodiversity in Wales, and how they are linked together. The Nature Recovery Action Plan links to and complements The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment Act (Wales) 2016. The ambition of the plan is: 'To reverse the decline in biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, and to ensure lasting benefits to society'. The refreshed plan has 5 themes for action which are maintaining and Enhancing Resilient Ecological Networks; Increasing Knowledge and Knowledge Transfer; Realising new Investment and funding; Upskilling and capacity for delivery; and Mainstreaming, Governance and Reporting our Progress.

The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 (Consequential Amendments to Secondary Legislation) Regulations 2022

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/en/wsi/2022/907>

From 1 December 2022, this Act will change the way all landlords in Wales rent their properties, and will improve how residential properties are rented, managed, and lived in within Wales.

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

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2015/1598>

This legislation amends the 2005 Regulations to simplify the LDP procedures. The amendments are in response to the outcomes of the LDP process refinement exercise. 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. Those amendments that are of relevance to the LDP include:

- 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.

The Wales Act (2017)

This Act 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. 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:

- 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 and 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). Once the Welsh Government set out their approach to CIL, local authorities will then consider how best to progress a CIL for their localities. In the meantime, authorities will continue to seek all developer contributions through Section 106.

The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-01/the-water-resources-control-of-agricultural-pollution-wales-regulations-2021.pdf>

These Regulations have been introduced to reduce losses of pollutants from agriculture to the environment by setting rules for certain farming practices. The Regulations also set standards for silage making, nutrient management planning, sustainable fertiliser applications, storage of silage effluent and for manure/slurry storage systems. They will apply from 1 April 2021 for an initial set of measurements, and the remainder will be phased in over a period of 3 years. These Regulations revoked The Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2013.

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/1/>

The measure gives the Welsh language official status in Wales. This means that Welsh should be treated no less favourably than English. 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.

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

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/towards-zero-waste-our-waste-strategy.pdf>

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.

Wales and The Sustainable Development Goals 2019

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-07/supplementary-report-to-the-uk-review-of-progress-towards-the-sustainable-development-goals-2030_0.pdf

This outlines the progress of Wales' Seven Well-being goals, the pledge to '*leave no one behind*', and describes the development of working in a sustainable way.

Welcome to Wales: priorities for the visitor economy 2020 to 2025

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-02/welcome-to-wales-priorities-for-the-visitor-economy-2020-2025.pdf>

This document summarises the tourism industry within Wales and the associated priorities needed to support it. It reinvigorates Destination Management arrangements and identifies a key role for local authorities in contributing to the preparation of local destination plans and partnerships. It replaces the previous Welsh Government *Strategy for Tourism 'Partnership for Growth' (2013–2020)*, and '*Developing the Visitor Economy' (2009)*.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

<https://business.senedd.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);
- Outline well-being goals which those authorities are to seek to improve for the wellbeing of both present and future generations;
- Set out how those authorities are to show they are working towards the well-being goals;

- Put Public Services Boards (PSB) 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 LDP must have regard to the 7 well-being goals set out within the Act:

- 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; and
- A globally responsible Wales.

Welsh National Marine Plan 2019

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-11/welsh-national-marine-plan-document_0.pdf

The Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP) sets policy for the next 20 years on the sustainable development of the inshore and offshore marine plan regions. It has been prepared and adopted under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009 for the purposes of Section 51 of the MCAA and in accordance with Schedule 6 (MCAA) and in conformity with the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS)². WNMP will be used to guide Local Authorities in decision making, and the LDP has been updated regarding the marine plan and in formulation and review of policies.

Regional: Plan, Policy, or Programme

Final Water Resources Management Plan 2020–2050 (Dŵr Cymru)

<https://www.dwrcymru.com/en/our-services/water/water-resources/final-water-resources-management-plan-2019>

The Plan 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 require during 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.

Flood Risk Management Plan for the Western Wales River Basin District (2015–2021)

https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/675146/final_frmp_-_western-wales_pk26b82.pdf?mode=pad&rnd=131466534560000000

NRW is required to prepare Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP) 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. Llanelli is identified as the community with the highest flood risk in the Carmarthen Bay and the Gower catchment and is one of the top 50 highest risk communities in Wales. Progress on updating this FRMP has been delayed, although is expected every 6 years.

Joint Local Transport Plan for South West Wales (2015–2020)

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/4797/joint-transport-plan-300115.pdf>

This Plan sets the vision, objectives and long-term strategy for a 20-year period, alongside 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.

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

<https://www.southwalescoastalgroup.cymru/en/shoreline-management-plan-smp2/>

Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal erosion and flooding. It presents policies to help sustainably mitigate risks to people and to the developed, historic, and natural environment. This document is the second-generation SMP(2) for the shoreline between Lavernock Point in the east and St Ann's Head in the west, intersecting the counties of Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Carmarthenshire, and

Pembrokeshire; and includes the Loughor Estuary, Three Rivers Estuarine Complex (Gwendraeth, Tywi and Taf) and Milford Haven.

Natural Resources Wales Area Statements (2020)

<https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/area-statements/?lang=en>

Produced as a collaborative response to the Natural Resources Policy, published by the Welsh Government in 2017. Each Area Statement outlines the key challenges facing that locality, opportunities to meet those challenges, and how we can better manage our natural resources for the benefit of future generations. The themes for South West Wales are reducing health inequalities; ensuring sustainable land management reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity; and (Cross-cutting theme) Mitigating and adapting to a changing climate. Whereas the themes for the marine area statement are building resilience of marine ecosystems; nature-based solutions and adaptation at the coast; and making the most of marine planning.

South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan (2021)

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/regionaleconomicdeliveryplan>

Covering Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea, this Plan aims to build on a major study that identified regional strengths and opportunities.

South West Wales Regional Plan for Regeneration

<https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/documents/s46126/South%20West%20Regional%20Plan%20for%20Regeneration%20FINAL%20VERSION.pdf>

This Plan outlines the target areas and scope of activities possible under the *Welsh Government's Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme (TRIP)* commencing April 2018 for 3 years. It will support projects that promote economic regeneration (e.g., job creation, enhancing skills and employability) with a focus on individuals and areas most in need to ensure prosperity is spread to all parts of Wales. It builds upon on the *Vibrant & Viable Places Funding Programme 2014–17*.

Swansea Bay City Deal 2017

<https://www.swanseabaycitydeal.wales/about/>

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

Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013–2030 (2014)

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 “a confident, ambitious and connected city region, recognised internationally for its emerging knowledge and innovation economy”.

The Clean Air Plan for Wales, Health Air, Healthy Wales (2020)

<https://gov.wales/clean-air-plan-wales-healthy-air-healthy-wales>

This Plan aims to improve air quality and reduce the impacts of air pollution on human health, biodiversity, the natural environment, and our economy. It supports delivery of commitments under [*Prosperity for All: our national strategy*](#), particularly by ‘*reducing emissions and delivering vital improvements in air quality*’ to support ‘*healthier communities and better environments*’. The Plan sets out a 10-year pathway to achieving cleaner air, and is structured around four core themes (*People, Environment, Prosperity, and Place*). These themes were designed to enable collaborative and integrated approaches to improving air quality, across a range of policy areas and sectors.

Towards A Regional Economic Framework: Mid & South West Wales Regional Office

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/sites/main/files/documents/Towards%20a%20Regional%20Economic%20Framework.pdf>

Published in 2020, this document still provides valuable detail and insight to support discussions on the development of Regional Economic Frameworks, through the process of engagement and co-production.

Western Wales River Basin Management Plan 2021–2027

https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/695227/western-wales-rbmp-2021_2027-summary.pdf

The River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the Western Wales River Basin District is prepared under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. It describes the current condition of the river basin district, details the Programme of Measures for improving the water environment by 2027, and provides the water body objectives. This document is part of the latest update to that plan, refreshing those published in 2009 and 2015.

Local: Plan, Policy, or Programme

Affordable Homes Delivery Plan 2016–2020 (Carmarthenshire County Council)

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1213902/affordable-homes-delivery-plan.pdf>

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.

Ageing Well Plan (Incorporating Strategy for Older People) 2015–2018

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/3345/older-people-vision.pdf>

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.

Annual Report on the Welsh Language 2020–2021

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1226482/welsh-language-annual-report-2021-21.pdf>

The Authority has a statutory duty to implement the Welsh Language Standards. As part of those Standards, we are required to publish an Annual Report which details our compliance and actions. The report provides examples of what has been achieved, alongside local case studies.

Cabinet Vision Statement 2022–2027 (Carmarthenshire County Council)

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/cabinet-vision-statement-2022-2027/>

As well as tackling climate change and poverty, the Cabinet's vision statement includes strengthening the economy and increasing prosperity, and investing in housing, education, culture, infrastructure, and the environment to make a real difference to people's lives.

Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries EMS: Memorandum of Understanding (2011)

http://english.cbeems.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/CBEEMS_MoU_web.pdf

Carmarthenshire County Council: Corporate Strategy 2018–2023

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1225816/corporate-strategy-21-22.pdf>

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, and the document was refreshed in June 2019, and again in April 2021 partly due to of the publication of '*Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire*'. 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 strategy will be further considered as the LDP progresses through its preparatory process and within future iterations of the SA documentation.

Carmarthenshire Destination Management Plan 2015–2020

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1212064/carmarthenshire-destination-management-plan-2015-2020.pdf>

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 DMP are to:

- 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;
- Foster a culture of continuous improvement, value for money, best practice, learning and sustainability; and
- Identifying measures of success and monitoring performance.

Carmarthenshire Economic Recovery & Delivery Plan (2021)

<https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s51856/Report.pdf>

This Economic Recovery Plan which identifies some 30 actions to support the recovery of the Carmarthenshire economy from the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit. It sets out the authority’s priorities for supporting Business, People and Place. With this support Carmarthenshire’s economy can recover as quickly as possible to become one which is more productive than before, more equal, greener, healthier, and with more sustainable communities.

Carmarthenshire Employment Sectoral Study (2017)

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

The study details employment need by sector and how this will manifest itself over the short to medium term, with forecasts until 2037. It states that ‘*Carmarthenshire is undergoing a period of significant economic change and diversification*’.

Carmarthenshire Family Support Strategy 2018–2023

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1220764/2018-23-carmarthenshire-family-support-strategy-eng.pdf>

This strategy sets out how the Authority will develop and deliver early intervention services to support Carmarthenshire’s children, families, and young people at any point in a child’s life, from the early years through to the teenage years.

Carmarthenshire Gypsy Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment (2019)

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1221663/carmarthenshire-gypsy-travellers-accommodation-needs-assessment-nov-2019.pdf>

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. The Local Housing Authority received confirmation from the Welsh Minister that the content of the needs assessment was accepted on 28th March 2017.

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

http://www.cartogold.co.uk/CarmarthenshireLDP/english/text/00_Contents.htm

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. The LDP is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) together with Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). A series of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) was also developed to elaborate and consolidate upon the policies and provisions within the Plan; these are:

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; and
12. Llandeilo Northern Quarter Planning and Development Brief.

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

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

<https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s32300/PSB%20Annual%20Report%202019.pdf>

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). 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 Nature Recovery Plan 2020-2030

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1222448/carms-nature-recovery-plan-pt-3.pdf?v=202005071000000000>

The Nature Recovery Plan produced by the Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership lists the Section 7 species and habitats found in the county and, as such, informs local planning policy. It reflects the national objectives at a local level and considers how these objectives are addressed in Carmarthenshire, the challenges, and opportunities of meeting these objectives, and informs the future work of the partners who have a common interest in protecting and enhancing our natural environment.

Carmarthenshire's Well-being Objectives (as contained within Carmarthenshire County Council - Corporate Strategy 2018–2023)

Following consultation, the Council prepared a set of Well-being/Improvement Objectives. These Objectives contribute significantly to the achievement of the National Well-being Goals and recognises that more can be done on a local government level. There are associated action plans for each of the 13 objectives (under five key themes), these are:

Start well

1. Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences
2. Help children live healthy lifestyles

Live well

3. Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners
4. Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty
5. Create more jobs and growth throughout the county
6. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes
7. Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)
8. Support community cohesion, resilience & safety

Age well

9. Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years

In A Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment

10. Look after the environment now and for the future
11. Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity
12. Promote Welsh Language and Culture

Corporate governance

13. Better Governance and use of Resources

Forward Plan for Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (2019) (Carmarthenshire County Council)

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1218908/ccc-env-act-forward-plan.pdf>

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 places a duty on public authorities to 'seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.' The Act also requires public authorities to forward plan and report on how they intend to comply with the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty. In Wales, the Act replaces the duty in section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) Act 2006 with an additional emphasis placed on public authorities to maintain and enhance biodiversity. The public body must have regard to the list of priority species and habitats in Wales (Section 7), the State of Natural Resources Report (Section 8), and any Area Statement which the authority exercises functions (Section 11). This plan was published in February 2017 and revised in 2019. It outlines Carmarthenshire's natural resources, why they are so important and some of the activities already underway to protect them; explains the legislative background and national and local policy and plan context to this report; sets out how action plans are/will be developed; and provides detailed actions to be achieved with milestones for reporting in a separate 'live' document.

Libraries Service Update - Moving forward for 2017–2022

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1214220/gd4443-librariesstrategy-en.pdf>

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013) (Carmarthenshire County Council)

https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/3506/flood_strategy.pdf

This document identifies the Risk Management Authorities within Carmarthenshire, the key requirements/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.

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

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1212982/moving-forward.pdf>

The Council has identified 98 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.

Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward (2019) (Carmarthenshire County Council)

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1219667/moving-rural-carms-forward-report-final.pdf>

This wide-ranging strategy was developed to help identify and focus regeneration within rural communities in Carmarthenshire.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2019-2029 (Carmarthenshire County Council)

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1222043/rowip-english.pdf>

Developed in accordance with Section 60(3) of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000), the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) is a decennial document which details the Authority’s plan for the strategic management, development, and improvement of the County’s Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. It is critical in depicting the direction and scale of future work on access to the countryside, providing a long-term view of policies and actions. This updated the previous ROWIP originally published in 2008.

Social Care and Health: Older People's Strategy 2015–2025

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/3345/older-people-vision.pdf>

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.

Statutory Director of Social Care Services’ Annual Report 2020–2021

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1226994/0-master-dar-2020-21-v9-english.pdf>

There is a statutory requirement for the Director of Social Services to annually report to Council on the delivery and performance as well as plans for the improvement of the whole range of Social Services.

Transformations: A Strategic Regeneration Plan for Carmarthenshire 2015–2030

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

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.”*

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022–2032

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1229464/eng-cynllun-strategol-cymraeg-mewn-addysg-sir-gaerfyrddin-2022-2032cab4722fin.pdf>

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).

Appendix B: Baseline Information

Appendix B: Baseline Information

This document provides a summary of relevant information, evidence, and data relating to the environmental, economic, and social components of Carmarthenshire. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive requires the baseline 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))¹. This baseline initially forms Task A3 of the Scoping Stage; however, it has been updated to ensure the most up-to-date information available is considered – reflecting the iterative process between the development of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Carmarthenshire’s 2nd Revised Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018–2033 (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Plan’). Amendments were made following consultation to the Scoping Report and the initial revised SA Report, and further updates were undertaken concurrent to the production of the latest SA Report and in response to the representations received during the consultation of the deposit Plan. Where possible, data has been included on historic trends and future projections with consideration of a ‘business as usual’ scenario (i.e., predicted effect without implementation of the Plan). Together, this information facilitates the assessment of the potential effects of implementing the Plan, helping to identify opportunities and present/future issues, support the prediction and evaluation of impacts, and set a baseline for future monitoring.

NB: Given the extensive nature of the summarised components, this document is non-exhaustive and should be considered alongside the relevant information contained within the Plans, Policies, and Programmes (PPP) reviewed in Appendix 1. For ease of reference, sources are inserted as footnotes upon the relevant page. A comprehensive list of sources can be found at the end of this document.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042&from=EN>

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Abbreviations

AIR	Air Information Resource
ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
ALGE	Association of Local Government Ecologists
APIS	UK Air Pollution Information System
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BCT	Bat Conservation Trust
BFEWF	Brechfa Forest East Wind Farm
BFWWF	Brechfa Forest West Wind Farm
BGS	British Geological Survey
BSBI	Botanical Society of the Britain & Ireland
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CAFÉ	Cleaner Air for Europe
CBEEMS	Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Site
CCC	Climate Change Committee
CCRA	Climate Change Risk Assessment
CIWEM	Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management
CO2	Carbon dioxide (gaseous emission)
DCWW	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water
DUKES	Digest of UK Energy Statistics
ERAMMP	Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring & Modelling Programme
ESSC	European Society for Soil Conservation
EU	European Union
HEFCW	Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
HER	Historic Environment Records
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites (UK)
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LDP	Local Development Plan (referred to as the Plan)
LNR(s)	Local Nature Reserve(s)
LSOA(s)	Lower Super Output Area(s)
MoU	Memorandums of Understanding
NAEI	National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory
NO2	Nitrogen dioxide (gaseous emission)
NRAP	Nature Recovery Action Plan
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
NSRI	National Soil Resources Institute
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
PSB(s)	Public Services Board(s)
RIGS	Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites
RSPB	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SACs	Special Area(s) of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SD	Shellfish Directives
SDB	Supply Demand Balance
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SINC(s)	Site(s) of Importance for Nature Conservation
SLA(s)	Special Landscape Area(s)
SM	Scheduled Monuments

SoNaRR	State of Natural Resources Report
SPAs	Special Protection Area(s)
SSA(s)	Strategic Search Area(s)
SSSI(s)	Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest
STEAM	Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor
TAN	Technical Advice Note
UK	United Kingdom
UKSO	UK Soil Observatory
UWWTD	Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WIMD	Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation
WRZ	Water Resource Zone
WWTW	Wastewater Treatment Works

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1- Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is defined as development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs ². 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. Environmental considerations are central to the principle of sustainable development however, 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 United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint on how this can be achieved through 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ³.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act defines Sustainable Development as: “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” ⁴. It 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; and, under the Act, local authorities are required to prepare a Local Well-being Assessment. Future Generation Report 2020 ⁵ reflects on the progress of all public bodies in terms of whether they have embraced the cultural change required by the Act and considers the progress being made on each of the 7 wellbeing goals ⁶ (Table 1).

Table 1. National Wellbeing goals as found within the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan 2018–2023 ⁷.

Goal	Description of the Goal
A more prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
A resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic, and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

² <https://www.are.admin.ch/are/en/home/media/publications/sustainable-development/brundtland-report.html>

³ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

⁴ <https://gov.wales/well-being-future-generations-act-essentials-html>

⁵ <https://www.futuregenerations2020.wales/>

⁶ <https://gov.wales/wellbeing-wales-2022>

⁷ <https://www.thecarmarthenshirewewant.wales/media/8285/carms-well-being-plan-final-draft-051017-english.pdf>

A healthier Wales	A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe, and well- connected communities.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage, and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
A globally responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

The Carmarthenshire Well-being Assessment⁸ looked at the economic, social, environmental, and cultural wellbeing in Carmarthenshire through different life stages and provides a summary of the key findings. It is based on data, evidence and feedback from our residents and stakeholders on what matters to our communities in terms of well-being. This is the second assessment prepared by the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board (PSB). The findings of this assessment form the basis of the objectives and actions identified in the Well-being Plan for Carmarthenshire⁹, which sets out what the PSB aims to focus upon over the next 5 years to improve the wellbeing of people and communities in the county, in addition to a longer-term basis of up to 20-years.

The Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan focuses 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 can adapt to change.

Prosperous People & Places: To maximise opportunities for people and places in both urban and rural parts of our county.

Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the Plan

Development would take place in a piecemeal manner, without a coordinated approach or consideration of cumulative effects on the environment, nor the potential impact upon relevant wellbeing plans (both national and local). While subject to Planning Policy Wales¹⁰ (PPW) and other national policy, development on a local authority level would not be directed to the most sustainable locations and there would be nothing in place to influence sustainable levels of growth, and the local needs of the communities within Carmarthenshire may not be fulfilled.

⁸ <https://www.thecarmarthenshirewewant.wales/media/8311/psb-wellbeing-assessment.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.thecarmarthenshirewewant.wales/media/quipyh1k/1-well-being-assessment.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://gov.wales/planning-policy-wales>

2- Biodiversity and the Natural Environment

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. 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. 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. NB: The part of Carmarthenshire which is within the Brecon Beacons National Park has its own separate development plan.

International Sites

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)
- 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 2 and are mapped in Figure 1. The most recent assessment of each feature’s conservation status is also provided.

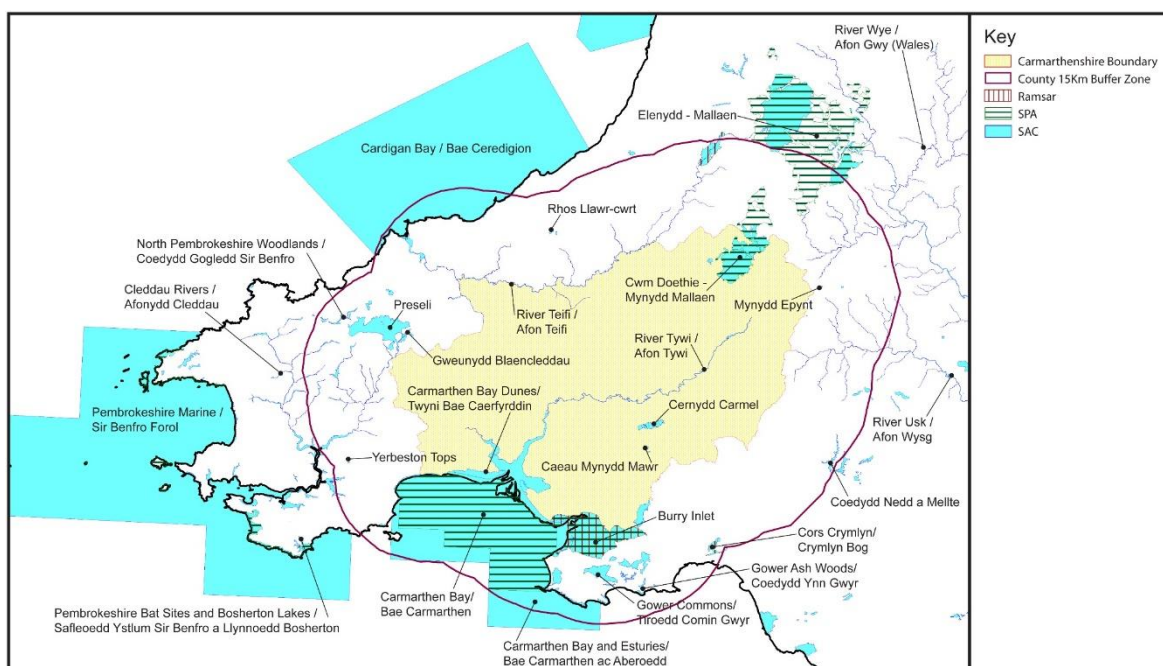


Figure 1. Location of European sites in relation to Carmarthenshire

Table 2. Designated sites within Carmarthenshire and within 15km buffer zone.

European Site	Size (Ha)	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</i> ssp. <i>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 uniflora</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	Water courses of plain to montane levels with <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho- Batrachion</i> vegetation	Unfavourable (Jan 2012)
		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>Molinion caeruleae</i>)	Unfavourable (Sept 2017)
		Marsh fritillary butterfly	Unfavourable (Sept 2017)
Rhos Llawr-cwrt SAC	45.8	Marsh fritillary butterfly	Unfavourable: Recovering (Aug 2012)
		Hamatocaulis vernicosus (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>Molinion caeruleae</i>)	Unfavourable (Sept 2016)
		Marsh fritillary butterflies	Unfavourable (Sept 2009)
		Southern damselfly	Unfavourable (July 2017)
River Wye / Afon Gwy SAC	2234.89	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-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 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.	No condition assessment made, for site description refer to management plan.
Bristol Channel Approaches SAC	584,994	Harbour porpoise	Favourable

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

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. They cover approximately 7.2 % of the county and range in size from small fields to large areas of mountain sides and long rivers. 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). The Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has responsibility for identifying, notifying and protecting SSSIs.

Local Nature Reserves

There are six Local Nature Reserves (LNR) 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 several LNR throughout the County managed by other organisations.

National Nature Reserves

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

At the time of writing, no Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) have been formally identified within Carmarthenshire

Carmarthenshire Nature Recovery Plan

In 2020, the Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Wales was refreshed to consider the growing evidence around the scale of the loss of biodiversity and the changing policy context in Wales.¹¹ Previously published in December 2015 as the Nature Recovery Plan, it addresses the Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity¹² and the associated Aichi biodiversity targets¹³ in Wales (NB: Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework is yet to be implemented¹⁴). A set of indicators will also be developed to measure the progress of the Nature Recovery Action Plan against objectives. To accompany the NRAP, a Nature Recovery Framework sets out the roles and responsibilities of the key players for delivery of action for biodiversity in Wales, and how they are linked together. NRAP complements The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment Act (Wales) 2016. The ambition of the plan is: 'To reverse the decline in biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, and to ensure lasting benefits to society'. The objectives of the NRAP are:

1. Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.
2. Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management
3. Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation
4. Tackle key pressures on species and habitats
5. Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring

¹¹ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-10/nature-recovery-action-plan-wales-2020-2021.pdf>

¹² <https://www.cbd.int/sp/>

¹³ <https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

¹⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020>

6. Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

Locally, we have the Carmarthenshire Nature Recovery Plan ¹⁵ produced by the Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership, which the Council facilitates. This plan reflects the national objectives at a local level and considers how we will address these objectives in Carmarthenshire, the challenges and opportunities of meeting these objectives, and informs the future work of the partners within the Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership (who all have a common interest in protecting and enhancing our natural environment). It lists the Section 7 species and habitats found in the county and as such should inform local planning policy.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The Environment Act 2016 ¹⁶ aims to build greater resilience into our ecosystems. Biodiversity and well-functioning ecosystems provide natural solutions that build resilience, which in turn help society create jobs, support livelihoods and human well-being, adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and contribute to sustainable development. Part 1 of the Environment Act sets out Wales' approach to planning and managing natural resources at a national and local level with a general purpose linked to statutory '*principles of sustainable management of natural resources*' defined within the Act. There are 3 main constituents to Part 1 of the Environment Act:

1. The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) - A report produced by NRW that gives an assessment of natural resources and how well Wales is doing to manage them in a sustainable way ¹⁷.
2. Natural Resources Policy - A policy produced by Welsh Government that sets out the priorities, risks, and opportunities for managing natural resources sustainably ¹⁸. The policy considers the findings of the SoNaRR.
3. Area Statements – A local evidence base produced by NRW which helps to implement the priorities, risks and opportunities identified in the National Policy and how NRW intends to address these ¹⁹.

Section 6 – Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty

Section 6 under Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 ²⁰ introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the S6 duty) for public authorities in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales. The S6 duty requires that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems.

Section 7 - Biodiversity lists and duty to take steps to maintain and enhance biodiversity

This section replaces the duty in section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 ²¹. The Welsh Ministers will publish, review and revise lists of living organisms and types of habitats in Wales, which they consider are of key significance to sustain and improve biodiversity in relation to Wales. The Welsh Ministers must also take all

¹⁵ <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/biodiversity/carmarthenshire-nature-partnership/#.YzxHttjMKUJ>

¹⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/contents/enacted>

¹⁷ <https://naturalresources.wales/sonarr2020?lang=en>

¹⁸ <https://gov.wales/natural-resources-policy>

¹⁹ <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/area-statements/?lang=en>

²⁰ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/contents/enacted>

²¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>

reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the living organisms and types of habitats included in any list published under this section and encourage others to take such steps.

Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which places a duty on public authorities to “*seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions*”.²² 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 NERC Act 2006 in relation to Wales, with a duty on public authorities to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity. Additionally, public bodies must have regard to the list of priority species and habitats in Wales published in Section 7 of the Act, the State of Natural Resources Report published under Section 8 and any Area Statement published under Section 11 for an area that includes all or part of an area in relation to which the authority exercises functions. Carmarthenshire County Council’s Forward Plan²³ was published in February 2017 and revised and reported on in 2019. It outlines Carmarthenshire’s natural resources, why they are so important and some of the activities already underway to protect them; explains the legislative background and national and local policy and plan context to this report; sets out how action plans are/will be developed; provide detailed actions to be achieved with milestones for reporting in a separate 'live' document.

Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the Plan

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 significantly delay the planning application process and could lead to inconsistent assessments with disregard to the appreciation of potential culminative effects.

²² <https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Section-6>

²³ <https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s12501/Summary%20Environment%20Act.pdf#:~:text=The%20preparation%20of%20an%20Environment%20Act%20Forward%20Plan,the%20Welsh%20Government%20by%2031stMarch%202017.%203.%20Finance>

3- Air Quality

The Environment Act 1995²⁴ 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 2010²⁵. Government statistics estimate that “air pollution in the UK reduces the life expectancy of every person by an average of 7–8 months, with an associated cost of up to £20 billion each year”²⁶.

NRW regulates emissions to air from larger industrial operations (Part A1 under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) 2016²⁷), such as power stations, refineries, and incinerators, to meet the requirements of the Industrial Emissions Directive 2010²⁸. 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. 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 SoNaRR and considers localised 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)²⁹. 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).

Current State

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. The Air Pollution in the UK Compliance Assessment Summary 2017³⁰ summarises the state of the UK’s Air Quality annually, and the compliance of each air

²⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/25/contents>

²⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2010/1433/contents/made>

²⁶ <https://airquality.gov.wales/about-air-quality#:~:text=Air%20pollution%20results%20from%20the%20introduction%20of%20a,at%20any%20time%20since%20before%20the%20Industrial%20Revolution.>

²⁷ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1154/contents/made>

²⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/industry/stationary/ied/legislation.htm>

²⁹ https://www.eea.europa.eu/ds_resolveuid/6fd9d15aebcd6e683fccbf3264b86170

³⁰ <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/annualreport/>

quality zone against EU Directives. For the South Wales zone, annual mean NO₂ 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. The results of the air quality assessment for 2021³¹ are summarised in Table 3.

Table 3. Results of Air Quality Assessment with South Wales, under a range of pollutants. LV = limit value, TV = target value, LTO = long-term objective, (s only) indicates the compliance or exceedance was determined by supplementary assessment only. Adapted from Air Pollution in the UK 2021 Compliance Assessment Summary.

Pollutant (including parameter)	Result
NO ₂ LV for health (1hr mean)	OK
NO ₂ LV for health (Annual mean)	>LV
PM ₁₀ LV (daily mean)	OK
PM ₁₀ LV (annual mean)	OK
PM _{2.5} Stage 1 limit value (annual mean, 1st Jan 2015)	OK
PM _{2.5} Stage 2 limit value (annual mean, 1st Jan 2020)	OK
O ₃ TV and LTO for health (8hr mean)	Met TV, > LTO
O ₃ TV and LTO for vegetation (AOT40)	OK
Arsenic TV	OK
Cadmium TV	OK
Nickle TV	> TV (s only)
Benzo[a]pyrene TV	> TV (s only)

Air Pollution in Carmarthenshire

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 website³². The Council has identified that the key pollutant most relevant to Carmarthenshire is Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂). The main source of NO₂ emissions in Carmarthenshire is road traffic. The Council has developed a monitoring network that follows some of our busiest roads and most congested streets. An interact map with current emissions data can be accessed through the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory³³.

Llandeilo AQMA

An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was designated for part of Llandeilo in 2011³⁴. This is because standards for NO₂ in the area are being breached. Although NO₂ 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, especially for people who already suffer from respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (Figure 2).

³¹

https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/annualreport/assets/documents/annualreport/air_pollution_uk_2021_Compliance_Assessment_Summary_Issue1.pdf#:~:text=For%20the%20purposes%20of%20air%20quality%20monitoring%20and,met%20the%20limit%20value%20for%20annual%20mean%20NO

³² <https://airquality.gov.wales/>

³³ <https://naei.beis.gov.uk/emissionsapp/>

³⁴ https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/details?aqma_ref=1479

The Council is working closely with colleagues at external agencies to help identify and implement solutions to improve air quality in the area.

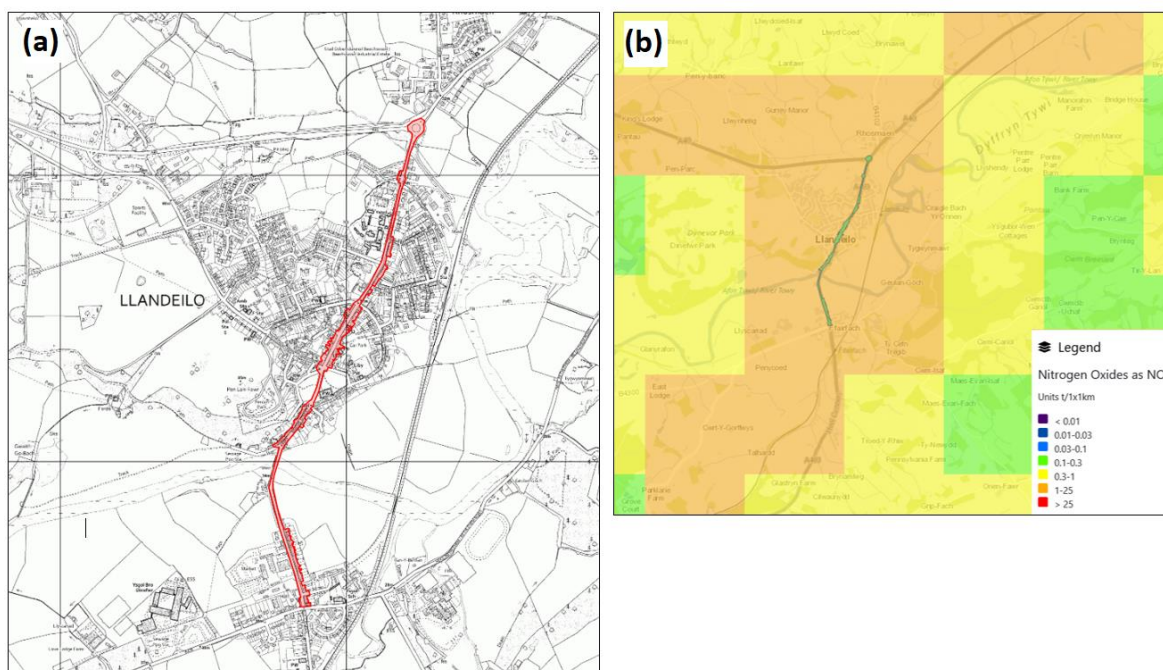


Figure 2. (a) Map of Llandeilo AQMA with (b) modelled NO₂ levels. More recent maps can be accessed via UK National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory ³⁵. NB: The same source is used for the following related figures.

Carmarthen AQMA

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 (NO₂), 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 NO₂ 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 (Figure 3). The Council is in the process of formulating an Action Plan, which will identify measures that could help improve Air Quality in the area.

³⁵ <https://naei.beis.gov.uk/emissionsapp/>

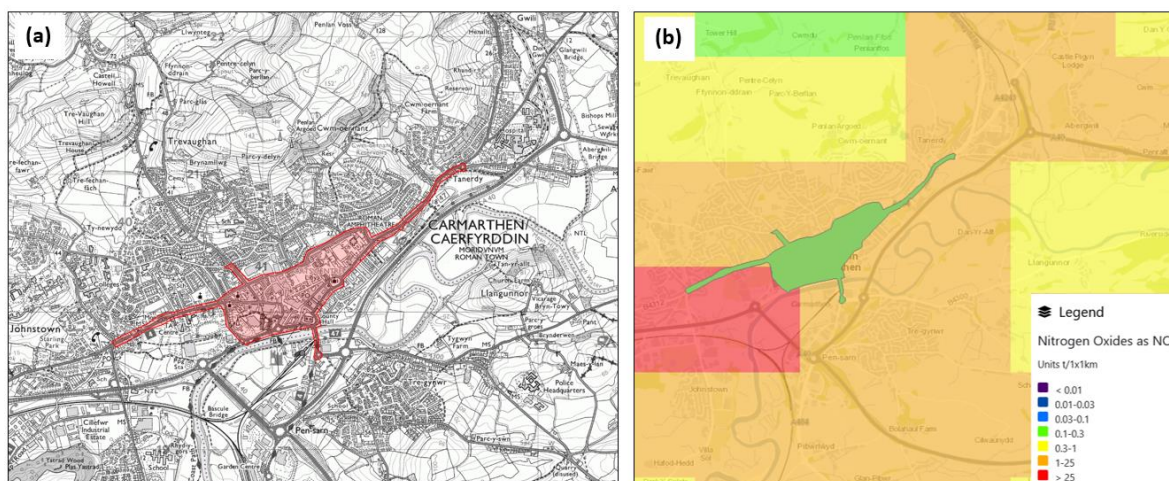


Figure 3. (a) Map of Carmarthen AQMA with (b) modelled NO₂ levels.

Llanelli AQMA

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 (NO₂), 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 NO₂ 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 (Figure 4). 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.

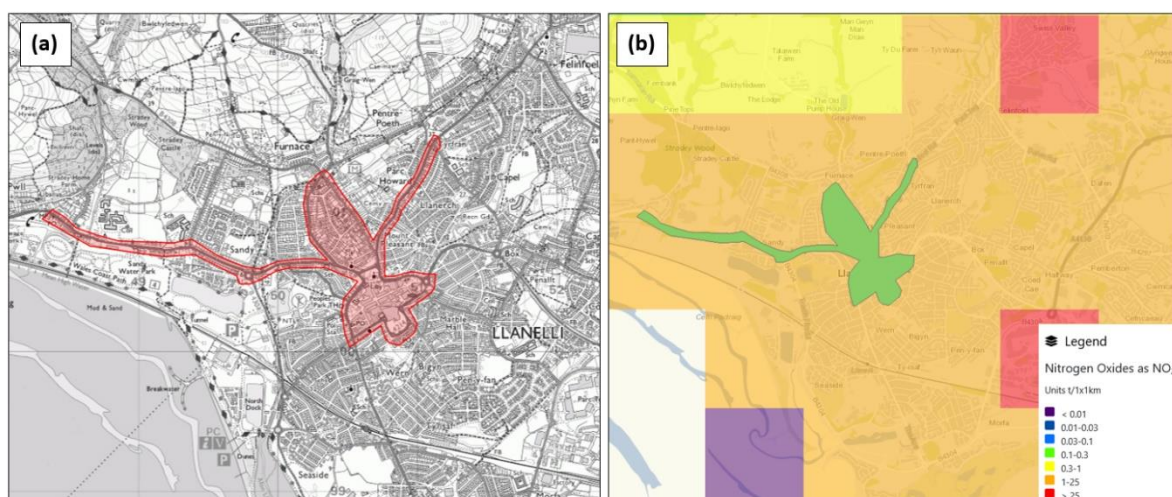


Figure 4. (a) Map of Llanelli AQMA with (b) modelled NO₂ levels.

Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the Plan

Whilst all new developments would have to comply with legislation that regulates air pollution, development would take place in a piecemeal manner, without a coordinated approach or consideration of cumulative effects on air quality. This would possibly exacerbate the impact which bad air quality has on human and environmental health.

4- Climatic Factors

The Carmarthenshire Net Zero Strategy³⁶, the current Plan, and the Well Being Assessment for Carmarthenshire all recognise the vulnerabilities (and opportunities) that face the County in relation to climate change.

Climate Change

The Paris Agreement commits the international community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avoid some of the most severe impacts of climate change. The risks and opportunities from climate change will vary across the UK because of geography and the policy frameworks that exist in the different countries.^{37 38} The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales (National Strategy)³⁹, published by the Welsh Government in November 2021, states that 245,000 properties in Wales are at risk of flooding. In addition, the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Wales, published by the Welsh Government in January 2012⁴⁰, indicates that approximately 23% of the 1,500km long Welsh coastline is eroding. Rising sea levels are anticipated to impact Carmarthenshire's already-at risk- from tidal and rising river level flooding, but additional properties along the county's coastal and river communities⁴¹. 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 these issues for the economic, environmental, cultural, and social well-being of individuals and communities affected.

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 in 2015 was estimated at just over 34 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO_{2e}), equating to 11.11 tCO_{2e} per capita⁴². This would make the Carmarthenshire residents' carbon footprint is 11.36 tCO_{2e}, which is above the Welsh average (in the same period). More recently, Local Authority Carbon Dioxide Emissions 2019⁴³ states that "*Wales' CO2 per capita emissions are higher compared to other regions due to having the highest CO2 per capita emissions from the Industrial sector (3.5 tCO2 per person), reflecting its higher level of industrial installations*". This means that Wales had the largest CO2 per capita emissions in 2019 compared to any other area within the UK.

³⁶ <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1226871/net-carbon-zero-action-plan.pdf?v=202110291522330000>

³⁷ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69487/pb13698-climate-risk-assessment.pdf

³⁸ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/584281/uk-climate-change-risk-assess-2017.pdf

³⁹ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/the-national-strategy-for-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-in-wales.pdf>

⁴⁰ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-04/a-climate-change-risk-assessment-for-wales.pdf>

⁴¹ https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/3506/flood_strategy.pdf

⁴² <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-04/ecological-and-carbon-footprint-of-wales-report.pdf>

⁴³ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/996055/2019-local-authority-co2-emissions-stats-1-page-summary.pdf

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 CO₂ emissions in Carmarthenshire were 1212.7 kilotonnes. This represents an 8.3% since 2011. Most recent figures (2016) show that total CO₂ emissions for Carmarthenshire were 1,162 kilotonnes. Total CO₂ 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 CO₂ per annum. 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 5).

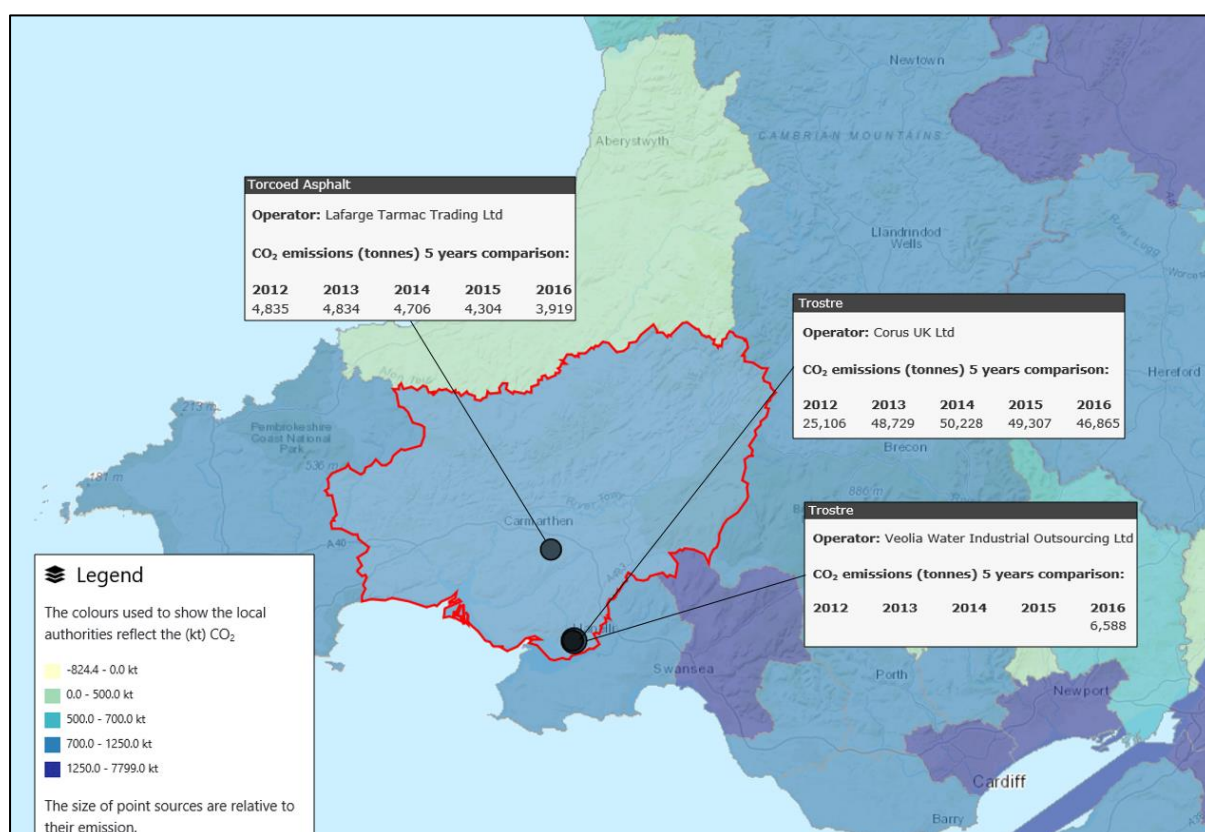
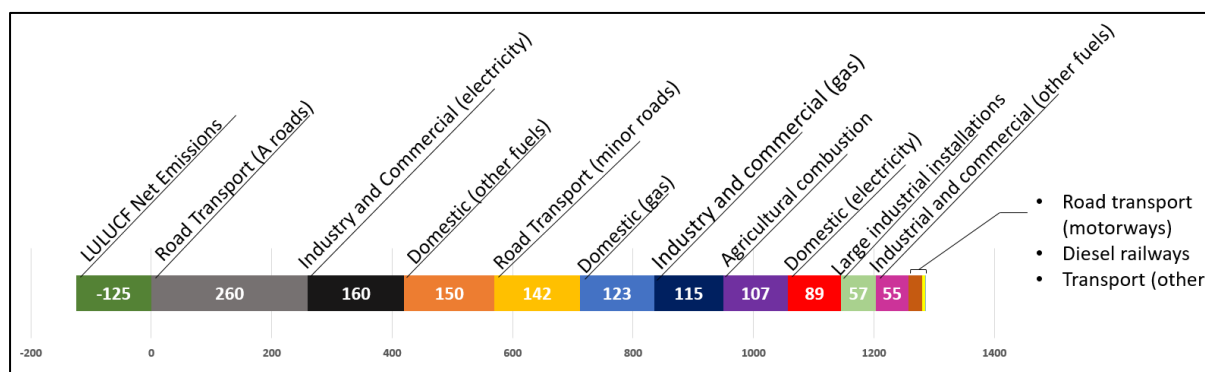


Figure 5. Total carbon emissions for 2016 by sector (top) and local authority (bottom). Points show large industrial installations and details of their carbon emissions from 2012-2016.

However, more recent data (2019) shows that the overall carbon emissions for the County has declined year-on-year ⁴⁴.

The CCRA for Wales presents the findings of an assessment of climate change risks, and identifies the potentially most significant threats for Wales from climate change appear to be:

- Changes in soil conditions, biodiversity, and landscape because 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 features;
- 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.

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.

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 Assessment for Wales. By 2050, winter rainfall is predicted to increase by 14 per cent and summer rainfall to decrease by 16 per cent which may increase the likelihood of flooding in the county, particularly in inland rural areas already subject to flooding because 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. Additionally, The Climate Change (Interim Emissions Targets) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 ⁴⁵ aims to address this, and the consideration of the impact on well-being of more ambitious climate targets are outlined with the Climate Change (Wales) Regulations 2021 integrated impact assessment ⁴⁶.

Renewable Energy

Under European Union targets¹, the UK has a legally binding target to generate 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. The UK Renewable Energy Strategy² 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 change³. Current government policy and guidance is centred on reducing CO₂ emissions to slow down climate change and producing electricity from renewable sources. The planning system has an important role to play in

⁴⁴ <https://naei.beis.gov.uk/laco2app/>

⁴⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2021/338/made>

⁴⁶ <https://gov.wales/climate-change-wales-regulations-2021-integrated-impact-assessment-html>

supporting, encouraging and facilitating renewable energy schemes. The Welsh Government’s targets for renewable energy were set out in TAN8: Renewable Energy 2005. TAN8 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 6).

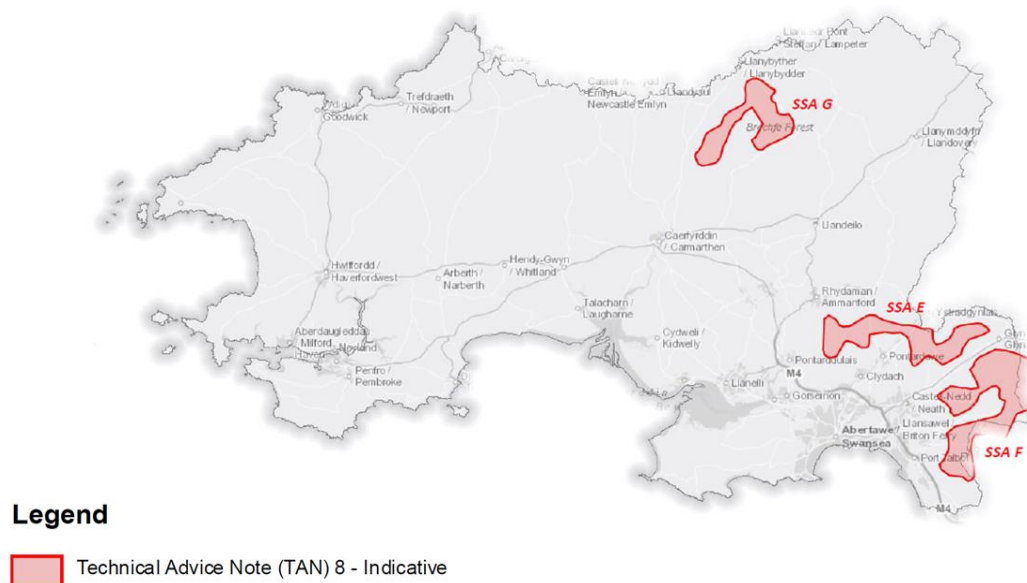


Figure 6. Strategic Search Areas in the South West Area as identified in TAN 8: Renewable Energy ⁴⁷.

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 operating 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

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 considering all 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

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<https://lle.gov.wales/catalogue/item/TechnicalAdviceNote8PlanningForRenewableEnergyStrategicSearchAreas/?lang=en>

behaviour. Figure 7 depicts the ecological footprint of Wales by theme ⁴⁸. It can be clearly noted that Housing (20 per cent), Food (28 per cent) and Transport (11 per cent) take up a sizable proportion of the overall figure. These are all issues that a land use planning (alongside sustainable land management practices) can contribute 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 ⁴⁹.

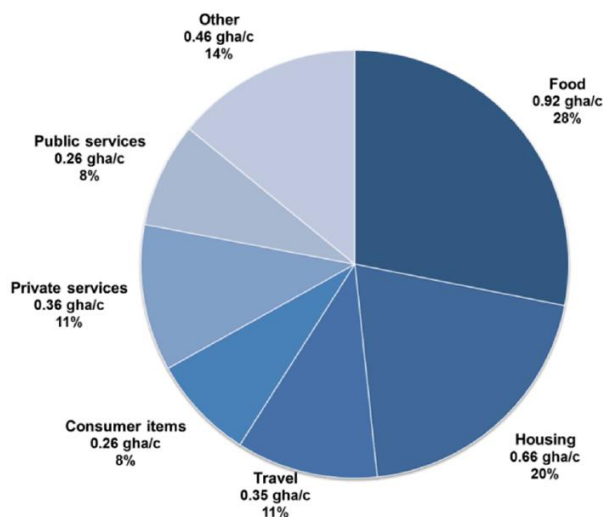


Figure 7. Ecological footprint of Wales by consumption theme.

Carmarthenshire’s ecological footprint is estimated at 3.36 global hectares per person, which is above the Welsh average (Figure 8). This variation at a local level is influenced by several factors including income, demographics, patterns of household expenditure and the energy performance of housing stock.

⁴⁸ <https://gweddill.gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/150724-ecological-footprint-of-wales-report-en.pdf>

⁴⁹ 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.

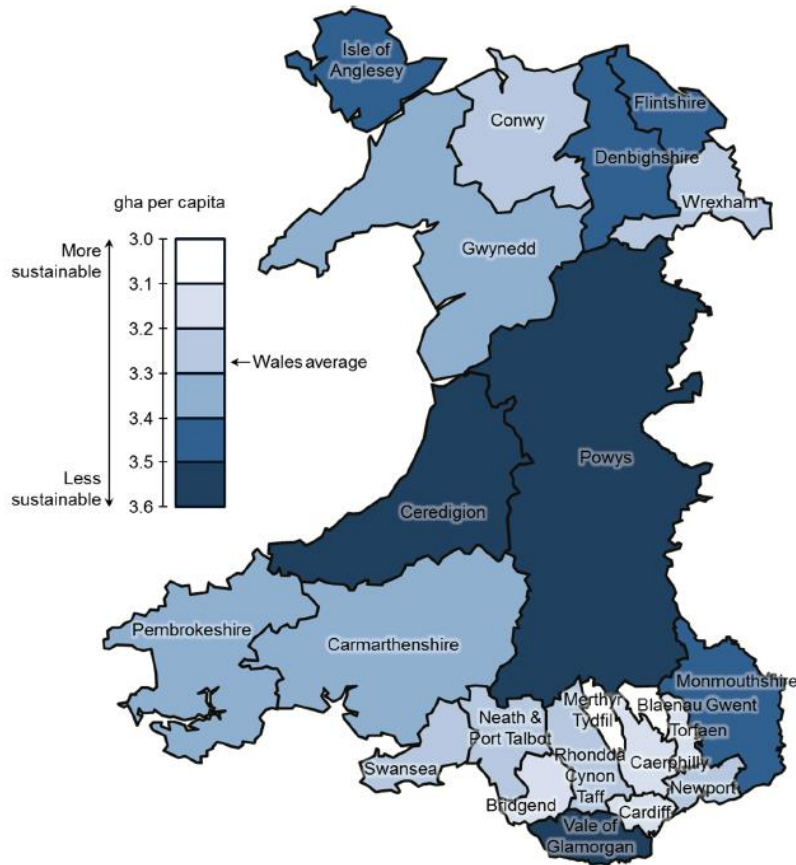


Figure 8. Ecological footprint of Wales by region.

Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the Plan

With no Plan 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 (WFD)

The WFD (2000/60/EC)⁵⁰ 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. It 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. Waterbodies are assigned a status of health and those that are classified as 'Bad', 'Poor' or 'Moderate' are failing the EU WFD standards, and these waterbodies will need to improve to at least 'Good' ecological status by 2027.

Overall water quality in the County has been improving with most 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. 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. 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 Beach⁵¹.

Figures 9 to 13 have been extracted from the Local Evidence Pack: Carmarthenshire 4/10/2013 as produced by NRW and provide further information in relation to WFD 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) and further updates containing the finding of Cycle 3 can be found on Watch Water Wales⁵².

⁵⁰ <https://water.europa.eu/freshwater/europe-freshwater/water-framework-directive>

⁵¹ <https://www.pembreycountrypark.wales/plan-your-visit/cefn-sidan-beach/>

⁵² <https://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/>

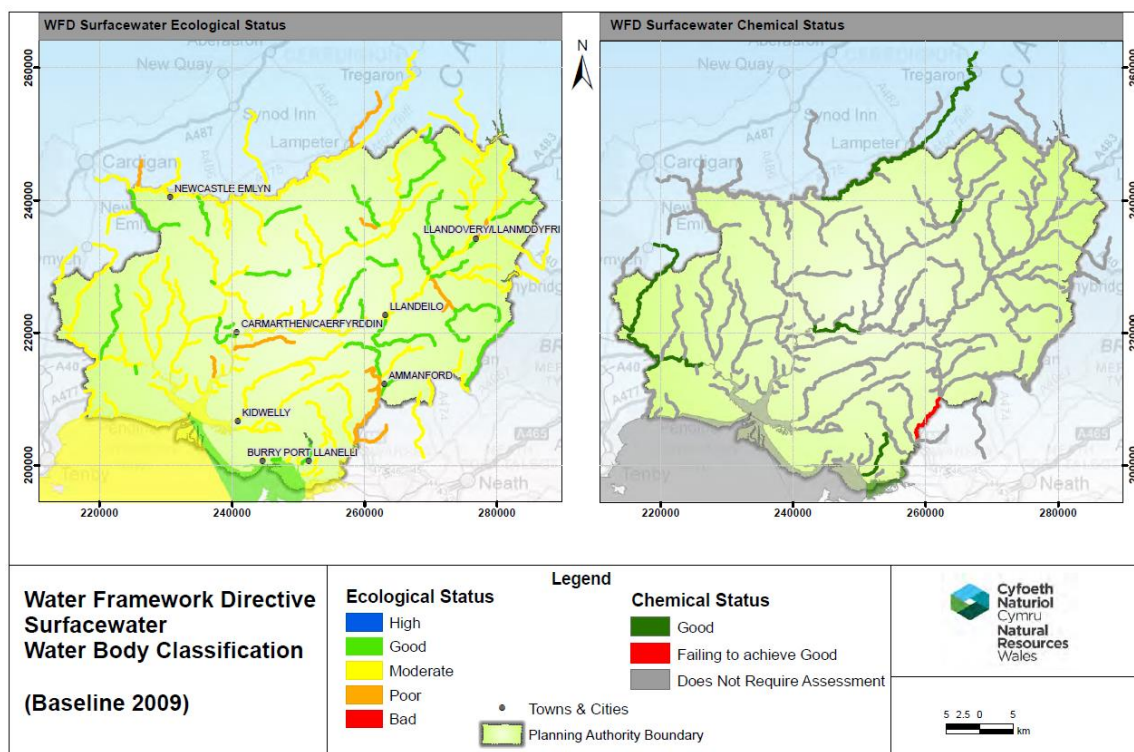


Figure 9. WFD Surface water (River, transitional and coastal) Water Body Classification Cycle 1 (Baseline 2009)

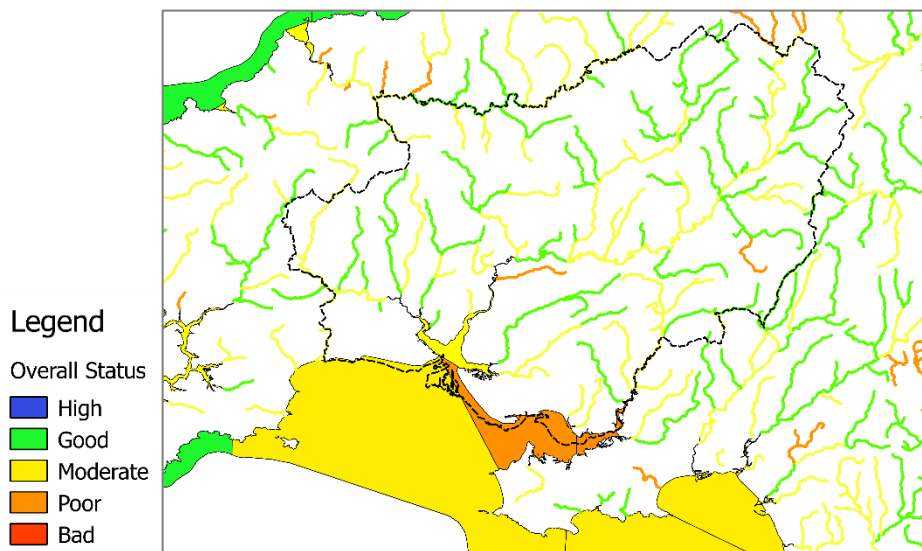


Figure 10. WFD Surface water (River, transitional and coastal) Water Body Classification Cycle 2 (2014 – 2019)

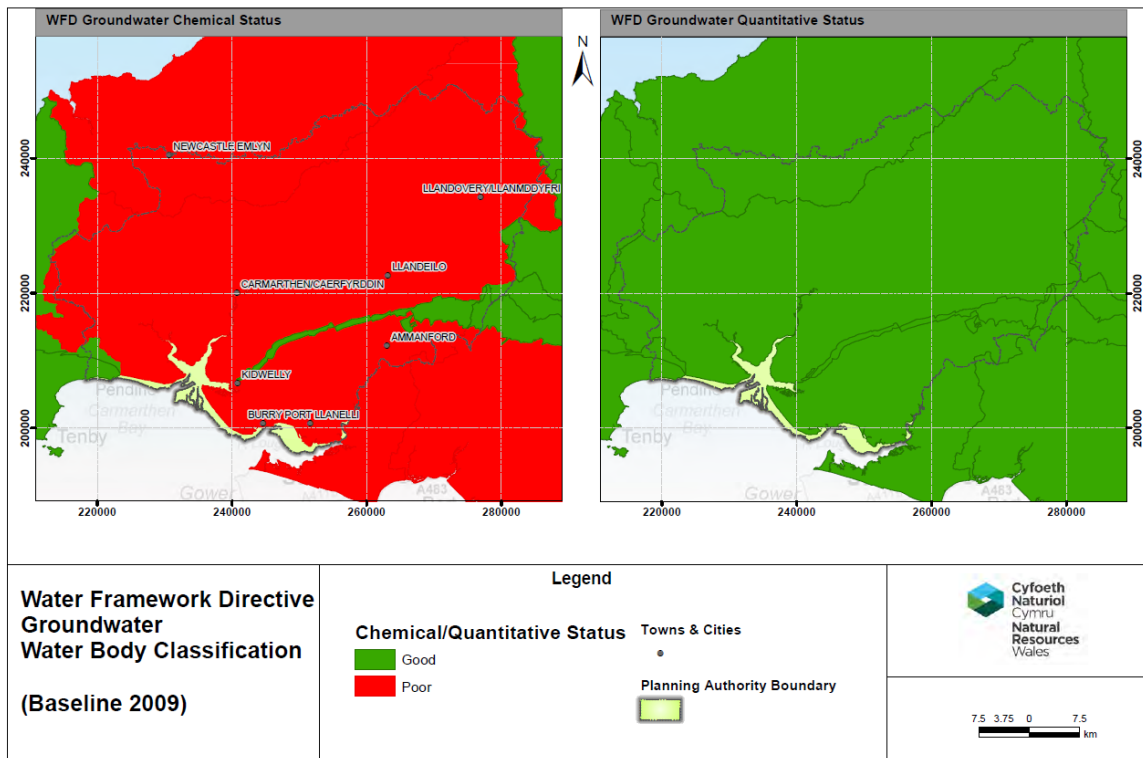


Figure 11. WFD Groundwater Classification Cycle 1 (baseline 2009)

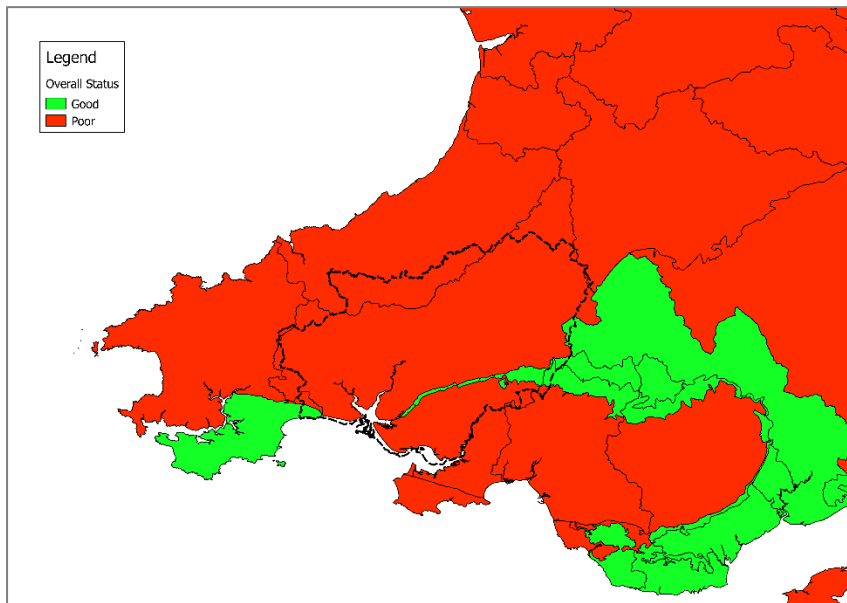


Figure 12. WFD Groundwater Classification Cycle 2 (2014 – 2019)

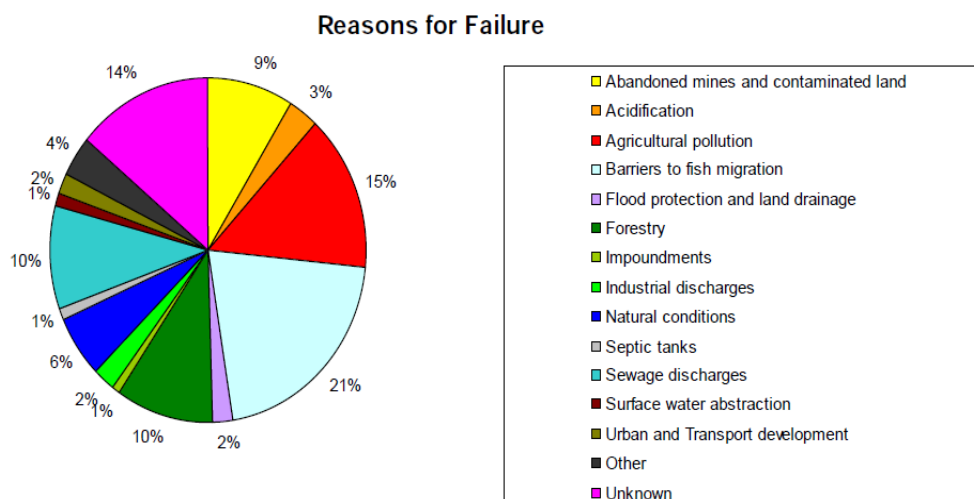


Figure 13. Reasons for Failure for Water Bodies in Carmarthenshire 2009

Water Supply

The Dwr Cymru Welsh Water Resources Management Plan (2019)⁵³ 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). The Tywi Conjunctive Use System is the largest Water Resource Zone (WRZ) in South West Wales, extending in the east from the Vale of Glamorgan to west of Carmarthen and stretching northwards past Llanwytrd Wells. In relation to Carmarthenshire, the Tywi Gower zone is shown to be in surplus but future forecasts predict otherwise (Figure 14).

⁵³ <https://www.dwrcymru.com/en/our-services/water/water-resources/final-water-resources-management-plan-2019>

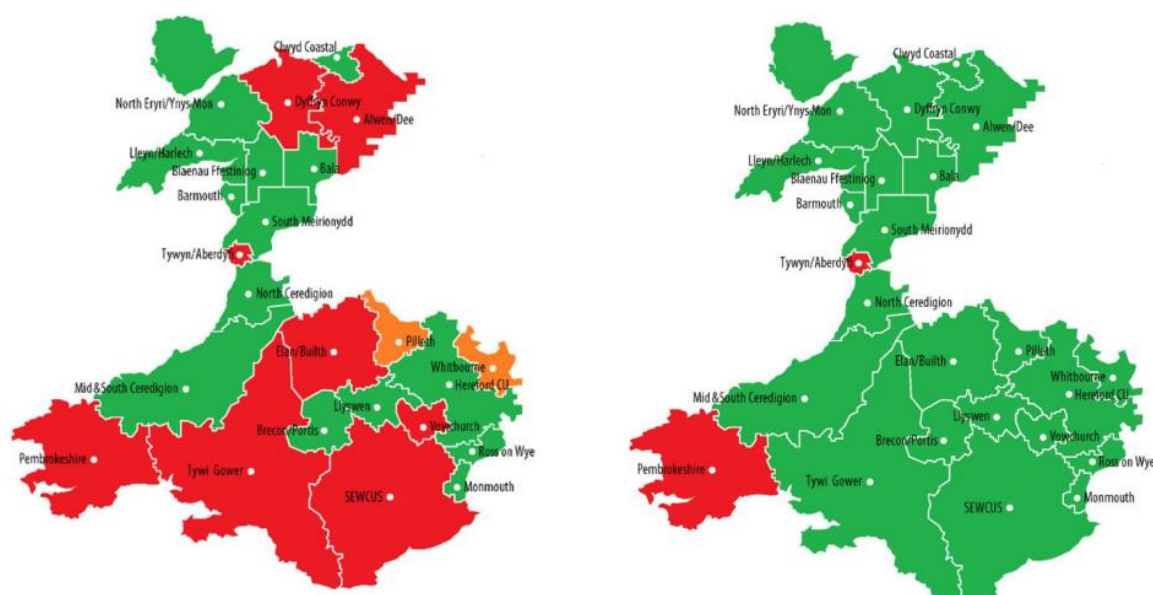


Figure 14. Forecast deficit zones in 2050 with upper quartile population growth projections for the Draft and Final Plans. Red indicates deficit, Green indicates surplus.

Flood Risk

Flood risk within Carmarthenshire affects a range of settlements and parts of the County through both fluvial and tidal inundation. 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 Dulaisall 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 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. Figure 15 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.

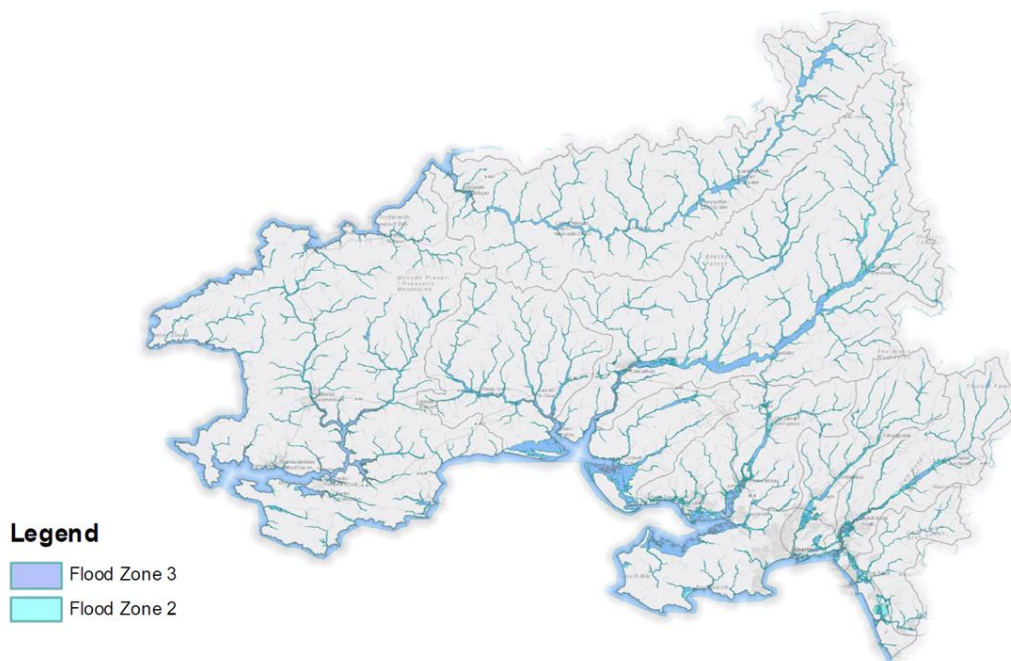


Figure 15. Flood risk zones 2 and 3 for the South West Area.

More recent Flood Risk Assessment Wales Maps can be found on NRW's website ⁵⁴. The Development Advice Map and associated planning policy *TAN15: Development and Flood Risk* is the current framework for assessing flood risk to and from new development ⁵⁵.

Drainage Infrastructure

Dŵr 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, 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

⁵⁴

https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/gb/eu/floods2019/fhrm_2020/documents/uk10/envxo2jog/NRW_Flood_Hazard_and_Risk_Mapping_2019.pdf

⁵⁵

<https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/flooding/flood-map-for-planning-development-advice-map/?lang=en>

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. 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, and 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.

Phosphates

In 2021, NRW published an evidence package outlining phosphate levels for all river Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) across Wales ⁵⁶. Of the nine rivers SACs in Wales, those catchments which are in Carmarthenshire include the Cleddau, Teifi, and Tywi (and a very small section of catchment area supports the Wye) (Figure 16). 60 per cent of river sections on the Cleddau were failed their targets and the lower Teifi also failed to reach the standards. The Tywi passed.

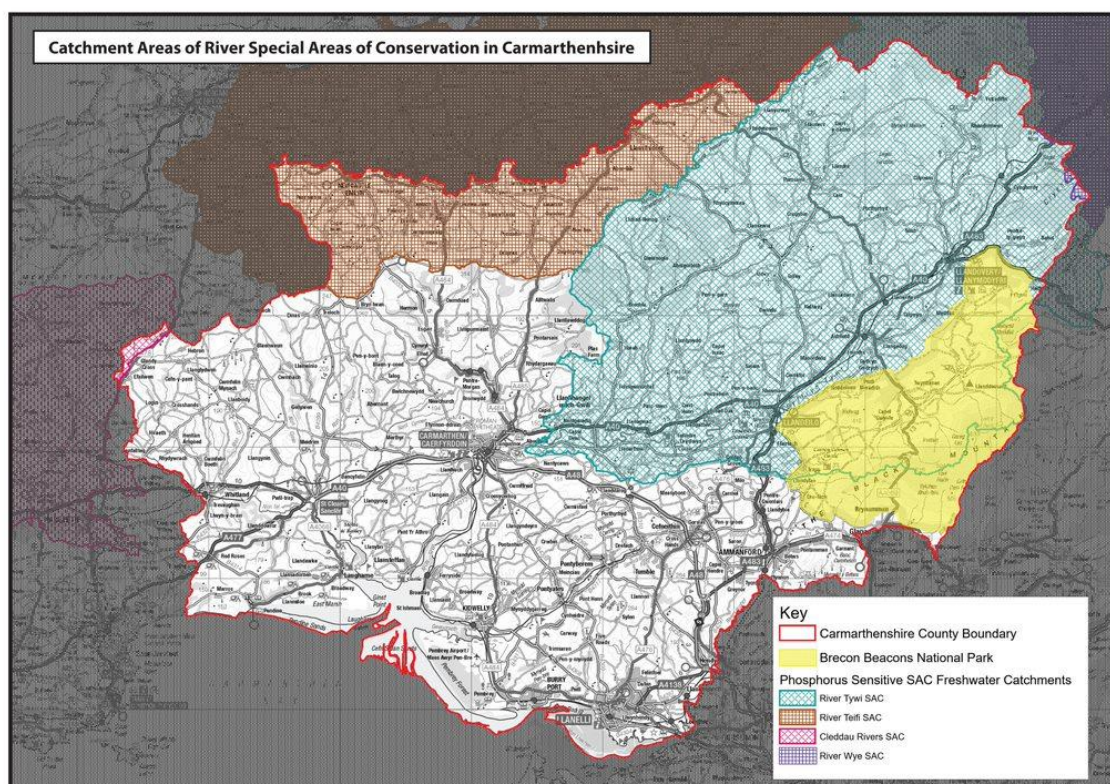


Figure 16. Catchment Areas of River SACs within Carmarthenshire (2021).

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<https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/water-reports/compliance-assessment-of-welsh-river-sacs-against-phosphorus-targets/?lang=en>

Special advice was given by NRW to planning authorities on planning applications affecting phosphorus sensitive river SACs ⁵⁷. Because of this issue, Carmarthenshire County Council have commissioned multiple reports on the subject which will feature greatly within the Plan's evidence base.

Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the Plan

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 cumulative 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 and our natural landscape and designated sites. The preferred growth and spatial strategy will need to be decided in alignment with the potential impacts placed on water quality and biodiversity (this may include plans for appropriate mitigation).

⁵⁷ <https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/our-role-in-planning-and-development/advice-to-planning-authorities-for-planning-applications-affecting-phosphorus-sensitive-river-special-areas-of-conservation/?lang=en>

6- Material Assets

Highways and Transportation

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. 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 several A-roads as well as numerous B-classified roads each representing important components of the highway network (Figure 17).

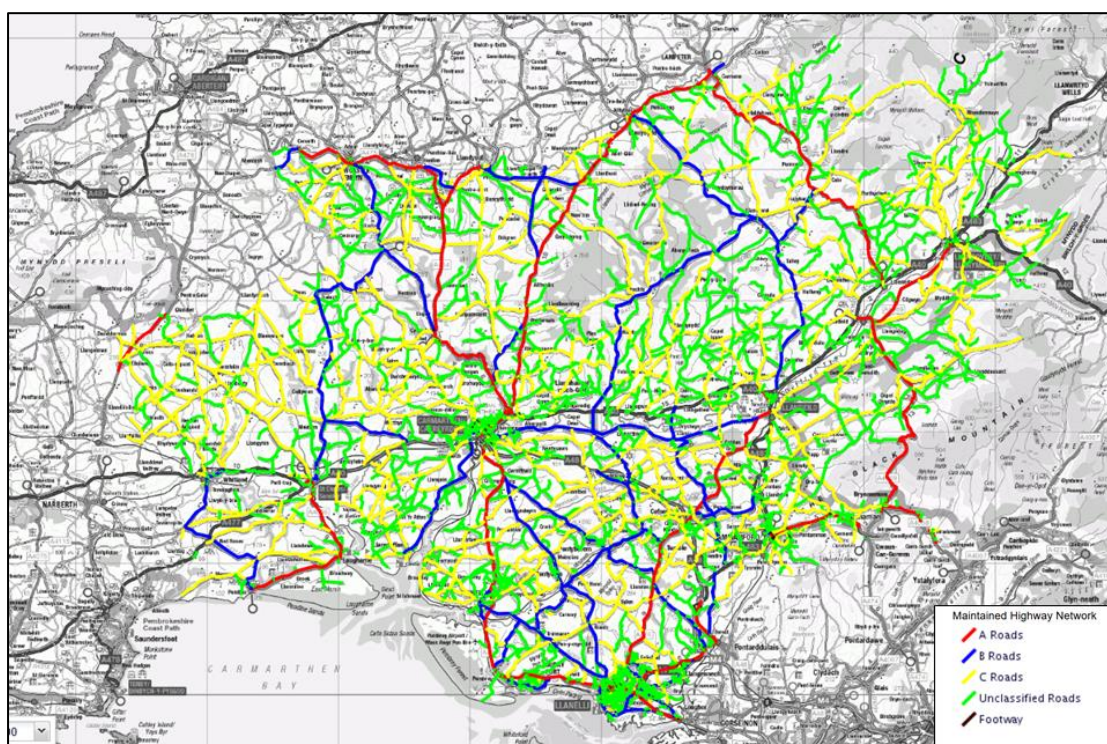


Figure 17. Carmarthenshire Road Network.

Table 4 illustrates the length (km) of the road network in Carmarthenshire, which represents some 44% of the regional network and illustrates the amount of the County accessed by B and lower classification roads. This reflects the rural extent of the County and emphasises the challenges to delivering a sustainable integrated strategy for the area (especially in terms of green transport and provision of services).

Table 4. Carmarthenshire Road Network. Source: Adopted Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan ⁵⁸.

⁵⁸ http://www.cartogold.co.uk/CarmarthenshireLDP/english/text/00_Content.htm

Classification	Road Length (km)
M4	5
Class A (Trunk)	147
Class A (County)	247
Class B and C	1,579
Minor Surfaced	1,496
Total	3,474

In relation to car availability within Carmarthenshire as of 27th March 2011, only 18.8 per cent of households within the County did not have access to a car or van whilst 43.5 per cent, 27.6 per cent and 10.2 per cent had access to one, two or three (or more) cars or vans respectively⁵⁹. In terms of traffic volumes, the County in recent years has seen a year-on-year increase since 2012 until 2019 (2.21), although levels in 2020 have dropped to 1.68⁶⁰. Some 38 per cent of this volume utilises the County's Trunk Road Network, with 34 per cent of the volume through 'minor' classified roads, reflecting the rural nature of large parts of the County⁶¹.

Waste

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. More recent data on waste management can be accessed from StatsWales⁶².

The proportion of municipal waste recycled or composted in Carmarthenshire for 2016/17 was 66.2 per cent⁶³. In 2020/21 it was 66.3 per cent which is above the national average of 65.4 per cent. 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*⁶⁴.

According to NRW (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, landfill was the predominant waste management method in SW Wales (57%)

⁵⁹ <http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/people-vehicle-licensing-ownership/?lang=en>

⁶⁰ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Transport/Roads/Road-Traffic/volumeofroadtraffic-by-localauthority-year>

⁶¹ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Transport/Roads/Road-Traffic/volumeofroadtraffic-by-localauthority-roadclassification>

⁶² <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Waste-Management/Local-Authority-Municipal-Waste/annualwastegenerated-by-source-year>

⁶³ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Waste-Management>

⁶⁴ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/towards-zero-waste-our-waste-strategy.pdf#:~:text=Towards%20Zero%20Waste%20is%20the%20new%20overarching%20waste,efficiency%20and%20waste%20management%20between%20now%20and%202050>

with recycling being second (31%). 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

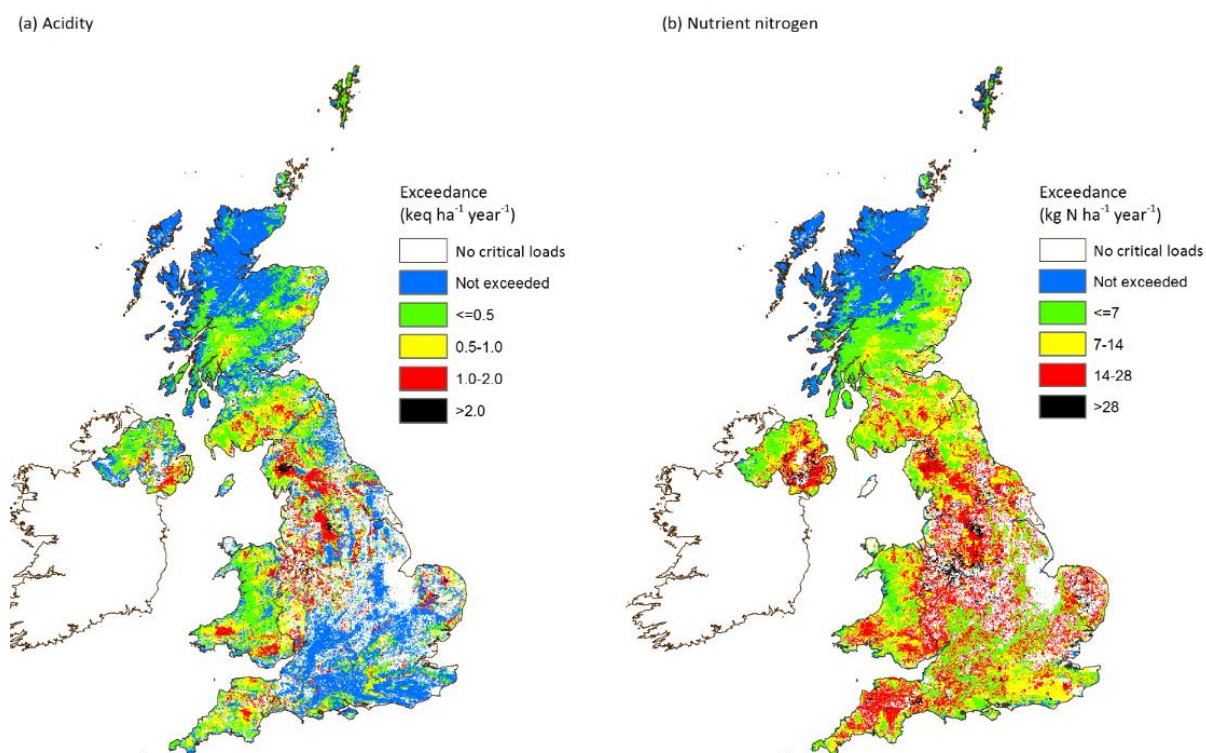
If the LDP was not in place, National Policy and Legislation will require that proposed developments push waste up the hierarchy and regional collaboration between authorities. However, identification of a residual waste facility when required would be difficult with a development plan in place. Additionally, If development were to take place without a coordinated approach, alteration of traffic and road use could have cumulative effects on the environment and resident.

7- Soils

Soil Quality

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

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⁻¹ year⁻¹ in 1995 to 8.9 kg N ha⁻¹ year⁻¹ in 2013⁶⁴. In Wales, the percentage area of habitats with exceedance of acidity critical loads (see NO_x) has decreased from 90% in 1995 to 74% in 2013. Over the same period, the magnitude of the average acidity exceedance has reduced by 65% (from 1.36 keq ha⁻¹ year⁻¹ to 0.45 keq ha⁻¹ year⁻¹).⁶⁵ Data on critical loadings of nutrient loads by nitrogen deposition 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 2015⁶⁶. Similarly, critical loadings by acid deposition in soils are predicted to decrease by 2010, though areas will remain where critical loads are still exceeded (Figure 18).



⁶⁵ <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>

⁶⁶ <http://www.cldm.ceh.ac.uk/content/methods-calculation-critical-loads-and-their-exceedances-uk>

Figure 18. Average Accumulated Exceedance of critical loads 2013–2015 ⁶⁷ (for all habitats and environments including soils and waterbodies).

Geology

The solid and drift geology of the County can be split into several broad categories (Figure 19):

- 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.

⁶⁷ <http://www.cldm.ceh.ac.uk/critical-loads/data>

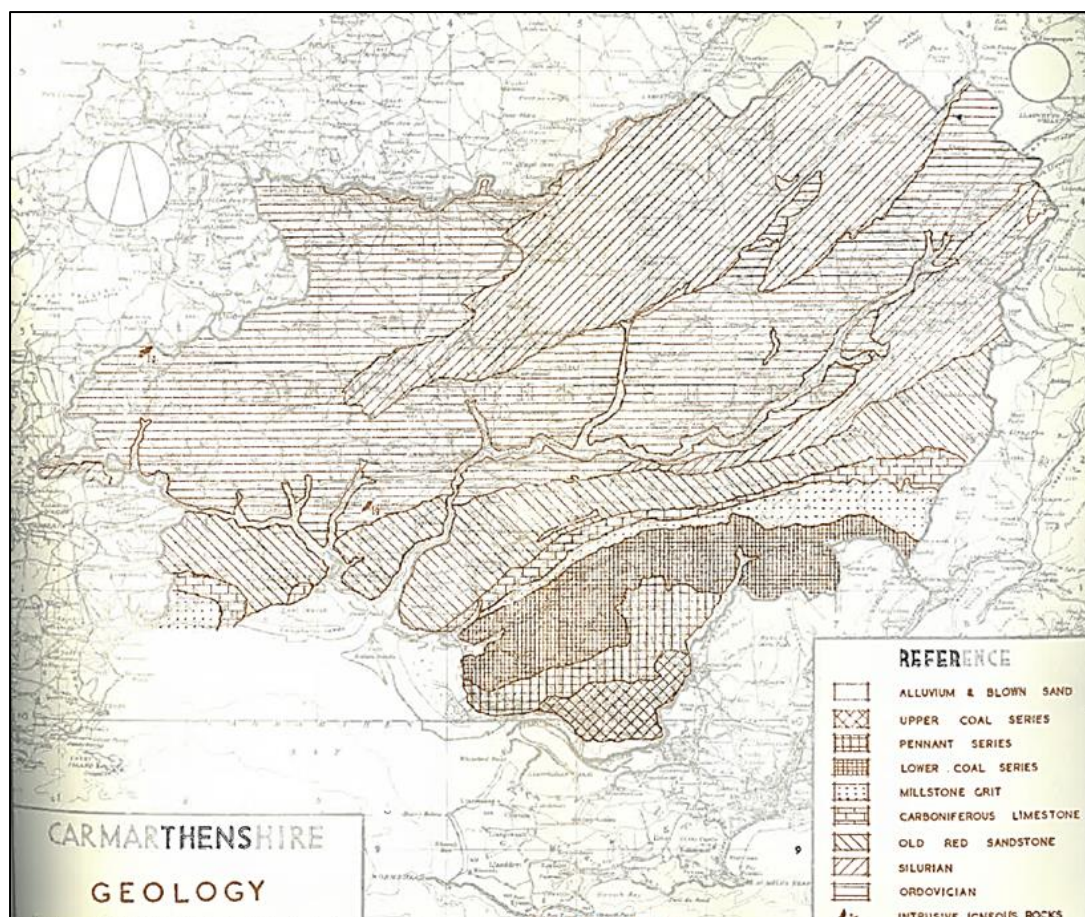


Figure 19. Geology of Carmarthenshire

Geodiversity and Geoconservation

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)

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

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 (also relating to the section on Water)

Groundwater quality is currently deteriorating, and is often heavily polluted with nitrates, mainly from agriculture, but also impacted by leaks from domestic heating oil tanks and poorly operating sewage treatments systems. Water companies then must treat water from different sources to make it safe to drink. Groundwater is also a significant resource supplying base-flows to local rivers and wetlands⁶⁸. The carboniferous limestone formations comprise a major aquifer that bears water that can be used to supply large abstractions for public or other purposes (such as the Carboniferous limestone at Pendine which is used for public water supply abstraction). 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 constitutes a minor aquifer. 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. Most of Carmarthenshire's groundwater resources are classified as poor (Figure 20).

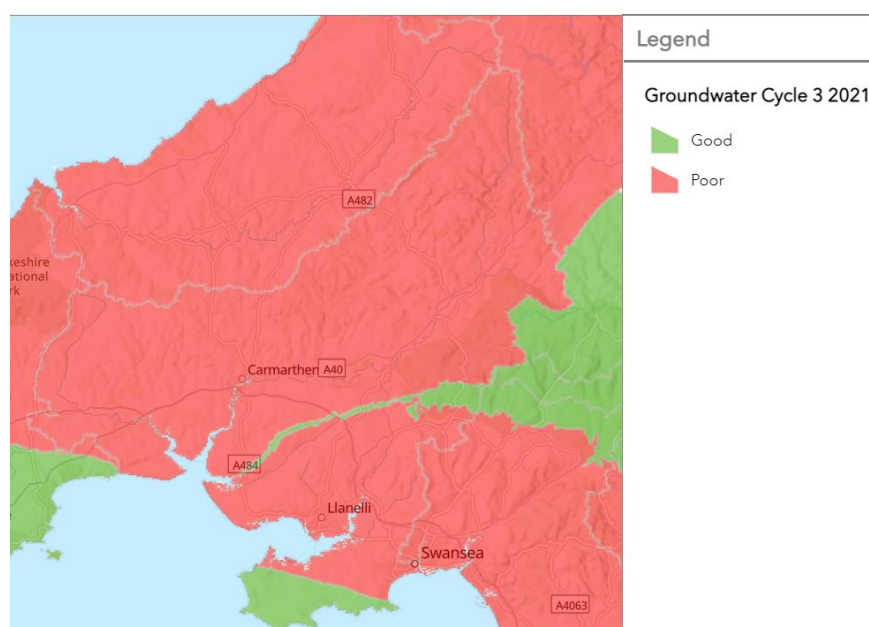


Figure 20. Water Watch Wales Groundwater Quality 2021⁶⁹.

Agricultural Land Classification

According to the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) data available⁷⁰, there is no Grade 1 land and limited 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. Most land in Carmarthenshire is classified as Grade 4 land, with a small proportion of Grade 5 land situated towards the northeast of the County. View the Predictive Agricultural Land Classification Map 2 for further details⁷¹.

Predicted Effect Without Implementation of the LDP

⁶⁸ <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/water-management-and-quality/how-we-can-all-help-protect-groundwater-in-wales/?lang=en>

⁶⁹ <https://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/>

⁷⁰ <https://gov.wales/agricultural-land-classification>

⁷¹ https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-wg:wg_predictive_alc2

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

Given the relatively 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

PPW states that *“it is important that the planning system looks to protect, conserve and enhance the significance of historic assets. This will include consideration of the setting of an historic asset which might extend beyond its curtilage. Any change that impacts on an historic asset or its setting should be managed in a sensitive and sustainable way”* (paragraph 6.1.7)⁷². To recognise the value of historic landscapes, and to raise awareness of their importance, Cadw, in partnership with NRW and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) has compiled a non-statutory Register of 58 landscapes of outstanding or special historic interest in Wales⁷³. In respect of the above, there are seven Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest that fall wholly or partly within Carmarthenshire (Figure 21), and each is described below in further detail:

- Tywi Valley, Myddfai and Black Mountain (Figure 22)
- Tywi Valley (Figure 23)
- Preseli (Figure 24)
- Dolaucothi (Figure 25)
- Taf and Tywi Estuary (Figure 26)
- Drefach / Felindre (Figure 27)
- Lower Teifi Valley (Figure 28)

⁷² https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11_0.pdf

⁷³ <https://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/southwestareastatement.pdf>

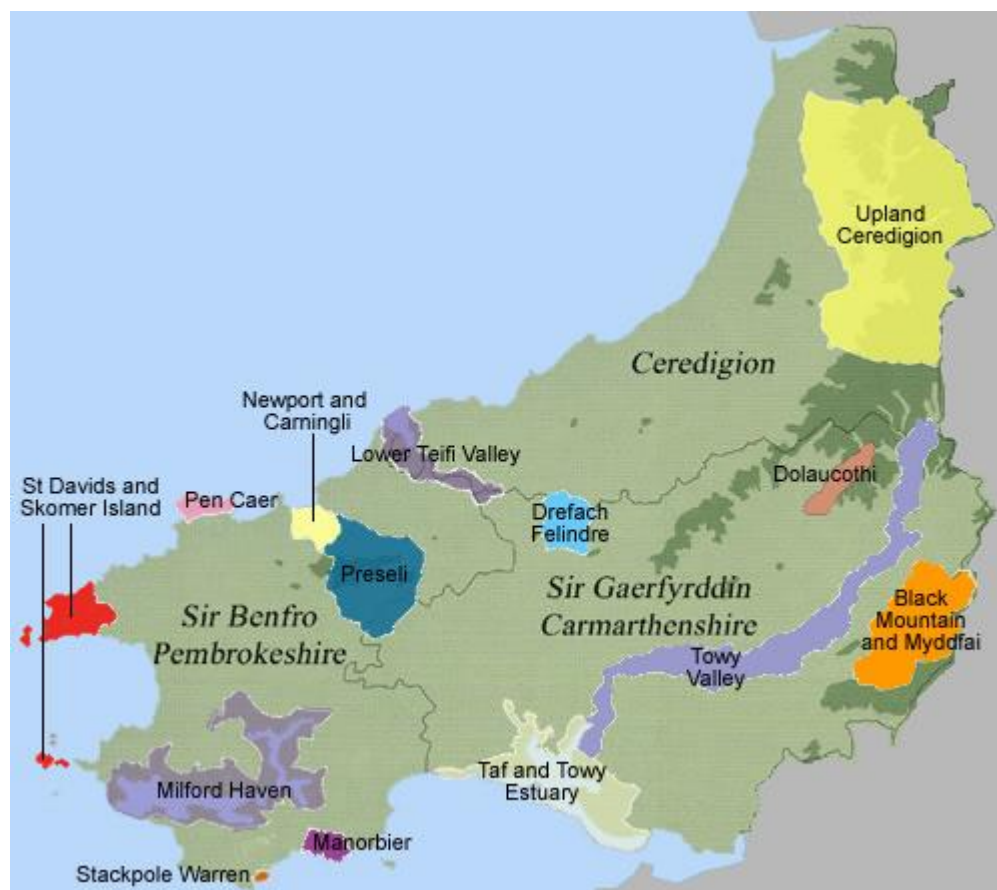


Figure 21: Overview of the historic and natural environment within South West Wales. The following related figures are also obtained from the Dyfed Archaeological Trust ⁷⁴.

⁷⁴ <https://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/wp/>

Tywi Valley, Myddfai and Black Mountain

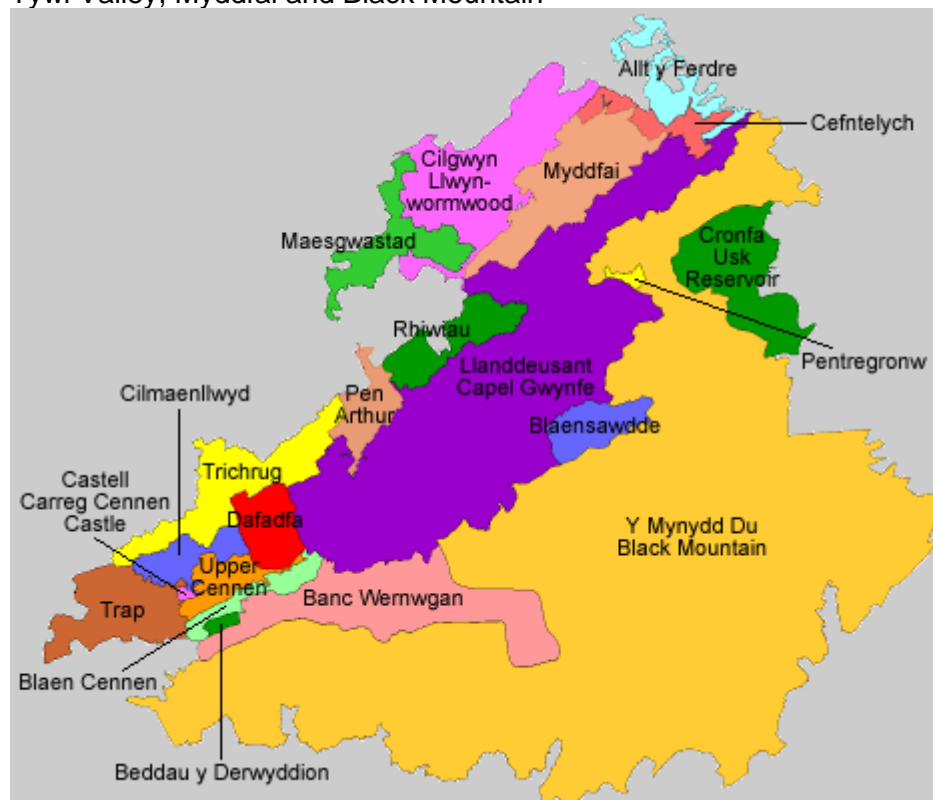


Figure 22: Historic and natural environment within Tywi Valley, Myddfai and Black Mountain. Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

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 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 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

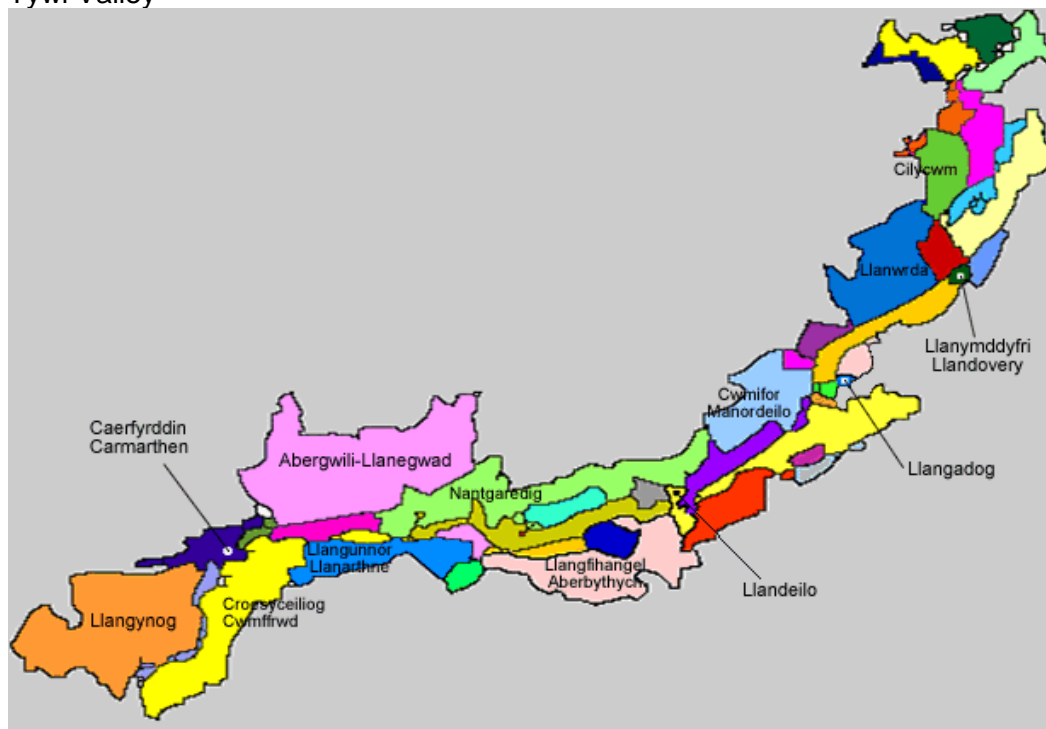


Figure 23: Historic and natural environment within Tywi Valley. Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

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-Llandovery 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



Figure 24: Historic and natural environment within Preseli. Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

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

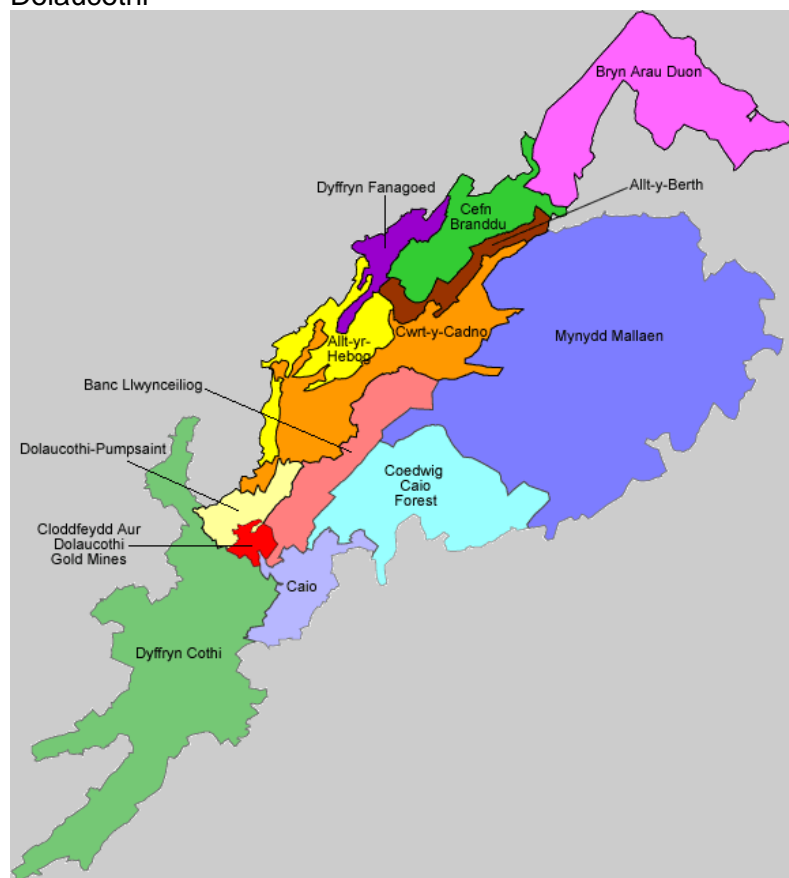


Figure 25: Historic and natural environment within Dolaucothi. Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

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

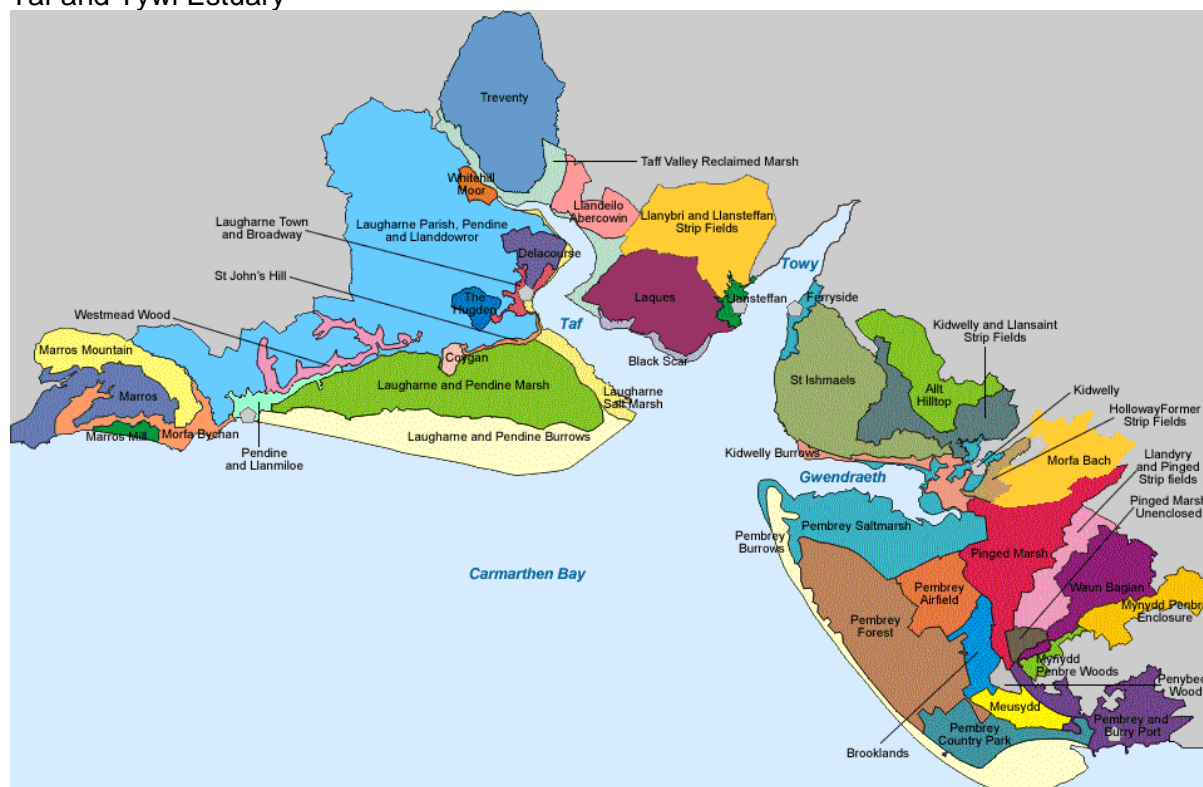


Figure 26: Historic and natural environment within the Taf and Tywi Estuary. Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

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.

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. 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 Laugarne 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 Laugarne were much more open to the sea than at present. Many of the finds of prehistoric and medieval date from Laugarne 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.

The former Witchett Brook divided Laugarne 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.

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.

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 century⁷⁵.

Drefach / Felindre

⁷⁵ Historic landscape Characterisation – Dyfed Archaeological Trust

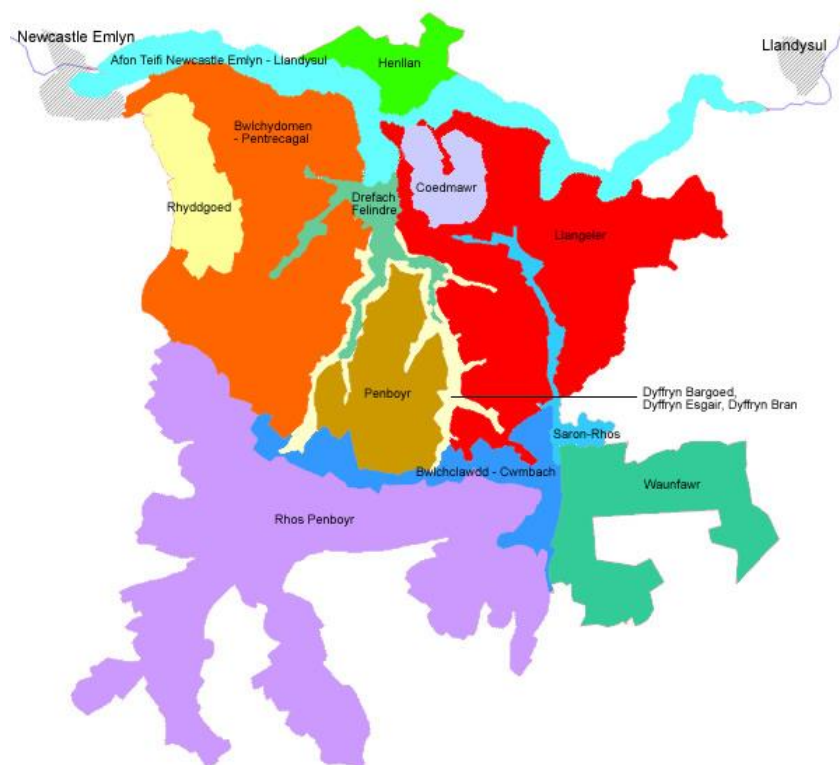


Figure 27: Historic and natural environment within Drefach / Felindre. Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

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.

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 **Waunfawr** 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

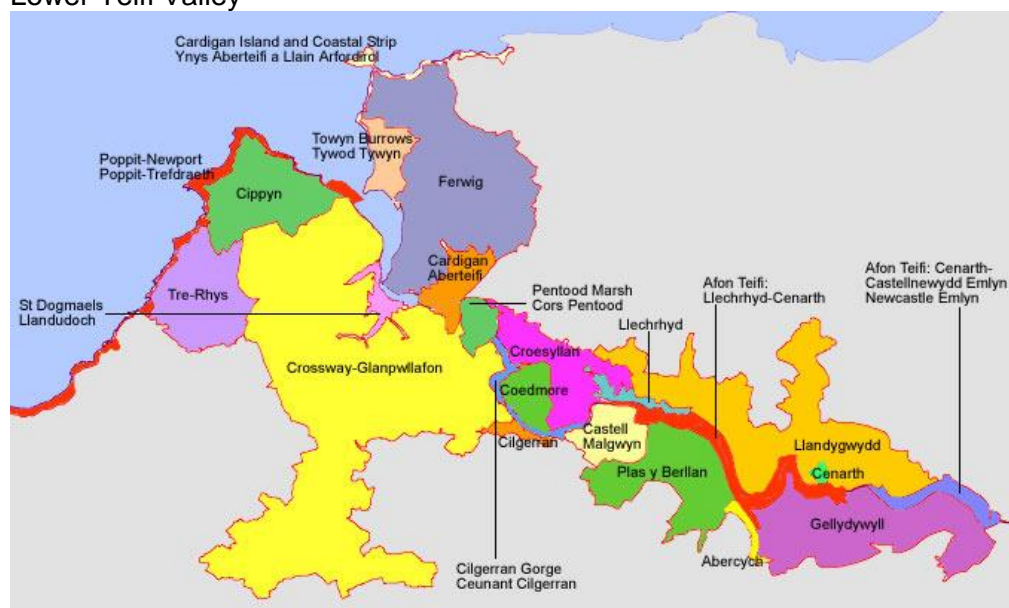


Figure 28: Historic and natural environment within the Lower Teifi Valley. Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

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: Llechryd – 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 **Llandygydd** 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

Table 5 contains registered parks and gardens are situated in Carmarthenshire.

Table 5. Registered Park and Gardens in Carmarthenshire ⁷⁶.

Name	Grade	Reasons for Designation and Listed Features
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*).
Maesycrugiau 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

⁷⁶ <https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/placemaking/legislation-guidance/registered-historic-parks-and-gardens>

		& 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 &

		<p>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)</p>
Taliaris	II	<p>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)</p>
Parc Howard	II	<p>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)</p>
Stradey Castle	II	<p>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*)</p>
Llechdwnni	II	<p>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)</p>
Paxton's Tower	II*	<p>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: Paxton's Tower (grade II*); Tower Lodge (grade II)</p>
Llwynywormwood	II	<p>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,</p>

		house, stream and a lake, but also of the Brecon Beacons beyond. Listed building: barn (grade II)
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Scheduled Monuments

There are also 366 Scheduled Monuments (SM) in Carmarthenshire; ranging from Prehistoric to Post-Medieval/Modern features of cultural heritage interest. Reference is also had to the content of the Historic Environment Records (HER) across the county as compiled and maintained by Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

Conservation Areas

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

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

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

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 of greatest importance, and which are worthy of the protection that the designation of SLAs provides, are the:

- River valleys
- Upland landscapes
- Coastal landscapes

The SLAs have been grouped according to these landscape types and are described below.

River Valleys

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. 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.

Moving down stream towards Rhandirmwyn and Llandovery, the mid Tywi valley opens out more, but the valley continues to rise 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.

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.

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 know 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 constant stream of traffic and the noise associated with this.

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.

Llwchwr Valley - The Llwwchwr 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.

Cwm Cathan - Cwm Cathan is an impressive and steep sided river valley running from the upland area of Mynydd Betws to the lowland Llwwchwr 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.

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.

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.

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.

Cothi Valley - The Cothi Valley can be described in four parts.

As the Cothi runs between Mynydd Mallaen and the North Eastern Uplands Special Landscape Areas the valley is upland in character. The slopes rise 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 is field boundaries these tend to be fairly weak, with some hedge lines becoming

lines of trees. Fences are not uncommon 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.

The Llansawel Basin contains the confluence of the Cothi with a few other rivers - the Marlais, Melinddwr and Twrch. The narrow upland valley 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.

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.

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 is 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.

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 valley 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

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 19th and early 20th 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.

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.

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.

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 mid 19th century with the enclosure of fields. The Gwendraeth Levels SLA abuts Pembrey Mountain SLA and this area provides an important and unspoilt backdrop to the levels

Uplands

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

This SLA contains several 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.

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.

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.

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.

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. 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 because 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. 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. 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 and along the coast.

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. 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. The three settlements – Laugharne, Llansteffan and Ferryside within the SLA each have a distinct character. Ferryside is the only one on the railway, which 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. 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. 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

Population estimates are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), and consider births, deaths, and an estimate of migration between the last census and the middle of the current year. In 2017, the population of Carmarthenshire is estimated at 186,452, accounting for 5.96 per cent of the Welsh population. By 2020, both these figures increased with the population of Carmarthenshire is estimated at 190,073, accounting for 5.99 per cent of the Welsh population. The age profile of the local population is shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Mid-Year Population Estimates in the County and Wales ⁷⁷.

	2017 (Mid-Year)				2020 (Mid-Year)			
	Carmarthenshire		Wales		Carmarthenshire		Wales	
Age Band (Yrs)	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
0-4	9,621	5.2	170,709	5.5	9,259	4.9	161,341	5.1
5-15	23,274	12.5	388,551	12.4	23,897	12.6	401,389	12.7
16-24	17,520	9.4	359,361	11.5	17,430	9.2	345,604	10.9
25-44	40,302	21.6	742,574	23.8	41,070	21.6	763,589	24.1
45-64	52,264	28.0	827,015	26.5	52,724	27.7	829,073	26.2
65-74	24,224	13.0	356,622	11.4	24,841	13.1	361,841	11.4
75+	19,247	10.3	286,647	9.2	20,852	11.0	306,749	9.7
Total	186,452	100	3,125,165	100	190,073	100	3,169,586	100

Population Projections

Projections estimating the future population of Carmarthenshire vary greatly yet remain an important factor in informing and justifying the preferred growth strategy of the Plan. This ensures that the needs of future generations are considered and properly met. StatsWales states that “*population projections provide estimates of the size of the future population, and are based on assumptions about births, deaths, and migration. The assumptions are based on past trends. Projections only indicate what may happen should the recent trends continue. Projections done in this way do not make allowances for the effects of local or central government policies on future population levels, distribution, and change*” ⁷⁸. The fifth set of population projections published by Welsh Government provides projections from the base year of 2018, through the projection period to 2043 (Figure 29).

⁷⁷

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates/nationallevelpopulationestimates-by-year-age-ukcountry>

⁷⁸ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Projections/Local-Authority/2018-based/populationprojections-by-localauthority-variant-year>

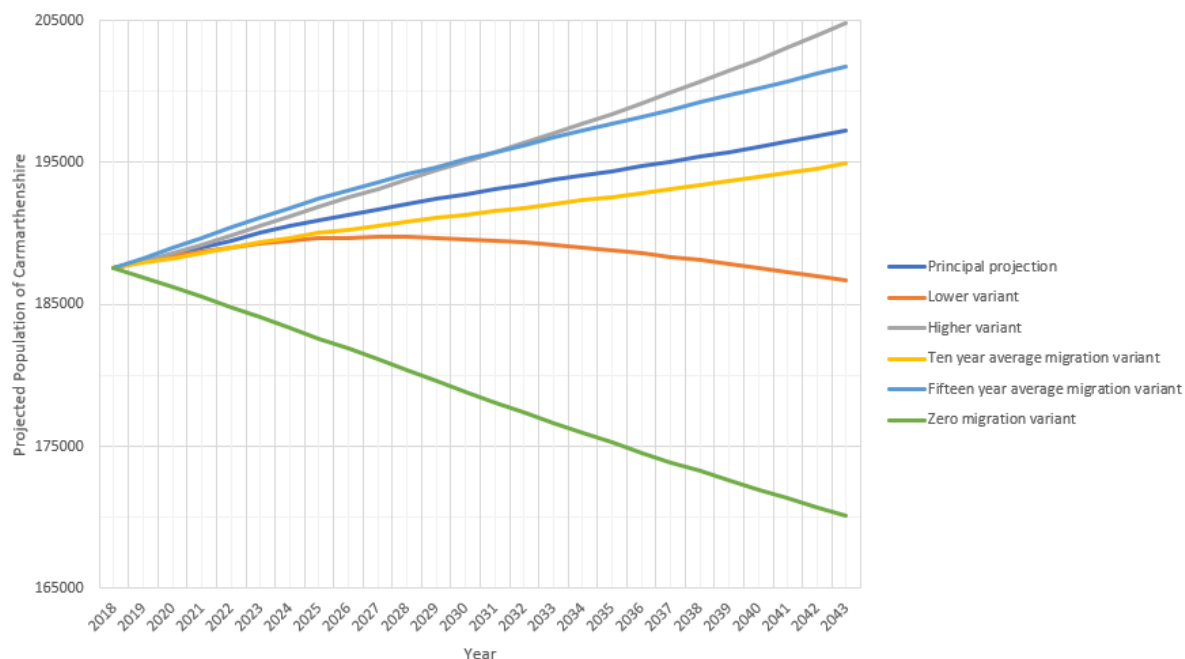


Figure 29. 2018-based population projections for Carmarthenshire, 2018 to 2043, using different variants ⁶⁷.

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. Figure # 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 Welsh Government 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. 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 ⁷⁹ (Figure 30).

⁷⁹ Stats Wales <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Projections/Local-Authority/2014-based/populationprojectioncomponentsofchange-by-localauthority-year>

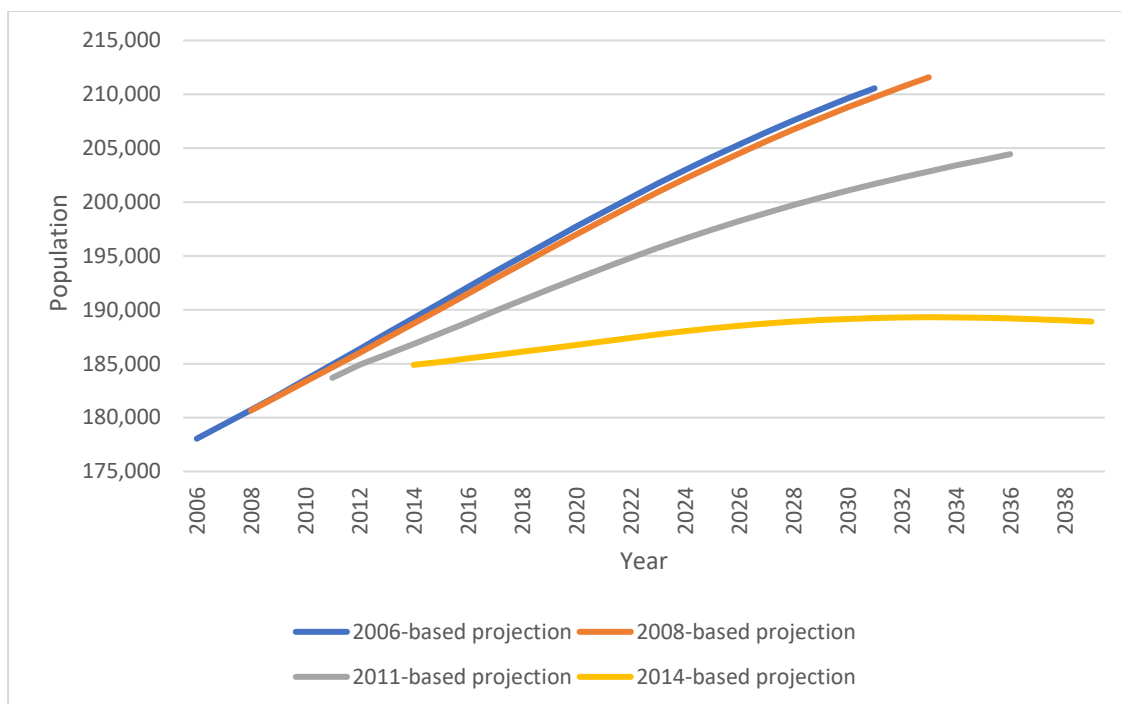


Figure 30. Variance in Carmarthenshire's Population Projections as contained within Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan Review Report.

In consideration of the proposed Plan 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.

NB: Due to the variances described, a specific report has been commissioned by Carmarthenshire County Council to provide further clarity on the matter.

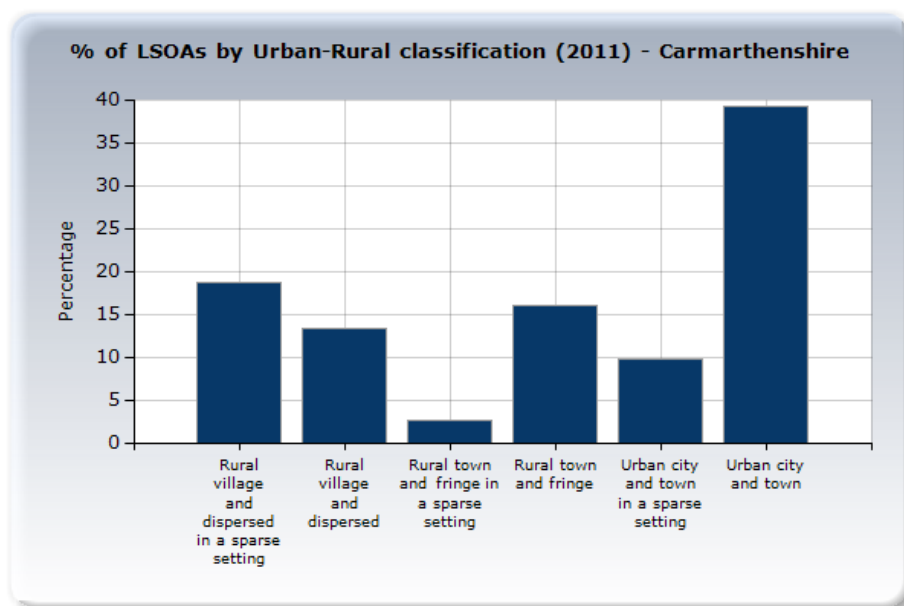
Population Density

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 area of 2370km². This makes it the third largest local authority by area in Wales. However, the average density for Carmarthenshire is 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 square⁸⁰. There are three major towns in Carmarthenshire which form a pivotal role at the centre of the Plan'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 County⁸¹. 39.3% of Lower Super Output Areas (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

⁸⁰ Stats Wales: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Density/populationdensity-by-localauthority-year>

⁸¹ Carmarthenshire Draft Wellbeing Plan: <http://www.thecarmarthenshirewewant.wales/media/8285/carms-well-being-plan-final-draft-051017-english.pdf>

the highest proportion within Carmarthenshire. The County has no LSOAs in Deep-Rooted Deprivation ⁸² (Figure 31).



Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 31: Migration between Carmarthenshire and the rest of the UK by flow and period of change ⁸³.

Migration

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 2020 (Table 7 and 8).

Table 7: Migration between Carmarthenshire and the rest of the UK by flow and period of change ⁸⁴.

Period	Inward (+)	Outward (-)	Net Migration (-/+)
2006 to 2007	6780	5250	1540
2007 to 2008	6190	5180	1010
2008 to 2009	5920	5520	400
2009 to 2010	5690	5490	200
2010 to 2011	6020	5190	820
2011 to 2012	6472	6001	471
2012 to 2013	6220	5881	339

⁸² <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/Deep-rooted-Deprivation/Isoasindeeprooteddeprivation>

⁸³ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Migration/Internal/migrationbetweenwalesandrestofuk-by-localauthority-flow-periodofchange>

⁸⁴ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Migration/Internal/migrationbetweenwalesandrestofuk-by-localauthority-flow-periodofchange>

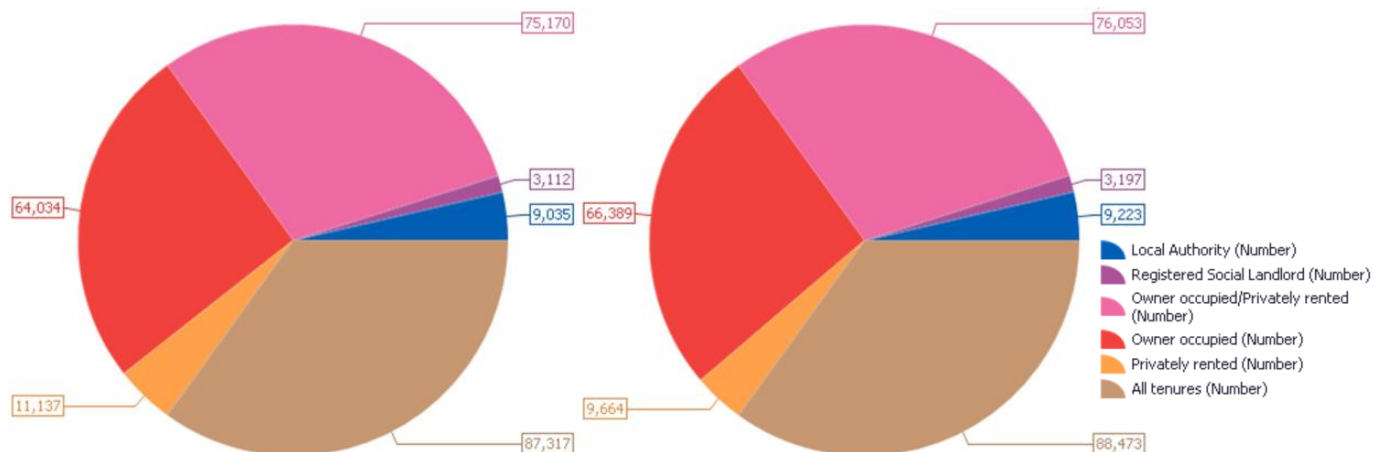
2013 to 2014	6286	6078	208
2014 to 2015	6318	5768	550
2015 to 2016	6702	6080	622
2016 to 2017	6931	6047	884
2017 to 2018	7241	5672	1569
2018 to 2019	7409	5919	1490
2019 to 2020	6609	4847	1762
14-year Total	90788	78923	11865

Table 8: Migration ages within Carmarthenshire in the year 2019–2020 ⁸⁵.

Age	Inward (+)	Outward (-)	Net Migration (-/+)
0 to 14	785	557	228
15 to 29	2360	2063	297
30 to 44	1235	963	272
45 to 64	1484	790	694
65+	745	474	271
2019–2020 Total	6609	4847	1762

Housing Stock

Figure 32 indicates the dwelling stock estimates by tenure within Carmarthenshire.



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<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Migration/Internal/migrationbetweenwalesandrestofuk-by-localauthority-flow-sex-age>

Figure 32. Dwelling stock estimates by local authority and tenure. Left: 31st March 2017; Right: 31st March 2020 ⁸⁶.

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.

⁸⁶ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Housing/Dwelling-Stock-Estimates/dwellingstockestimates-by-localauthority-tenure>

11- The Welsh Language

The Welsh language plays an important role in the social, cultural, and economic life of Carmarthenshire's residents and visitors. The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 is the legislation that created the Welsh language standards which promote and facilitate the Welsh language, and ensure that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than the English language in Wales ⁸⁷. 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 29.1% of people aged three or over were able to speak Welsh (as of March 2021) ⁸⁸. 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%.

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. 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. Avenues of language transmission are explored within the latest Welsh language use survey (Welsh in the home and in education: July 2019 to March 2020) ⁸⁹. For the year ending 31 December 2021, the Annual Population Survey reported that 29.5% of people aged three or older were able to speak Welsh. This number equates to around 892,200 people (Figure 33). This is 0.4 percentage points higher than the previous year (year ending 31 December 2020), equating to around 9,200 more people ⁹⁰.

⁸⁷ <https://www.welshlanguagecommissioner.wales/public-organisations/welsh-language-standards>

⁸⁸ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Annual-Population-Survey-Welsh-Language>

⁸⁹ <https://gov.wales/welsh-home-and-education-welsh-language-use-survey-july-2019-march-2020-html>

⁹⁰ <https://gov.wales/welsh-language-data-annual-population-survey-2021#:~:text=For%20the%20year%20ending%2031%20December%202021%2C%20the,December%202020%29%2C%20equating%20to%20around%209%2C200%20more%20people.>

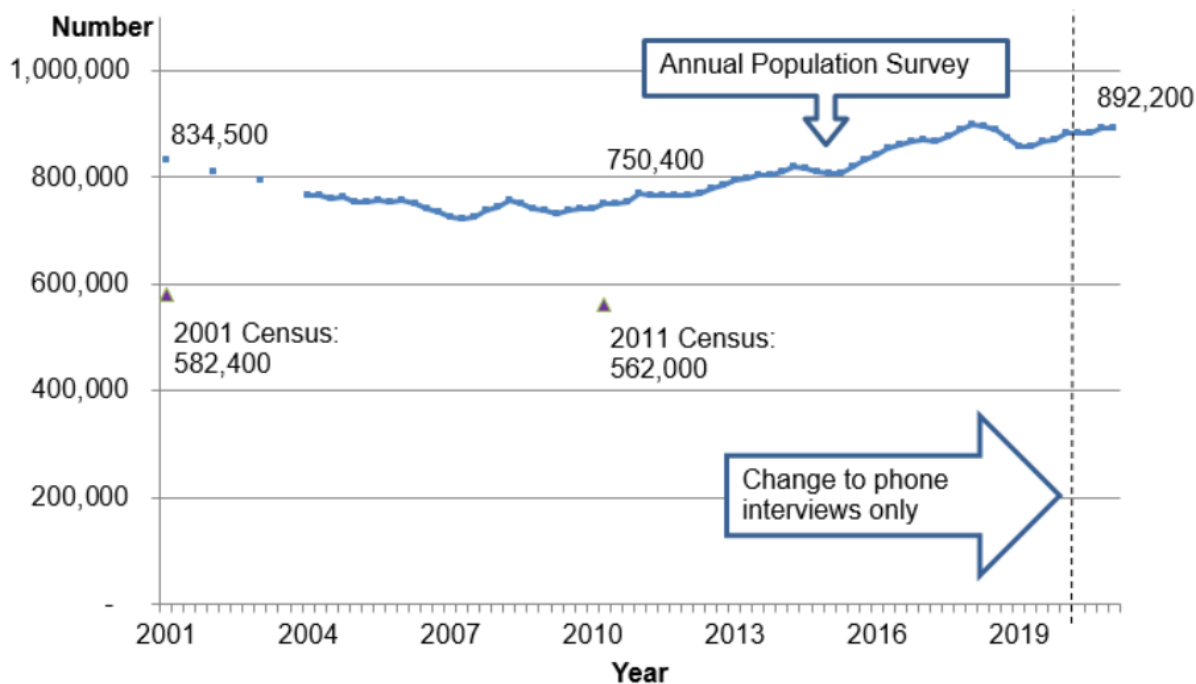


Figure 33. Number of people aged three or older able to speak Welsh, 2001 to December 2021 ⁹¹.

The proportion of Welsh speakers varies across Carmarthenshire. Figure 34 shows a breakdown of the proportion of Welsh speakers in each electoral Ward as indicated in the 2011 Census. NB: At time of writing, the latest data on the Welsh language obtained from the most recent census is yet to be published.

⁹¹<https://gov.wales/welsh-language-data-annual-population-survey-2021#:~:text=For%20the%20year%20ending%2031%20December%202021%2C%20the,December%202020%29%2C%20equating%20to%20around%209%2C200%20more%20people.>

12- Health and Well-being

Review of the Carmarthenshire Well Being Assessment 2017

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.

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.

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

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 per cent of boys in year 9 and 19 per cent 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 most offences (102 crimes) relating to possession of cannabis.

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. For example, issues such as confidence, anxiety, fatigue, and stigma can limit an individual's capacity to interact with others or to find work. 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 could not 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.

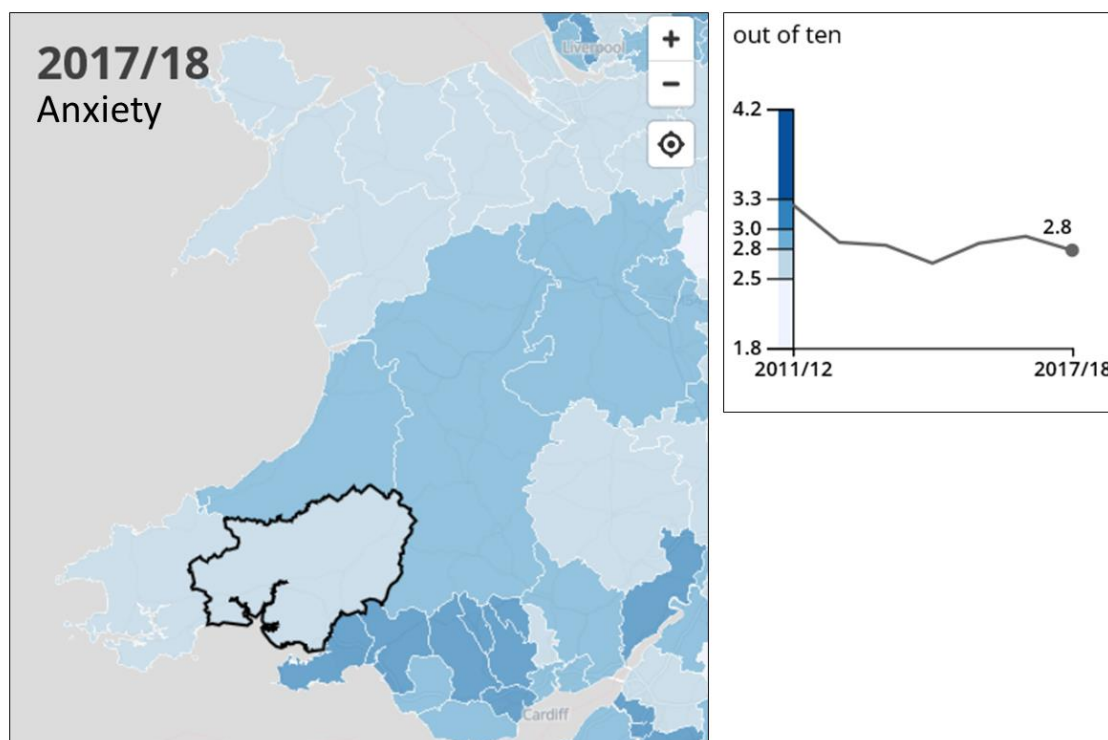
Although the life-expectancy rate in Carmarthenshire is in line with the Wales average, there is a significant gap of 18.5 years between those from the least and most deprived areas. Likewise, as with infant mortality rates, premature death (under the age of 75) is substantially

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. 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 lives⁹⁵. 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 35). Happiness was shown to increase over the same period from 7.2 to 7.7 (Figure 36). This trend is also mirrored by life satisfaction (7.3 to 7.7) (Figure 37) and feeling things in life were worthwhile (7.6 to 7.9) (Figure 38) over the same period.



95

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/bulletins/measuringnationalwellbeing/july2017tojune2018>

Figure 35. Personal well-being map of responses to the question ‘Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?’ displaying weighted mean averages March 2018

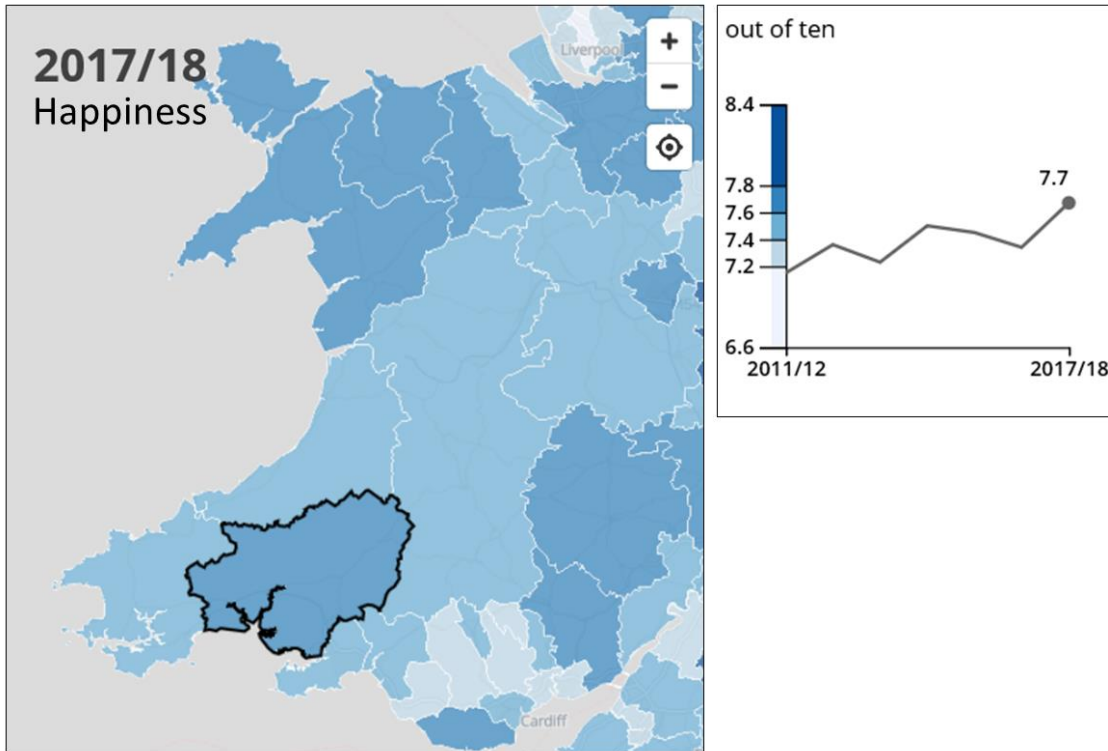


Figure 36. Personal well-being map of responses to the question ‘Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?’ displaying weighted mean averages March 2018

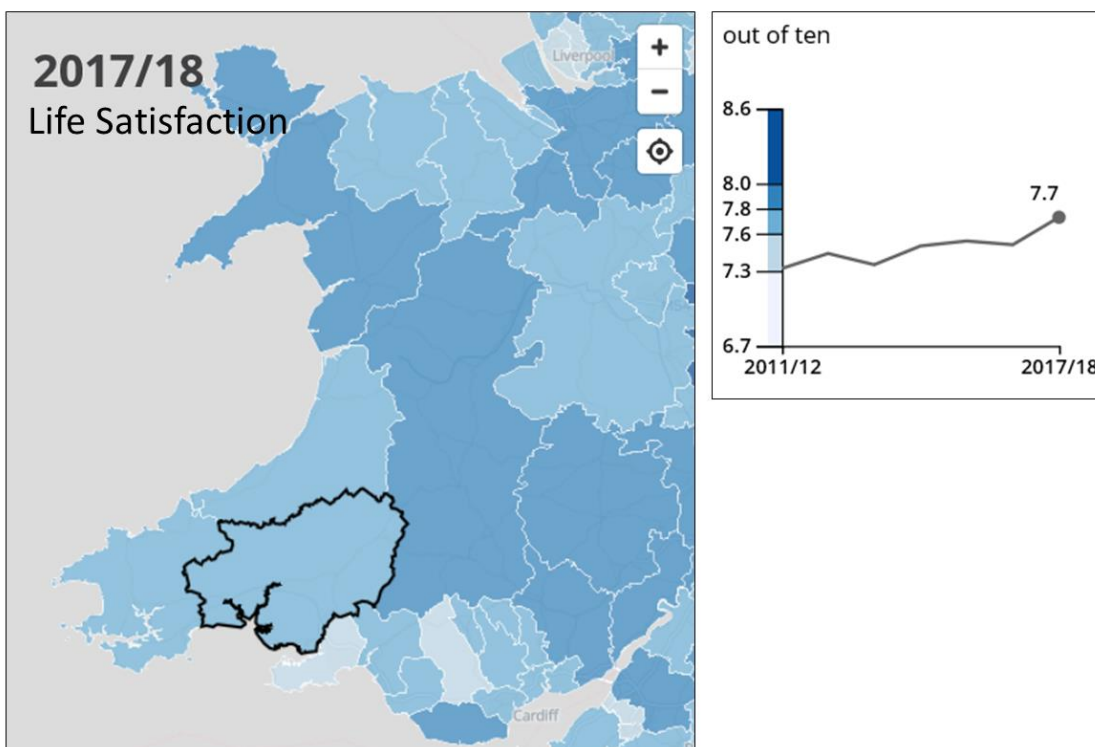


Figure 37. Personal well-being map of responses to the question ‘Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?’ displaying weighted mean averages March 2018

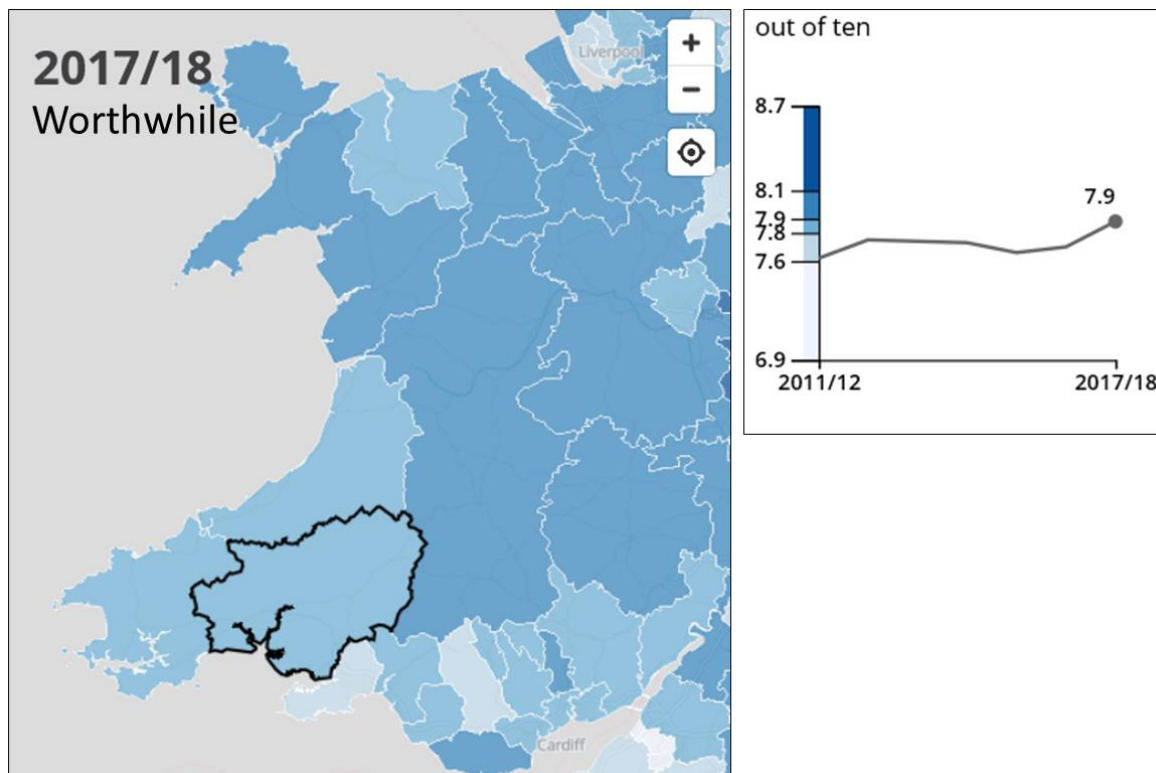


Figure 38. Personal well-being map of responses to the question ‘Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?’ displaying weighted mean averages March 2018

South West Area Statement – Mental Health

The south west area statement reports a clear divide in mental health between Pembrokeshire, where most 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. 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 39).

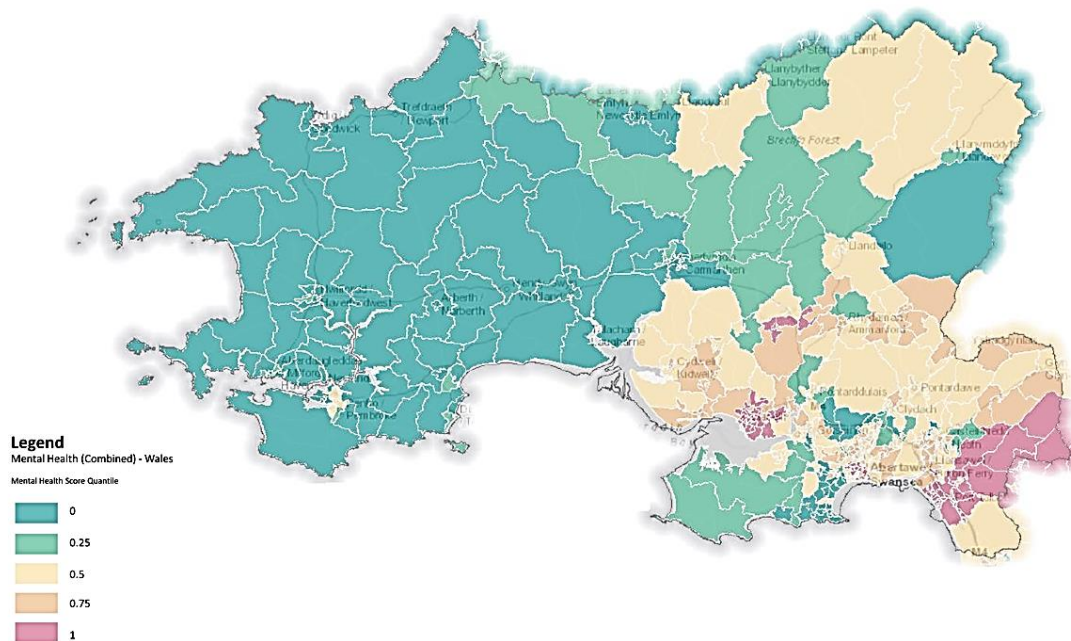


Figure 39. 2 Mental Health Score Quantile for South West Area. Source South West Area Statement, NRW.

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 Llandoverly, 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 40).

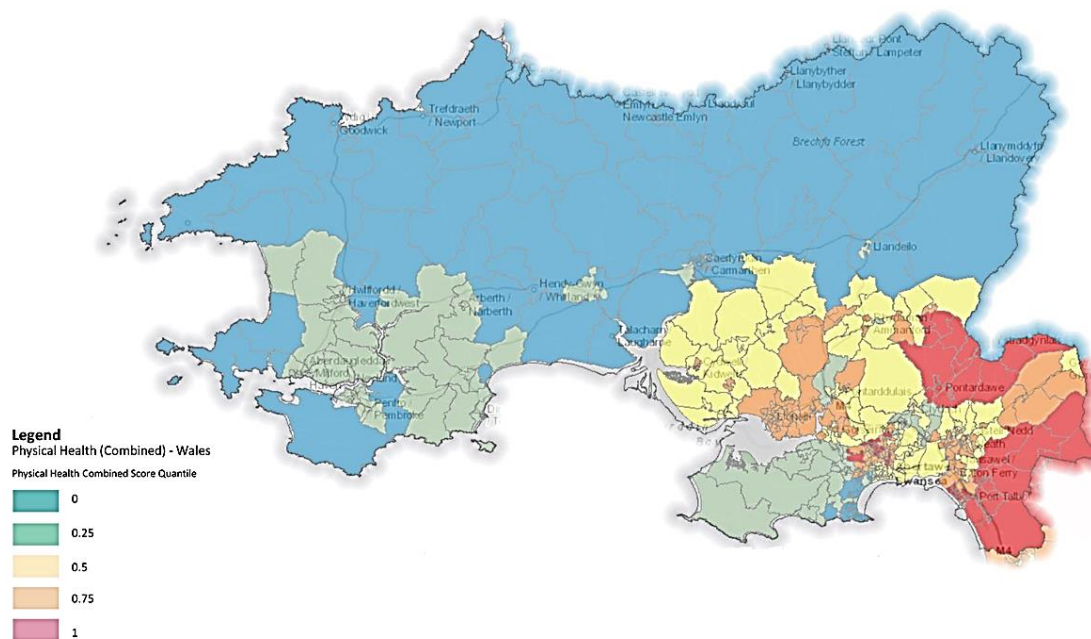


Figure 40. Physical Health Score Quantile for South West Area. Source South West Area Statement, NRW.

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

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. 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. 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.

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 campuses. 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. 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 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

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 in Figure 41.

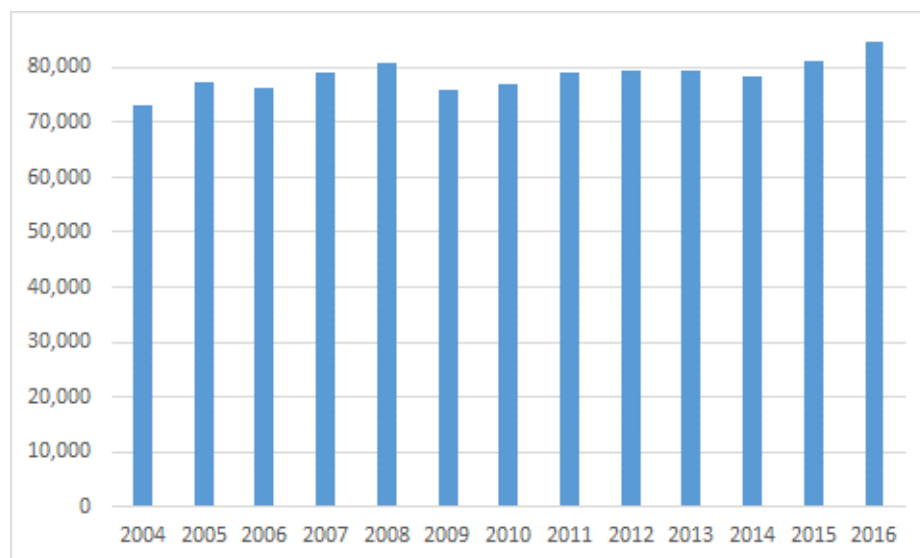


Figure 41. Employment Trends 2004 – 2016. Source: Carmarthenshire Employment Sectoral Needs Study. Years bottom, Employment Left.

The Office for National Statistics data for 2016 on employee jobs by industry for both Carmarthenshire and Wales are set out in Table 9.

Table 9. Employee Jobs by Industry – Carmarthenshire and Wales ⁹⁶

Industry	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

⁹⁶ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157392/report.aspx>

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

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. 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

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 (STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity) Trend Report 2016⁹⁷) (Table 10).

Table 10. Employee Jobs by Industry – Carmarthenshire and Wales⁹⁸

% 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%

⁹⁷

[http://rlp.infobasecymru.net/IAS/themes/economy/tourism/scarboroughtourismeconomicactivitymonitor\(steam\)assessment](http://rlp.infobasecymru.net/IAS/themes/economy/tourism/scarboroughtourismeconomicactivitymonitor(steam)assessment)

⁹⁸ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157392/report.aspx>

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%

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. The DMP 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. 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.

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 (e.g., 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

Of the 22 local authority areas in Wales, Carmarthenshire continues to have one of the lowest number of crimes per 1,000 population, ranking 5th again with a rate of 43.78 crimes per 1,000 population. 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. 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. 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) 2019 indicate significant variance in the level of deprivation experienced across community areas.

Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014

The WIMD 2014 is based on fine-grained geography of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) and 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. WIMD maps have been updated in 2019⁹⁹.

⁹⁹ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-maps-2019>

Ward Profiles

Carmarthenshire is a diverse County in terms of its people and its geography. Historically, the county has been made up of 58 electoral wards with 74 elected members. However, following a significant review of electoral boundaries conducted by the Boundary Commission for Wales from the May 2022 local elections the county will consist of 51 wards and 75 members¹⁰⁰. Electoral Ward & County Profiles¹⁰¹ provide a summary of the key characteristics of the ward as well as valuable local information. They 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. The latest versions of the profiles published May 2021 incorporate several new or updated information sources, including:

- 2019 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 2020)
- Ns-SeC data (socio-economic position based on occupation, 2011 Census)
- Updated labour market and benefit statistics
- Recorded crime statistics for 2020-2021 (Dyfed Powys Police)

A summary containing the above on a County level was published by the Research and Information Unit¹⁰².

Fuel Poverty

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 households¹⁰³. 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

¹⁰⁰ https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/in-my-area/?map=Electoral_Divisions

¹⁰¹ <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/research-statistics/electoral-ward-county-profiles/#.Yz6tutjMI2x>

¹⁰² <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1224912/county-profile.pdf?v=202103251255350000>

¹⁰³ <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1212315/rdp-local-development-strategy-summary.pdf>

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.

16- Sources of Baseline Information

The tables below list the sources of information that were referred upon to inform the baseline. Planning officers were consulted to ensure that all possible sources of information were considered, alongside those responsible for undertaking the SA. Within Table 11, the first section contains sources that cover multiple topics (general), whereas the preceding sources specifically cover topics that mirror the headings used above. Table 12 refers to the evidence base that was specifically created to help identify emerging policy areas and best inform the policies within the Plan.

NB: Website addresses were correct at time of deposit. Whilst comprehensive, this list does not claim to be exhaustive.

Table 11 - Sources of baseline information	
Source of Information	Description of relevant information obtained
General	
Comisiwn Dylunio Cymru / Design Commission for Wales https://dcfw.org/	Publications, case studies, and reports on a range of topics including sustainable design, renewable energy, practical guidance, and annual report. Also produced Placemaking charter (in collaboration with the Placemaking Wales Partnership).
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/ Also see: https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/?lang=en	Guidance, statements, and planning advice on issues concerning the environment (e.g., waste management, flood mapping for planning/development (TAN15), and wildlife and biodiversity). Business sector advice for forestry, fisheries, farming, development (including marine), and education. NB: NRW is also a statutory consultee within the planning system.
Cyngor Sir Gaerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire County Council https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ Also see: https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/	Official council website containing published strategies, relevant plans, annual reports, and corporate policies.
Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) http://www.defra.gov.uk/ Also see: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site https://magic.defra.gov.uk/	Information on assessing environmental impact, access and rights of way, climate change agreements (UK level), energy infrastructure, environmental planning (inc. biodiversity metrics) and risk management, land management (habitats regulations assessment), and more. MagicMap also provides geospatial data (GB level).
Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru / Welsh Local Government Association https://www.wlga.wales/	Publications on relevant topics (e.g., communities, economic growth, housing and planning, transport and social care, health, and integration) in Wales.
Legislation.gov.uk https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ Also see: https://senedd.wales/senedd-business/legislation/	Collation of legislation (e.g., Acts, Bills, Statutory Instruments) and their accompanying explanatory documents relevant to Wales, the UK and EU. Progress of Senedd Bills alongside Acts of Senedd Cymru which have received Royal Assent.

<p>Lle Geo-Portal http://lle.gov.wales/</p> <p>Also see: https://datamap.gov.wales/</p>	<p>Through Welsh Government and NRW, Lle is a hub for data and information covering a myriad of topics including active travel, climate change, agriculture, flooding, protected sites, soils, heritage, waste, and forestry. From 2022, Lle is being migrated to DataMapWales.</p>
<p>Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government https://gov.wales/</p> <p>Also see: https://law.gov.wales/</p>	<p>Official national government website which includes the provision of guidance on laws related to planning, health, and well-being. Numerous relevant sub-topics (e.g., land management, guidance for professionals)</p> <p>Official guidance for Welsh law.</p>
<p>Local Government Association https://www.local.gov.uk/</p>	<p>Publications on relevant topics (e.g., communities, economic growth, housing and planning, transport and social care, health and integration) (UK-level).</p>
<p>Office for National Statistics (ONS) https://www.ons.gov.uk/</p>	<p>Social (e.g., population trends, census data) and economic (e.g., inflation, employment) data.</p> <p>Official statistics and research for UK.</p>
<p>Royal Town Planning Institute https://www.rtpi.org.uk/</p>	<p>Publications on current planning-related topics and research.</p>
<p>Sefydliad Materion Cymreig / Institute of Welsh Affairs https://www.iwa.wales/</p>	<p>Publications including scoping reports on a range of issues (e.g., Landscape, Decarbonising, Places Charter, and Economics)</p>
<p>StatsCymru / StatsWales https://statswales.gov.wales/</p> <p>Also see: https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research?lang=en https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics</p>	<p>Detailed official data on Wales including the National Survey for Wales, housing, sustainable development, and population and migration.</p> <p>Official statistics and research for Wales.</p>
<p>The National Archives: Case Law https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/</p> <p>Also see: https://www.gov.uk/courts-tribunals/planning-court</p>	<p>Case law and judicial reviews of decisions made by planning authorities, and other challenges to planning decisions including appeals/applications relating to planning permission, development consent, compulsory purchase orders, highways and other rights of way, and decisions under EU environmental legislation.</p>
<p>Sustainable Development</p>	
<p>Comisiwn Seilwaith Cenedlaethol Cymru / National Infrastructure Commission https://gov.wales/national-infrastructure-commission-wales</p>	<p>Annual report supplying advice on the infrastructure which Wales needs.</p>
<p>Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol Cymru / Future Generations Commissioner for Wales https://www.futuregenerations.wales/</p> <p>Also see: https://gov.wales/sustainable-development-legislation</p>	<p>The Well-being of Future Generations Act, Five Ways of Working, The Future Generations Report, and Priority Areas where the Commissioner decided it would be best to dedicate additionally resources.</p>
<p>Food and Agriculture Organization https://www.fao.org/</p>	<p>Global statistics on a range of topics (e.g., Climate Change, SDG indicators, trade, investment, agriculture, and food production).</p>

<p>Also see: https://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture-sourcebook/production-resources/module-b7-soil/chapter-b7-1/en/</p>	<p>For defining key concepts in sustainable soil and land management.</p>
<p>Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment https://www.iema.net/</p>	<p>Professional body supplying resources, tools, knowledge, and research for those interested in environment and sustainability.</p>
<p>United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development https://sdgs.un.org/goals</p>	<p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Implementation Progress.</p>
<p>Biodiversity</p>	
<p>Aderyn http://aderyn.lercwales.org.uk/ Also see: https://www.lercwales.org.uk/</p>	<p>Aderyn is a Local Environmental Records Centres (LERC) Wales system, developed and supported by the Biodiversity Information Service (BIS). Species distribution maps (nationally).</p>
<p>Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE) https://www.alge.org.uk/</p>	<p>Biodiversity reports and publications.</p>
<p>Bartneriaeth Bioamrywiaeth Cymru / Wales Biodiversity Partnership https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Partnership Report. Objectives of stakeholders concerned with wildlife, and list of current projects being undertaken locally.</p>
<p>Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) https://www.bats.org.uk/ Also see: https://cdn.naturalresources.wales/media/5436/qpg-3-nrw-approach-to-bats-and-planning-english.pdf</p>	<p>Information related to bats. Guidance on planning and bat species (EPS)</p>
<p>Botanical Society of the Britain & Ireland (BSBI) https://bsbi.org/</p>	<p>Information related to flora.</p>
<p>British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) https://www.bto.org/</p>	<p>Information related to birds.</p>
<p>Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust https://www.buglife.org.uk/</p>	<p>Information related to invertebrate.</p>
<p>Butterfly Conservation Society https://butterfly-conservation.org/</p>	<p>Information related to butterflies.</p>
<p>Canolfan Gwybodaeth Bioamrywiaeth Gorllewin Cymru / West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre https://www.wwbic.org.uk/</p>	<p>Biodiversity records (locally).</p>
<p>Conservation Evidence https://www.conservationevidence.com/</p>	<p>Authoritative information resource that supports decision-making whilst maintaining/restoring biodiversity.</p>
<p>Grŵp Llywio Iechyd Coed Cymru / Wales Tree Health Steering Group https://gov.wales/wales-tree-health-steering-group</p>	<p>Advise on pests and diseases affecting trees (i.e., Chalara Dieback of Ash)</p>
<p>Menter ar Gyfer Cadwraeth Natur Cymru / Initiative for Nature Conservation Cymru (INCC)</p>	<p>Information on protected species and habitat conservation projects. Associated links.</p>

https://www.natureconservation.wales/	
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) https://jncc.gov.uk/ Also see: https://www.eea.europa.eu/ds_reso/veuid/MHWUY6J40Z	<p>Advisory on nature conservation to UK and devolved governments. Provision of advice on UK Biodiversity Indicators, evaluating land-use/Climate Change, and monitoring species and habitats.</p> <p>European Protected Species (EPS).</p>
National Biodiversity Network Trust https://nbn.org.uk/	Biodiversity records (UK).
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) https://www.rspb.org.uk/	Information related to birds.
Air Quality	
Ansawdd Aer Cymru / Air Quality in Wales https://airquality.gov.wales/ Also see: https://gov.wales/air-pollution https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/air-pollution/ https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/what-we-do/air-quality/air-quality-modelling-and-risk-assessment-team	<p>Related reports and seminars, maps, trends, emissions (greenhouse gases, National Air Quality), Local Area Quality Management Areas (LAQM).</p> <p>Air Quality Modelling and Risk Assessment Team (AQMRAT) within NRW, air modelling and risk assessment.</p>
Environmental Protection UK https://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/	Charity with published information and research on air quality and planning, alongside its associated issues on transport, public health and well-being, and review of legislations.
Institute of Air Quality Management https://iaqm.co.uk/	Guidance and resources on air quality.
UK Air Pollution Information System (APIS) https://www.apis.ac.uk/	Database and information on pollutants and their impacts on habitats and species.
Climactic Factors	
Air Information Resource (AIR) UK https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/	Concentrations of air pollutants, research, and modelling. Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA).
Climate Change Committee (CCC) https://www.theccc.org.uk/	Publications relating to Climate Change risk assessment, Net Zero, carbon budget, Wales specific reports, and more.
Climate Cymru https://climate.cymru/	Information promoting local council advocacy, and Welsh nature as a solution towards Climate Change.
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) https://www.ipcc.ch/ Also see: https://gov.wales/climate-change	<p>The IPCC is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. Synthesis reports, technical papers, and other world-leading materials containing future projections (and likelihoods), impacts and risks, and measures/targets needed, and more.</p> <p>Welsh government policy and guidance on Climate Change.</p>
National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) UK https://naei.beis.gov.uk/	Greenhouse Gas Inventories, UK emission data, information about pollutants and important trends.
Water	
Afonydd Cymru	Umbrella organisation representing river trusts within Wales

<p>https://afonyddcymru.org/</p>	
<p>British Geological Survey https://www.bgs.ac.uk/</p>	<p>Catchment (catchment stability) and sub-catchment level (geological runoff potential, morphology, designated sites, flood accommodation, urban coverage) geographical, riverine-based datasets.</p>
<p>Canolfan Ecoleg a Hydroleg y DU / UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology https://www.ceh.ac.uk/</p>	<p>Relevant scientific research and case studies on natural resource management, flood resilience, impact of climate change.</p>
<p>Dŵr Cymru / Welsh Water https://www.dwrcymru.com/</p> <p>Also see: https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/our-role-in-planning-and-development/advice-to-planning-authorities-for-planning-applications-affecting-phosphorus-sensitive-river-special-areas-of-conservation/?lang=en</p>	<p>Drainage And Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP), Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP), information and trends on housing, development, and pollution related to the provision of drinking water and waste management.</p> <p>NRW's advice to planning authorities for planning applications affecting phosphorus sensitive river Special Areas of Conservation.</p>
<p>The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) https://www.ciwem.org/publications/</p>	<p>Chartered body for professionals dedicated to sustainable environmental management. Published guidance and information on flood risk management, water quality, river pollution, storm overflows, development, and more.</p>
<p>West Wales Rivers Trust https://westwalesriverstrust.org/</p>	<p>River mapping and biodiversity issues.</p>
<p>Y Pwyllgor Llifogydd ac Erydu Arfordirol / Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee https://gov.wales/flood-coastal-erosion-committee</p> <p>See also: https://gov.wales/planning-policy-and-guidance-water-air-soundscape-and-light https://gov.wales/planning-policy-and-guidance-flooding</p>	<p>Advice on flood and coastal risk management in Wales.</p> <p>Welsh government planning policy and guidance on water (in addition to air, soundscape, and light).</p> <p>Welsh government planning policy and guidance on flooding.</p>
<p>Material Assets</p>	
<p>Carbon Trust https://www.carbontrust.com/</p>	<p>Strategy and advice on Net Zero and local climate action planning.</p>
<p>Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES): renewable sources of energy https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/renewable-sources-of-energy-chapter-6-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes</p> <p>Also see: https://gov.wales/planning-policy-and-guidance-waste https://gov.wales/planning-policy-and-guidance-minerals-and-mining</p>	<p>Renewable energy sites, capacity, and generation within the UK (both on and offshore).</p> <p>Welsh government planning policy and guidance on waste management.</p> <p>Welsh government planning policy and guidance on minerals and mining.</p>

<p>Datblygwr Ynni Adnewyddadwy i Gymru / Renewable Energy Developer for Wales https://gov.wales/renewable-energy-developer-wales</p>	<p>Welsh Government plans to establish a Renewable Energy Developer for Wales to develop large scale solar and wind projects on public land.</p>
<p>Soil</p>	
<p>British Society for Soil Science https://soils.org.uk/</p> <p>Also see: https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-11/assessment-soil-issues-in-context.pdf</p>	<p>Scientific research and publications on soil science/conservation (UK).</p> <p>Soil Policy Evidence Programme (Assessment of Welsh Soil Issues in Context) describing the impact which development places on soils (amongst other pressures).</p>
<p>European Society for Soil Conservation (ESSC) http://www.soilconservation.eu/</p>	<p>Publications, guidance, and science notes on soil science/conservation (internationally).</p>
<p>National Soil Resources Institute (NSRI) https://www.cranfield.ac.uk/centres/centre-for-soil-agrifood-and-biosciences/research-groups/national-soil-resources-institute</p> <p>Also see: https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/693310/sonarr2020-theme-land-use-and-soils.pdf</p>	<p>Sustainable management of soil and land resources (including Soilscape mapping)</p> <p>NRW SoNaRR2020 Land-use and soil chapter assesses sustainable management of natural resources by considering the pressures/threats to soils within agriculture, woodland, and urban land uses.</p>
<p>UK Soil Observatory (UKSO) http://www.ukso.org/</p>	<p>A collaboration of institutions supplying information and geo-resources on UK soils.</p>
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	
<p>Cadw https://cadw.gov.wales/</p> <p>Also see: https://gov.wales/planning-policy-and-guidance-historic-environment</p>	<p>Advice and support on historical assets (including Cof Cymru), placemaking, climate change, and legislation. Laws relating to Conservation Areas.</p>
<p>Comisiwn Seilwaith Cenedlaethol Cymru / Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales https://rcahmw.gov.uk/</p> <p>Also see: https://gov.wales/planning-policy-and-guidance-advertisements</p>	<p>Record of Welsh archaeological sites, architecture, monuments (Coflein), strategic frameworks, planning legislation and historic environment strategy, and more.</p> <p>Welsh government planning policy and guidance on advertisement (including Conservation Areas).</p>
<p>Visit Wales https://www.visitwales.com/</p> <p>Also see: https://gov.wales/planning-policy-and-guidance-tourism</p>	<p>History and heritage attractions, tourism, top places to visit within Wales.</p> <p>Welsh Government planning policy and guidance on tourism.</p>
<p>Landscape</p>	
<p>Monitro a Modelu'r Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig / Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring & Modelling Programme (ERAMMP) https://erammp.wales/</p>	<p>Reports on the Welsh landscape and monitoring/modelling any changes to their impact.</p>

<p>Sefydliad Tirwedd / Landscape Institute https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/</p>	<p>Chartered body for landscape professionals, advice on green infrastructure, conservation of the natural and built environmental, alongside relevant technical notes.</p>
<p>The James Hutton Institute https://www.hutton.ac.uk/</p>	<p>Scientific research and publications on issues affecting upon the natural landscape.</p>
<p>Population</p>	
<p>Census 2021 (ONS) https://census.gov.uk/census-2021-results</p> <p>Also see: https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population</p>	<p>Data and supporting commentary on the population and households in England and Wales from Census 2021.</p> <p>Demographic data for Wales.</p>
<p>The Welsh Language</p>	
<p>Comisiynydd y Gymraeg / Welsh Language Commissioner https://www.welshlanguagecommissioner.wales/</p> <p>Also see: https://gov.wales/planning-policy-and-guidance-welsh-language</p> <p>https://gov.wales/subnational-population-projections</p> <p>https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language</p>	<p>Welsh language standards, policy and advice, annual reports, and position statements.</p> <p>Welsh government planning policy and guidance on the Welsh Language.</p> <p>Subnational population projections for local authorities within Wales.</p>
<p>iaith https://www.iaith.cymru/en</p> <p>Also see: https://gov.wales/cymraeg-2050-work-programme-2021-2026-html</p>	<p>Information on the development of the Language Policy and Planning. Relevant projects include the Welsh Language Planning Wales.</p>
<p>Health and Well-being</p>	
<p>Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Sir Gâr / Carmarthenshire Public Services Board https://www.thecarmarthenshirewewant.wales/</p> <p>Also see: https://gov.wales/public-services-boards</p>	<p>Our local PSB. Published Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan.</p>
<p>Chief Medical Officer (Wales) https://gov.wales/chief-medical-officer-annual-report-2021-2022</p> <p>Also see: https://gov.wales/health-social-care-strategy</p>	<p>Statistics on health (e.g., mortality, respiratory diseases, sexual health, physical activity), life expectancy and population change (including post-COVID).</p> <p>Welsh government strategy, reports, projects, and assessments relating to health.</p>
<p>Fields in Trust https://www.fieldsintrust.org/</p> <p>Also see: https://gov.wales/planning-policy-and-guidance-green-infrastructure</p>	<p>Knowledge base, policy, and research on open spaces, Green Infrastructure (GI), recreation, and sport. Statistics (Green Space Index) on Great Britain's green space provision.</p> <p>Welsh government planning policy and guidance on GI.</p>

<p>https://lucmaps.co.uk/CarmarthenshireDigitalReport/</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council GI Strategy (8 Towns)</p>
<p>GIG Cymru / NHS Wales http://www.wales.nhs.uk/researchandresources</p> <p>Also see: https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/about-us/area-statements/south-west-wales-area-statement/reducing-health-inequalities/?lang=en</p>	<p>Links to resources and research (including strategies, policy, health, well-being).</p> <p>NRW Area statement – reducing health inequalities.</p>
<p>Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru / Public Health Wales https://phw.nhs.wales/</p>	<p>Health data, statistics, health-related publications, and links.</p>
<p>Uned Gymorth Asesu'r Effaith ar Iechyd Cymru / Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) https://phwwhocc.co.uk/whiasu/</p>	<p>Information and evidence relating to Health Impact Assessment (HIA).</p>
<p>Yr Awdurdod Gweithredol Iechyd a Diogelwch / Health and Safety Executive (HSE) https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/regions/wales-statistics.pdf</p>	<p>Workplace health and safety statistics for Wales.</p>
<p>Education and Skills</p>	
<p>Cyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru / Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) https://www.hefcw.ac.uk/</p> <p>Also see: https://gov.wales/tertiary-education-and-research-commission</p>	<p>Statistics and data on higher education within Wales. Publications on innovating Welsh higher education, graduate employment sector, and economic and social prosperity.</p> <p>The Commission for Tertiary Education and Research (CTER) will replace HEFCW in 2023.</p>
<p>Economy</p>	
<p>Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig / Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee</p> <p>Also see: https://gov.wales/local-development-plans-guidance-economic-development</p>	<p>Committee minutes and bulletin containing reviews and reports on business, economic development, skills, international trade, agriculture, fisheries, and food.</p> <p>Local development plans: guidance on economic development</p>
<p>Sefydliad Ymchwil Cymdeithasol ac Economaidd a Data Cymru / Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research and Data https://wiserd.ac.uk/research/</p>	<p>Interdisciplinary research on economics, sociology, geography, and political science within Wales. Links to other research centres.</p>
<p>Social Fabric</p>	
<p>Onward UK https://www.ukonward.com/reports/the-state-of-our-social-fabric/</p>	<p>Thinktank supplying information on the changing nature of communities within the UK, and advice on how to measure the strength of the social fabric (via relationships, civic institutions, norms and behaviours, physical infrastructure, and economic value)</p>

Appendix C: The Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Appendix C: The Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Framework

This document forms the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) Framework for Carmarthenshire County Council's Deposit Revised Local Development Plan (rLDP) 2018–2033. It draws together the sustainability themes, related objectives, and assessment questions which will be used to inform decision-making and evaluate the potential socio-economic and environmental issues associated with the vision, strategic objectives, options, and specific policies contained within the rLDP.

Whilst the context of the ISA Framework remains unchanged following the consultation of the SA Scoping Report¹⁰⁴, an *integrated* approach now highlights the pre-existing overlap between the joint Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and the Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) 2015, Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), and Welsh Language requirements under TAN 20¹⁰⁵. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is undertaken parallel to the SA process but is not integrated within the ISA as it uses a different precautionary testing mechanism. However, the ISA will summarise the HRA findings as part of its assessment of the effects placed on biodiversity.

¹⁰⁴ Carmarthenshire Draft SA Scoping Report. July 2018.

¹⁰⁵ <https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-20-planning-and-welsh-language>

ISA Objectives	Decision Making Influences	Relevant Wellbeing Goals
1 Sustainable Development		
<p>1-1 To live within environmental limits.</p> <p>1-2 To ensure a strong, healthy, and just society.</p> <p>1-3 To achieve a sustainable economy.</p> <p>1-4 To remove barriers and promoting opportunities for behavioural change.</p>	<p>Will the LDP contribute to reducing resource consumption?</p> <p>Will the LDP encourage needs to be met locally?</p> <p>Will the LDP encourage individuals, companies, and businesses to make more sustainable choices?</p>	<p>A prosperous Wales.</p> <p>A resilient Wales.</p> <p>A healthier Wales.</p> <p>A more equal Wales.</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities.</p> <p>A globally responsible Wales.</p>
2 Biodiversity		
<p>2-1 To maintain and enhance and promote resilience of ecosystems by avoiding the damage or fragmentation of designated sites, habitats, and protected species and to encourage connectivity.</p>	<p>Are there any designated or non-statutory nature conservation sites that may be affected by the LDP?</p>	<p>A healthier Wales.</p> <p>A resilient Wales.</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities.</p>

<p>2-2 To maintain, protect, enhance, and create appropriate wildlife habitats and wider biodiversity in urban and rural areas.</p>	<p>Is there monitoring to meet the requirements of the Environment Act Section 6 duty to maintain and enhance section 7 Habitats and Species?</p> <p>Is there any evidence of protected species that may be affected?</p> <p>Will there be any opportunities for enhancing or recovering wildlife resources?</p> <p>Will there be any opportunities to create new habitats?</p> <p>Is the implementation of the proposed policy likely to have any significant direct positive or negative effects on the expected future state of the environment in the study area?</p> <p>Is the implementation of the proposed policy likely to significantly alter drivers or trends in the key issues?</p>	<p>A globally responsible Wales.</p>
<p>3 Air Quality</p>		

<p>3-1 To maintain and improve the levels of the UK National Air Quality pollutants.</p> <p>3-2 To improve levels of ground level ozone.</p> <p>3-3 To reduce the need to travel, through appropriate siting of new developments and provision of public transport infrastructure.</p>	<p>Will the LDP have a positive or negative impact on the existing air quality baseline?</p> <p>Will the LDP increase or decrease the emissions of air pollutants from developments?</p> <p>Will the LDP increase or decrease the emissions of air pollutants from transport?</p>	<p>A more equal Wales.</p> <p>A healthier Wales.</p> <p>A resilient Wales.</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities.</p> <p>A globally responsible Wales.</p>
<p>4 Climactic Factors</p>		
<p>4-1 To reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>4-3 To encourage all new developments to be climate resilient.</p>	<p>Will the LDP have a positive or negative impact on the emissions of carbon dioxide from new development in the County?</p> <p>Will the LDP contribute to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from traditional forms of energy generation?</p> <p>Will the LDP put a larger number of residents at risk of flooding?</p> <p>Are new developments climate resilient?</p>	<p>A more equal Wales.</p> <p>A healthier Wales.</p> <p>A resilient Wales.</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities.</p> <p>A globally responsible Wales.</p>

<p>4-4 To encourage energy conservation and higher energy efficiency.</p> <p>4-5 To minimise energy consumption and promote renewable energy sources.</p>	<p>Does the LDP leave room for habitat adjustment and coastal and fluvial flood water?</p> <p>Is the implementation of the proposed policy likely to have any significant direct positive or negative effects on the expected future state of the environment in the study area?</p> <p>Is the implementation of the proposed policy likely to significantly alter drivers or trends in the key issues?</p>	
<p>5 Water</p>		
<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</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>A more equal Wales.</p> <p>A healthier Wales.</p> <p>A resilient Wales.</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities.</p> <p>A globally responsible Wales.</p>

<p>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 it contribute to an increase in flood risk?</p> <p>Will it contribute to a reduction in flood risk?</p>	
<p>6 Material Assets</p>		
<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>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>	<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.</p> <p>A prosperous Wales.</p> <p>A more equal Wales.</p> <p>A healthier Wales.</p> <p>A resilient Wales.</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>A Wales of cohesive communities.</p> <p>A globally responsible Wales.</p>
<p>7 Soil</p>		
<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 SO₂ and NO_x 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>	<p>A healthier Wales.</p> <p>A resilient Wales.</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities.</p> <p>A globally responsible Wales.</p>
<p>8 Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment</p>		

<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 positively or negatively affected by the LDP?</p> <p>Are there any listed buildings that can be positively or negatively affected by the LDP?</p>	<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.</p> <p>A prosperous Wales.</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities.</p> <p>A globally responsible Wales.</p>
<p>9 Landscape</p>		
<p>9.1 To protect and enhance landscape/townscape from negative effects of land use change.</p> <p>9-2 To take sensitive locations into account when siting development and to promote high quality design.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Will the LDP have a positive or negative impact on designated landscapes?</p> <p>Will the LDP encourage the redevelopment of previously developed land?</p>	<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.</p> <p>A prosperous Wales.</p> <p>A more equal Wales.</p> <p>A healthier Wales.</p> <p>A resilient Wales.</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities.</p>

		A globally responsible Wales.
10 Population		
<p>10-1 Ensure suitable, affordable housing stock with access to education and employment facilities.</p> <p>10-2 Promote the retention of younger people.</p> <p>10-3 Promote inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups into society.</p>	<p>Will the LDP increase the provision of affordable housing in Carmarthenshire?</p> <p>Will the LDP contribute to promoting the retention of young people in the county?</p> <p>Will the LDP contribute to social inclusion?</p>	<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.</p> <p>A prosperous Wales.</p> <p>A more equal Wales.</p> <p>A healthier Wales.</p> <p>A resilient Wales.</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities.</p> <p>A globally responsible Wales.</p>
11 The Welsh language		
<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>	<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.</p>

		A Wales of cohesive communities.
12 Health and Well-being		
<p>12-1 Create opportunities for people to live active, healthy lifestyles through planning activities.</p> <p>12-2 Provide access to health and recreation facilities and services.</p> <p>12-3 Encourage walking or cycling as alternative means of transportation.</p> <p>12-4 Promote access to Wales’ natural and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>Will there be a positive or negative impact on human health?</p> <p>Will access to health services and recreation facilities including natural heritage features be increased?</p> <p>Will the LDP increase opportunities for walking and cycling?</p>	<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.</p> <p>A more equal Wales.</p> <p>A healthier Wales.</p> <p>A resilient Wales.</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities.</p>
13 Education and Skills		
<p>13-1 Provide accessible educational and training facilities which meet the future needs of the area.</p>	<p>Will the LDP contribute to increasing attainment levels amongst young people?</p>	<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.</p>

<p>13-2 Increase levels of literacy (in English and Welsh) and numeracy.</p> <p>13-3 Promote lifelong learning.</p>	<p>Will the LDP promote access to education facilities for all members of the community?</p> <p>Will the LDP contribute to increasing literacy and numeracy levels?</p>	<p>A prosperous Wales.</p> <p>A more equal Wales.</p> <p>A resilient Wales.</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities.</p>
<p>14 Economy</p>		
<p>14-1 To promote sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>14-2 To provide good quality employment opportunities for all sections of the population.</p> <p>14-3 To promote sustainable businesses in Wales.</p>	<p>Will there be any adverse economic impacts on land and premises in employment use?</p> <p>Will there be a positive or negative impact on jobs opportunities because of the LDP?</p>	<p>A prosperous Wales.</p> <p>A more equal Wales.</p> <p>A resilient Wales.</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities.</p>
<p>15 Social Fabric</p>		
<p>15-1 Improve safety and security for people and property.</p>	<p>Will the LDP contribute to making housing more affordable?</p>	<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.</p>

<p>15-2 Promote the design of settlements that improve social fabric by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions.</p> <p>15-3 Promote the delivery of affordable housing.</p> <p>15-4 Improve accessibility to services, particularly for disadvantaged sections of society.</p>	<p>Will the LDP contribute to creating settlements that are safe and of a high-quality urban fabric?</p> <p>Will the LDP contribute to creating healthier homes?</p> <p>Will the LDP maximise access to services and facilities for all members of the community by different modes of transport?</p>	<p>A prosperous Wales.</p> <p>A more equal Wales.</p> <p>A healthier Wales.</p> <p>A resilient Wales.</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities.</p>
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Appendix D: ISA of rLDP Strategic Objectives

rLDP Strategic Objectives	ISA Commentary
Healthy Habits - People have a good quality of life, and make healthy choices about their lives and environment.	
<p>SO1 To ensure that the natural environment, including habitats and species, are safeguarded and enhanced.</p>	<p>Directly supports the protection of biodiversity, habitats and species (ISA2).</p> <p>Aligns positively with improving air quality (ISA3) and resilience to climatic factors (ISA4) by safeguarding green spaces, trees and other natural vegetation that contribute to air purification and reduction of greenhouse gases.</p> <p>Ensuring the safeguarding and enhancement of species and habitats, of which there are many riverine, estuarine, coastal and marine examples in Carmarthenshire. Their protection should require that water quality be improved which aligns positively with ISA5.</p> <p>Encouraging sustainability and sustainable modes of transport (ISA6) aligns positively with reducing transport and congestion related impacts on species and habitats.</p> <p>Protection of the natural environment increases access to green spaces for the purposes of wellbeing (ISA12) and urban fabric (therefore influencing social fabric, ISA15), however this could encourage unsustainable recreational pressures to habitats and species that are highly sensitive to external pressures.</p> <p>Aligns positively with ISA7 considering the secondary effect from the protection of natural spaces (of which soil is typically a major component). The promotion of regeneration of contaminated land as assess in the framework would safeguard soil assets (including high rated ALC).</p> <p>The natural environment is strongly linked with cultural heritage (ISA8) and tourism (ISA14).</p>

<p>SO2 To assist with widening and promoting wellbeing opportunities through access to community, leisure and recreational facilities as well as the countryside.</p>	<p>Biodiversity and its protection and enhancement in rural and urban areas (ISA2) increases access to the natural environment for recreational and wellbeing purposes. However, this may lead to unsustainable recreational pressures to habitats and species that are highly sensitive to external pressures. Similar issue is raised with ISA8.</p> <p>Maintaining a high level of water quality (ISA5) ensures water based community, leisure and recreational facilities are accessible at a high standard. However, increased recreational use of water resources could place increase pollution pressures on sensitive water bodies.</p> <p>Promotion and integration of different modes of transport (in particular cycling and walking) (ISA6) is positively aligned with SO2.</p> <p>SO2 contributes positively to promoting social inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups in society through promotion of access to wellbeing opportunities and facilities (ISA10/ISA15).</p> <p>This objective directly aligns with ISA12.</p> <p>Increased provision or service of recreational facilities (and alike) by the community may increase skillset and knowledge (including that of the countryside and the wider natural environment) (ISA13).</p>
<p>SO5 To safeguard and enhance the built and historic environment and promote the appropriate reuse of redundant buildings.</p>	<p>This objective directly aligns with ISA8.</p> <p>Both SO4 and ISA9 promote the reuse of derelict land and redundant buildings and the enhancement of local townscapes.</p> <p>This objective also aligns with ISA7 as it offers potential to ensure brownfield sites are redeveloped, and minimises development of greenfield sites and river corridors where soils of high agricultural value are located</p>

	<p>Safeguarding and enhancement of the built and historic environment ensures that Welsh cultural assets are protected (ISA11) and are accessible to people in Carmarthenshire for wellbeing purposes (ISA12).</p> <p>The natural environment is strongly linked with the historic environment (ISA2). A potential secondary effect through protection of the historic environment may increase access to green spaces for the purposes of wellbeing (ISA12) and urban fabric (therefore influencing social fabric, ISA15), however this could encourage unsustainable recreational pressures to habitats and species that are highly sensitive to external pressures. Additionally, safeguarding the historic environment provides opportunities for associated education (ISA13) and tourism (ISA14).</p>
<p>Early Intervention - To make sure that people have the right help at the right time; as and when they need it.</p>	
<p>SO3 To assist in widening and promoting education and skills training opportunities for all.</p>	<p>Aligns positively with the inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups, as well as promoting the retention of young people in the community (ISA10/ISA12/ISA15) by promoting access to education and skills training opportunities for all.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire supports both Welsh and English medium learning facilities, and their promotion will align positively with the promoting of the Welsh Language throughout the County (ISA11).</p> <p>The objective directly aligns with ISA13.</p> <p>Supporting a more educated and skilled population positively supports a sustainable economy with good employment opportunities (ISA14).</p>
<p>SO4 To ensure that the principles of equal opportunities and social</p>	<p>Ensuring services and facilities are accessible as well as promoting vibrant town centres encourages needs to be met locally, reducing the distances people will be required to travel and increasing access to public transport (ISA3/ISA4/ISA6)</p>

<p>inclusion are upheld by promoting access to a high quality and diverse mix of public services, healthcare, shops, leisure facilities and work opportunities, as well as vibrant town centres.</p>	<p>Equal opportunities and social inclusion align positively with ISA10 and ISA15. Additional promotes access to healthcare (ISA12)</p> <p>Establishing vibrant town centres with a diverse mix of facilities supports the enhancement of townscapes (ISA9).</p> <p>Access to services and facilities provides encouragement for the retention of young people (ISA10) and Welsh speakers (ISA11) within the County, and supports sustainable economic growth throughout Carmarthenshire (ISA14).</p>
<p>Strong Connections - Strongly connected people, places and organisations that are able to adapt to change.</p>	
<p>SO6 To ensure that the principles of spatial sustainability are upheld by directing development to sustainable locations with access to services and facilities and wherever possible encouraging the reuse of previously developed land.</p>	<p>Limits the potential for extensive rural development and resulting habitat fragmentation (ISA2) as development is concentrated in sustainable locations (in addition to impacting upon the historical assets (ISA8)).</p> <p>Needs provided locally reduces the distances people are required to travel and increases access to public transport (ISA4, ISA6), contributing to reducing the reliance on the private car which leads to positive impacts on air quality (ISA3).</p> <p>It also ensures that development is focussed in areas with existing infrastructure to support development e.g water resources (ISA5), access to health, education and training facilities (ISA12,ISA13, ISA15).</p> <p>Encouraging the reuse of previously developed land aligns positively with ISA9 and ISA7.</p>
<p>SO7 To make a significant contribution towards tackling the cause and adapting to the effect of</p>	<p>The objective directly aligns with ISA4.</p>

<p>climate change, including promoting renewable energy and the efficient use and safeguarding of resources.</p>	<p>Tackling the causes of climate change aligns positively with promoting access to alternative transportation and public transport infrastructure (ISA6) and as a result can have positive effects on other elements such as air quality (ISA3).</p> <p>Adapting to the effects of climate change includes making space for water and minimising flood risks (ISA5).</p> <p>Promotion of efficient use and safeguarding of resources also aligns positively with ISA6.</p> <p>Climate change and the natural environment are strongly linked (ISA2), and there are possible linked to soil carbon (ISA7).</p> <p>Tackling climate change has a positive impact upon the physical and mental health (ISA12) of present and future generations. As a secondary effect, this may promote more green jobs (ISA13, ISA14), and increase the resilience of the urban fabric (and therefore, ISA15).</p>
<p>SO8 To contribute to the delivery of an accessible integrated and sustainable transport system, including links to alternative transport methods.</p>	<p>Establishing an accessible and sustainable transport system, including alternative transport methods aligns positively with improving air quality (ISA3) and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (ISA4)</p> <p>The objective aligns directly with ISA6</p> <p>Access to public transport promotes the inclusion of disadvantaged groups in society (ISA10, ISA15), allowing them to access facilities and services regardless of social situation.</p> <p>Encouragement of alternative methods of transportation such as walking and cycling aligns positively with ISA12.</p>
<p>Prosperous People and Places - To maximise opportunities for people and places in both urban and rural parts of our county.</p>	

<p>SO9 To protect and enhance the diverse character, distinctiveness, safety and vibrancy of the County’s communities by promoting a place making approach and a sense of place.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire’s biodiversity, natural environment (ISA2), cultural heritage (ISA8) and unique landscape (ISA9) all contribute to a sense of place and should be protected.</p> <p>Creating a strong sense of place and vibrant communities within Carmarthenshire are important the retention of young people in the county (ISA10).</p> <p>The County has a strong Welsh identity that must be protected and enhanced (ISA11) to maintain Carmarthenshire’s distinctiveness and character.</p> <p>Placemaking should improve social fabric by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions, especially for disadvantaged and minority groups in society (ISA10, ISA15). This would synergistically benefit mental and physical health through create opportunities for people to live active, healthy lifestyles (ISA12).</p>
<p>SO10 To make provision for an appropriate number and mix of quality homes across the County based around the principles of sustainable socio-economic development and equality of opportunities.</p>	<p>Provision for a mix of high quality homes across the county aligns positively with both ISA8 and ISA9.</p> <p>Equality of opportunities will ensure that disadvantaged and minority groups as well as young people are given the opportunity to access suitable housing across the county (ISA10, ISA15), which may also lead to the retention of Welsh speaking residents in the County (ISA11).</p> <p>Provision of new homes and the economy are strongly linked (ISA14).</p>
<p>SO11 To assist in protecting, enhancing and promoting the Welsh Language and the County’s unique</p>	<p>This objective directly aligns with ISA8, ISA11 and ISA15.</p> <p>Aligns positively with ISA10, as Carmarthenshire’s population has a strong Welsh identity, with a high proportion of the population born in Wales.</p>

<p>cultural identity, assets and social fabric.</p>	<p>Promotion of the Welsh language will positively impact on levels of Welsh literacy (ISA13).</p> <p>There is a potential link between ‘unique... assets’ and biodiversity (ISA2)</p>
<p>SO12 To encourage investment & innovation in rural and urban areas by making adequate provision to meet employment need and to contribute at a regional level to the delivery of the Swansea Bay City Deal.</p>	<p>Proposed plans for the support the regional delivery of the Swansea Bay City deal focusses new developments in Llanelli and Carmarthen, both of which have a number of sensitive biodiversity (ISA2) and air quality (ISA3) and water quality (ISA5) areas which could be negatively impacted. Soil and cultural heritage could also be affect in this manner (ISA7, ISA8)</p> <p>Creation of employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas throughout the county may lead to a positive reduction in the requirement for private car use for outward commuting (ISA4/ISA6). However, initial plans for developments situated in Carmarthen and Llanelli do not currently support this.</p> <p>It is difficult to determine what effect this objective will have on ISA11 as economic development and the resulting job creation has the potential to retain skilled Welsh speaking residents in the County. However, this may also encourage an inward migration of non-Welsh speakers to the county, which could dilute the Welsh speaking culture in Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>This objective will have a positive effect on job creation, which in turn will promote economic growth and sustainable business in Wales (ISA14).</p> <p>This will also contribute towards the education, upskilling and retention of young people and professionals within Carmarthenshire (ISA10/ISA13) as good quality employment opportunities are made available for all sections of the population (ISA15).</p>

	<p>The plans for a life science and wellbeing village as part of the Swansea Bay City deal will be a strong positive driver of Health and wellbeing throughout Carmarthenshire.</p>
<p>SO13 To make provision for sustainable & high quality all year round tourism related initiatives.</p>	<p>Increasing levels of tourism in the county has the potential to increase recreational pressure on some of Carmarthenshire’s biodiversity and cultural heritage designated sites, in particular coastal and marine sites with high recreational value (ISA2/ISA5/ISA8).</p> <p>The increasing traffic pressures associated with tourism is likely to have a negative impact on areas with existing air quality issues (potentially increase greenhouse gases ISA4) as well as habitats/species that are sensitive to such pressures (ISA2/ISA3).</p> <p>Provision for year round tourism related initiatives is likely to result in an increase in employment and associated education, skills and training opportunities (ISA13), which in turn will have a positive effect on the local economy (ISA14) and the retention of young people in the county (ISA10)</p>
<p>SO14 To reflect the requirements associated with the delivery of new development, both in terms of hard and soft infrastructure (including broadband).</p>	<p>Ensuring new development is supported by sufficient hard and soft infrastructure ensures that water resources are used sustainably and that systems have sufficient capacity to deal with sewerage and diffuse pollution. (ISA5)</p> <p>It is also likely that SO14 will positively align with ISA3, ISA4 and ISA6 in encouraging needs to be met locally and reducing the need to travel to access facilities and services.</p> <p>This objective is likely to have a positive alignment with increased access to services, in particular for those disadvantaged or minority groups in society (ISA10/ISA15).</p>

	<p>It is also likely to support access to wellbeing facilities and services (ISA12) as well as education, skills and training facilities and quality employment opportunities (ISA14).</p>
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Appendix E: ISA of Growth Options

Appendix 5 ISA of rLDP Growth Options

Symbol	Predicted Effect (Compared to the current situation)	Suggestions for Policy Response
++	Very positive effect – likely to result in substantial progress towards the ISA objective.	Consider whether very positive effect can be further enhanced through policies
+	Positive effect - likely to result in some progress towards the ISA objective.	Consider whether positive effect can be further enhanced through policies
+/-	Positive and negative effects – the subject of the appraisal would help some elements of the ISA objective whilst hindering others.	Policies should look to mitigate negative effects and enhance those positive effects
-	Negative effect – likely to be somewhat detrimental to achieving the ISA objective.	Mitigation measures will be needed to reduce severity or effect of growth option.
--	Very negative effect – likely to be substantially detrimental to achieving the ISA objective.	Significant mitigation measures will be needed to reduce severity or effect of growth option.
0	Neutral effect compared to the current baseline situation	Consider whether policy interventions could bring positive effects
?	Uncertain effect (more information needed)	Consider where this will come from – who has it? What will be done about collecting it? When will it be collected?

1st Deposit LDP Preferred Growth Option		
PG 10 Year (2019 Addendum Report)		
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.		
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This option is likely to contribute positively to supporting a sustainable economy and a healthy, balanced society.
ISA2 – 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.
ISA3 – Air Quality	+/-	Any level of growth infers an increase in transport and economic activity which will potentially lead to increased gaseous emissions. Whilst the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement and (slightly) lower than previous preferred Growth Option (PG 10 Year), this level of growth is unlikely to alleviate pressure on areas of poor air quality (AQMZs). Policies will need to mitigate potential impact upon achieving WBFGA Goals (Specifically Globally Responsible & Healthier), human health and well-being (increased traffic potentially causing secondary mental health issues), Area Statement (Cross-cutting theme: Climate Change) and upholding the Socio-Economic Duty given the unequal manner in which air quality can affect communities.
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	Any level of growth infers increasing transport and economic activity and associated greenhouse gas 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. New development, situated

		appropriately and designed to current WG standards, are likely to be more climate resilient and energy efficient than existing housing.
ISA5 – Water	+	This growth option projects a household growth of 10.6% over the plan period, which is within the 14.6% capacity provided for in the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Resource Management Plan.
ISA6 – Material Assets	0	No direct link
ISA7 - 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.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	+/-	Whilst the effect of this option on ISA8 will be dependent on how growth is implemented, this level of growth may have secondary effects (both positive and negative) upon resources of cultural/historic significance (e.g., renovation of listed building protecting heritage for future generations).
ISA9 – Landscape	+/-	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects upon landscape interest, depending on the choice of site and the manner in which they are developed. This proposed number of dwellings may require changes in land-use and adversely impact the landscape, however, development could also regenerate urban/rural areas and derelict land.
ISA10 – Population	++	This option will go some way to addressing the balance of the population, with a likely increase in the younger age cohorts.
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+/-	This level of growth would likely increase in the numbers of young persons and, as a proportion will be Welsh speakers, have positive effects upon the Welsh Language. This would be supported by Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which aims to increase the provision of Welsh-medium education. Whilst these factors are proposed to provide an overall likely positive effect, additional information is needed to determine if this level of growth is likely to lead to a sustainable balance between employment opportunities, inward-mitigation, and the Welsh Language.

ISA12 – 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.
ISA13 – 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.
ISA14 – Economy	+	This option sees the creation of 354 jobs per annum over the plan period which aligns with the Council's Regeneration ambitions.
ISA15 – 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.

2nd Deposit rLDP Growth Options		
Principal 2018-Based WG Projection (2018) 4,359 dwellings		
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This option is likely to contribute positively to supporting a sustainable economy and a healthy, balanced society.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	+/-	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects upon 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 and previous preferred Growth Option (PG 10 Year) which would reduce the need for development on greenfield land and resulting pressure on biodiversity assets. Development at this scale could provide opportunities to create new habitats or/and enhance wildlife resources (including section 7 priority Habitats and Species) through mitigate/compensating policies.
ISA3 – Air Quality	+/-	Any level of growth infers increasing transport and economic activity which have the potential to increase gaseous emissions. However, the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement and previous preferred Growth Option (PG 10 Year), so may alleviate some pressure on areas of poor air quality. Additionally, growth at this level could reduce the need to travel through appropriate siting.
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	Any level of growth infers increasing transport and economic activity and associated greenhouse gas 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. New development, situated

		appropriately and designed to current WG standards, are likely to be more climate resilient and energy efficient than existing housing.
ISA5 – Water	+	This growth option projects a household growth within the 14.6% capacity provided for in the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Resource Management Plan.
ISA6 – Material Assets	0	No direct link
ISA7 - 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.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	+/-	Whilst the effect of this option on ISA8 will be dependent on how growth is implemented, this level of growth may have secondary effects (both positive and negative) upon resources of cultural/historic significance (e.g., renovation of listed building protecting heritage for future generations).
ISA9 – Landscape	+/-	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects upon landscape interest, depending on the choice of site and the manner in which they are developed. This proposed number of dwellings may require changes in land-use and adversely impact the landscape, however, development could also regenerate urban/rural areas and derelict land. The number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement and previous preferred Growth Option (PG 10 Year) which reduce the scale of impact upon the landscape.
ISA10 – Population	+	This option will go some way to addressing the balance of the population, with a likely increase in the younger age cohorts.
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+/-	This level of growth would likely increase in the numbers of young persons and, as a proportion will be Welsh speakers, have positive effects upon the Welsh Language. This would be supported by Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which aims to increase the provision of Welsh-medium education. Whilst these factors are proposed to provide an overall likely positive effect, additional information is needed to determine if this level of growth is likely to lead to a sustainable balance between employment opportunities, inward-mitigation, and the Welsh Language.

ISA12 – 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.
ISA13 – 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.
ISA14 – Economy	+	This option sees the highest creation jobs over the plan period which aligns with the Council's Regeneration ambitions. This would support COVID-19 and economic recovery, and allow businesses to expand in line with their needed.
ISA15 – 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 support the delivery of affordable housing. However, this level of growth may reduce the proportion of developments in rural areas and consequently reduce accessibility to services.

WG 2018-based “High Population” Variant (2018) 5,670 dwellings		
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This option is likely to contribute positively to supporting a sustainable economy and a healthy, balanced society.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	+/-	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects upon 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 and previous preferred Growth Option (PG 10 Year) which would reduce the need for development on greenfield land and resulting pressure on biodiversity assets. Development at this scale could provide opportunities to create new habitats or/and enhance wildlife resources (including section 7 priority Habitats and Species) through mitigate/compensating policies.
ISA3 – Air Quality	+/-	Any level of growth infers increasing transport and economic activity which have the potential to increase gaseous emissions. However, the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement and previous preferred Growth Option (PG 10 Year), so may alleviate some pressure on areas of poor air quality. Additionally, growth at this level could reduce the need to travel through appropriate siting.
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	Any level of growth infers increasing transport and economic activity and associated greenhouse gas 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. New development, situated appropriately and designed to current WG standards, are likely to be more climate resilient and energy efficient than existing housing.

ISA5 – Water	+	This growth option projects a household growth within the 14.6% capacity provided for in the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Resource Management Plan.
ISA6 – Material Assets	0	No direct link
ISA7 - 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.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	+/-	Whilst the effect of this option on ISA8 will be dependent on how growth is implemented, this level of growth may have secondary effects (both positive and negative) upon resources of cultural/historic significance (e.g., renovation of listed building protecting heritage for future generations).
ISA9 – Landscape	+/-	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects upon landscape interest, depending on the choice of site and the manner in which they are developed. This proposed number of dwellings may require changes in land-use and adversely impact the landscape, however, development could also regenerate urban/rural areas and derelict land. The number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement and previous preferred Growth Option (PG 10 Year) which reduce the scale of impact upon the landscape.
ISA10 – Population	+	This option will go some way to addressing the balance of the population, with a likely increase in the younger age cohorts.
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+/-	This level of growth would likely increase in the numbers of young persons and, as a proportion will be Welsh speakers, have positive effects upon the Welsh Language. This would be supported by Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which aims to increase the provision of Welsh-medium education. Whilst these factors are proposed to provide an overall likely positive effect, additional information is needed to determine if this level of growth is likely to lead to a sustainable balance between employment opportunities, inward-mitigation, and the Welsh Language.

ISA12 – 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.
ISA13 – 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.
ISA14 – Economy	+	This option sees the highest creation jobs over the plan period which aligns with the Council's Regeneration ambitions. This would support COVID-19 and economic recovery, and allow businesses to expand in line with their needed.
ISA15 – 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 support the delivery of affordable housing. However, this level of growth may reduce the proportion of developments in rural areas and consequently reduce accessibility to services.

Ten-Year Trend-Based Projection (2022) 8,822 dwellings		
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This option is likely to contribute positively to supporting a sustainable economy and a healthy, balanced society.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	+/-	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects upon 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 and previous preferred Growth Option (PG 10 Year) (albeit small) which would reduce the need for development on greenfield land and resulting pressure on biodiversity assets. Development at this scale could provide opportunities to create new habitats or/and enhance wildlife resources (including section 7 priority Habitats and Species) through mitigate/compensating policies.
ISA3 – Air Quality	-	Any level of growth infers an increase in transport and economic activity which will potentially lead to increased gaseous emissions. Whilst the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement and (slightly) lower than previous preferred Growth Option (PG 10 Year), this level of growth is unlikely to alleviate pressure on areas of poor air quality (AQMZs). Policies will need to mitigate potential impact upon achieving WBFGA Goals (Specifically Globally Responsible & Healthier), human health and well-being (increased traffic potentially causing secondary mental health issues), Area Statement (Cross-cutting theme: Climate Change) and upholding the Socio-Economic Duty given the unequal manner in which air quality can affect communities.
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	Any level of growth infers increasing transport and economic activity and associated greenhouse gas emissions. However, whilst the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement, any increase in energy efficient will not offset the increased emission of greenhouse gasses responsible for Climate Change. This would impact upon the same of the same

		components stated above. Nevertheless, new development situated appropriately and designed to current WG standards are likely to be more climate resilient.
ISA5 – Water	+	This growth option projects a household growth within the 14.6% capacity provided for in the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Resource Management Plan.
ISA6 – Material Assets	0	No direct link
ISA7 - 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.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	+/-	Whilst the effect of this option on ISA8 will be dependent on how growth is implemented, this level of growth may have secondary effects (both positive and negative) upon resources of cultural/historic significance (e.g., renovation of listed building protecting heritage for future generations).
ISA9 – Landscape	+/-	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects upon landscape interest, depending on the choice of site and the manner in which they are developed. This proposed number of dwellings may require changes in land-use and adversely impact the landscape, however, development could also regenerate urban/rural areas and derelict land. The number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement and slightly lower than the previous preferred Growth Option (PG 10 Year), which may reduce the scale of impact upon the landscape.
ISA10 – Population	++	This option will go some way to addressing the balance of the population, with a likely increase in the younger age cohorts.
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+/-	This level of growth would likely increase in the numbers of young persons and, as a proportion will be Welsh speakers, have positive effects upon the Welsh Language. This would be supported by Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which aims to increase the provision of Welsh-medium education. Whilst these factors are proposed to provide an overall likely positive effect, additional information is needed to determine if this level of growth is likely to lead to a sustainable

		balance between employment opportunities, inward-mitigation, and the Welsh Language. The WLIA determined that this level of growth may slightly reduce the proportion of Welsh speakers.
ISA12 – 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.
ISA13 – 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.
ISA14 – Economy	+	This option sees the highest creation jobs over the plan period which aligns with the Council's Regeneration ambitions. This would support COVID-19 and economic recovery, and allow businesses to expand in line with their needed.
ISA15 – 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.

Fifteen-Year Trend-Based Projection (2022) 9,272 dwellings		
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+/-	This option is likely to contribute positively to supporting a sustainable economy and a healthy, balanced society, however, as determined by the likely significant adverse impacts upon biodiversity and the wider environment, this level of growth may be outside of environmental limits.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	-	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects upon biodiversity, depending on the choice of site and the manner in which they are developed. However, this proposed number of dwellings would significantly increase the need for development on greenfield land and resulting pressure on biodiversity assets.
ISA3 – Air Quality	-	Any level of growth infers an increase in transport and economic activity which will potentially lead to increased gaseous emissions. Whilst the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement and (slightly) lower than previous preferred Growth Option (PG 10 Year), this level of growth is unlikely to alleviate pressure on areas of poor air quality (AQMZs). Policies will need to mitigate potential impact upon achieving WBFGA Goals (Specifically Globally Responsible & Healthier), human health and well-being (increased traffic potentially causing secondary mental health issues), Area Statement (Cross-cutting theme: Climate Change) and upholding the Socio-Economic Duty given the unequal manner in which air quality can affect communities.
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	-	Any level of growth infers increasing transport and economic activity and associated greenhouse gas emissions. However, whilst the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement, any increase in energy efficient will not offset the increased emission of greenhouse gasses responsible for Climate Change. This would impact upon the same of the same components stated above.

ISA5 – Water	+/-	This growth option projects a household growth within the 14.6% capacity provided for in the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Resource Management Plan, although provides little headroom. Developments may lead to an increase in pollutant discharged to watercourse.
ISA6 – Material Assets	0	No direct link
ISA7 - 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. Nevertheless, this proposed number of dwellings would significantly increase the need for development on greenfield land/land with high ALC rating, resulting the loss of finite soil assets.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	-	Whilst the effect of this option on ISA8 will be dependent on how growth is implemented, this level of growth may have significant adverse impacts upon associated cultural resources.
ISA9 – Landscape	-	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects upon landscape interest, depending on the choice of site and the manner in which they are developed. However, this proposed number of dwellings may require changes in land-use and adversely impact the landscape (inc. secondary effects such as increased facilitates and infrastructure).
ISA10 – Population	+	This option will go some way to addressing the balance of the population, with a likely increase in the younger age cohorts.
ISA11 – Welsh Language	-	Increased employment opportunities may cause substantial inward migration of non-Welsh speakers and indirectly reduce the proportion of Welsh speakers (especially in the short term).
ISA12 – 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.

ISA13 – 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.
ISA14 – Economy	+	This option sees the highest creation jobs over the plan period which aligns with the Council's Regeneration ambitions. This would support COVID-19 and economic recovery, and allow businesses to expand in line with their needed.
ISA15 – 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.

Baseline Employment-Led Scenario (2022) 9,933 dwellings		
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+/-	This option is likely to contribute positively to supporting a sustainable economy and a healthy, balanced society, however, as determined by the likely significant adverse impacts upon biodiversity and the wider environment, this level of growth may be outside of environmental limits.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	--	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects upon biodiversity, depending on the choice of site and the manner in which they are developed. However, this proposed number of dwellings would significantly increase the need for development on greenfield land and resulting pressure on biodiversity assets. It would likely conflict with the Area Statement (Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity)
ISA3 – Air Quality	--	Any level of growth infers an increase in transport and economic activity which will potentially lead to increased gaseous emissions. Whilst the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement and (slightly) lower than previous preferred Growth Option (PG 10 Year), this level of growth is unlikely to alleviate pressure on areas of poor air quality (AQMZs). Policies will need to mitigate potential impact upon achieving WBFGA Goals (Specifically Globally Responsible & Healthier), human health and well-being (increased traffic potentially causing secondary mental health issues), Area Statement (Cross-cutting theme: Climate Change) and upholding the Socio-Economic Duty given the unequal manner in which air quality can affect communities. Additionally, it is likely that growth at this level would lead to inappropriate siting which will lead to increased need transport.
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	-	Any level of growth infers increasing transport and economic activity and associated greenhouse gas emissions. However, whilst the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement, any increase in energy efficient will not offset the increased emission of

		greenhouse gasses responsible for Climate Change. This would impact upon the same of the same components stated above.
ISA5 – Water	+/-	This growth option projects a household growth within the 14.6% capacity provided for in the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Resource Management Plan, although provides little headroom. Developments may lead to an increase in pollutant discharged to watercourse.
ISA6 – Material Assets	-	This level of growth is likely to place pressure on recycling services and may increase use of finite resources.
ISA7 - 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. Nevertheless, this proposed number of dwellings would significantly increase the need for development on greenfield land/land with high ALC rating, resulting the loss of finite soil assets.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	-	Whilst the effect of this option on ISA8 will be dependent on how growth is implemented, this level of growth may have significant adverse impacts upon associated cultural resources.
ISA9 – Landscape	--	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects upon landscape interest, depending on the choice of site and the manner in which they are developed. However, this proposed number of dwellings may require changes in land-use and adversely impact the landscape (inc. secondary effects such as increased facilitates and infrastructure).
ISA10 – Population	++	This option will go some way to addressing the balance of the population, with a likely increase in the younger age cohorts.
ISA11 – Welsh Language	--	Increased employment opportunities may cause substantial inward migration of non-Welsh speakers and indirectly reduce the proportion of Welsh speakers (especially in the short term).

ISA12 – 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.
ISA13 – 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.
ISA14 – Economy	++	This option sees the highest creation jobs over the plan period which aligns with the Council's Regeneration ambitions. This would support COVID-19 recovery and allow businesses to expand in line with their needed.
ISA15 – 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.

Rebased Principal Projection (2022) 10,461 dwellings		
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+/-	This option is likely to contribute positively to supporting a sustainable economy and a healthy, balanced society, however, as determined by the likely significant adverse impacts upon biodiversity and the wider environment, this level of growth may be outside of environmental limits.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	--	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects upon biodiversity, depending on the choice of site and the manner in which they are developed. However, this proposed number of dwellings would significantly increase the need for development on greenfield land and resulting pressure on biodiversity assets. It would likely conflict with the Area Statement (Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity)
ISA3 – Air Quality	--	Any level of growth infers an increase in transport and economic activity which will potentially lead to increased gaseous emissions. Whilst the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement and (slightly) lower than previous preferred Growth Option (PG 10 Year), this level of growth is unlikely to alleviate pressure on areas of poor air quality (AQMZs). Policies will need to mitigate potential impact upon achieving WBFGA Goals (Specifically Globally Responsible & Healthier), human health and well-being (increased traffic potentially causing secondary mental health issues), Area Statement (Cross-cutting theme: Climate Change) and upholding the Socio-Economic Duty given the unequal manner in which air quality can affect communities. Additionally, it is likely that growth at this level would lead to inappropriate siting which will lead to increased need transport.
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	-	Any level of growth infers increasing transport and economic activity and associated greenhouse gas emissions. However, whilst the number of dwellings required under this option is significantly lower than the current LDP requirement, any increase in energy efficient will not offset the increased emission of

		greenhouse gasses responsible for Climate Change. This would impact upon the same of the same components stated above.
ISA5 – Water	+/-	This growth option projects a household growth within the 14.6% capacity provided for in the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Resource Management Plan, although provides little headroom. Developments may lead to an increase in pollutant discharged to watercourse.
ISA6 – Material Assets	-	This level of growth is likely to place pressure on recycling services and may increase use of finite resources.
ISA7 - 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. Nevertheless, this proposed number of dwellings would significantly increase the need for development on greenfield land/land with high ALC rating, resulting the loss of finite soil assets.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	-	Whilst the effect of this option on ISA8 will be dependent on how growth is implemented, this level of growth may have significant adverse impacts upon associated cultural resources.
ISA9 – Landscape	--	Development of any form has the potential for negative effects upon landscape interest, depending on the choice of site and the manner in which they are developed. However, this proposed number of dwellings may require changes in land-use and adversely impact the landscape (inc. secondary effects such as increased facilitates and infrastructure).
ISA10 – Population	++	This option will go some way to addressing the balance of the population, with a likely increase in the younger age cohorts.
ISA11 – Welsh Language	--	Increased employment opportunities may cause substantial inward migration of non-Welsh speakers and indirectly reduce the proportion of Welsh speakers (especially in the short term).

ISA12 – 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.
ISA13 – 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.
ISA14 – Economy	++	This option sees the highest creation jobs over the plan period which aligns with the Council's Regeneration ambitions. This would support COVID-19 recovery and allow businesses to expand in line with their needed.
ISA15 – 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 F: ISA of Strategic Policies

Appendix F: ISA of rLDP Strategic Policies

This document contains the amended policies and the ISA commentary of the reassessment of the strategic policies contained with the rLDP. It should be read in conjunction with Chapter 6.4 of the ISA report. A summary of the results of the re-assessment against the IISA Framework are presented in Table 15 of the ISA report.

The table below contains the assessment criteria for draft policies and reasonable alternatives, as adapted from Welsh Government Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (2020).

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 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
I	Effect on the Sustainability objective depends on how the policy and allocation are implemented	Suggestions for implementation
0	Neutral effect compared to the current situation	Consider whether intervention could bring positive effects
?	Uncertain effect – more information needed	Consider where this will come from – who has it? What will be done about collecting it? When will it be collected?

SP1: Strategic Growth			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Commentary	Mitigating Plan Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	I	This policy looks to support a sustainable economy by providing opportunities for needs to be met locally. However, as a matter of principle, all development is likely to increase localised pollution (air, water, or land (soil contamination) which will need to be appropriately addressed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimise, mitigate/compensate) to counter the adverse environmental effects. Consequently, this conflicts with 1-1 of ISA1 and, therefore, the effect is predicted to be dependent on the implementation of policy/allocations.	See all relevant policies below.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	-	Growth in rural areas is likely to impact on greenfield land and undisturbed areas of biodiversity.	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks, and Features Of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows
ISA3 – 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 and Blue Infrastructure Network

ISA4 – 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.	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance TRA2: Active Travel
ISA5 – Water		This policy provides for a housing growth within the 14.6% capacity provided for in Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water’s (DCWW) Resource Management Plan. Nevertheless, development would lead to an increase in diffuse pollution and wastewater which could adversely impact SACs catchments. Therefore, the alignment of this policy with IISA5 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	CCH4: Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance SP 12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places SP 16: Climate Change NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity
ISA6 – 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.	
ISA7 - Soil		The alignment of this policy with ISA7 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment		The alignment of this policy with ISA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas BHE2: Landscape Character NE1: Regional and Local Designations SP 12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places

			PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods.
ISA9 – Landscape	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA9 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	PSD1 : Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking BHE2: Landscape Character
ISA10 – 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.	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+/-	Alignment of this policy with ISA11 is difficult to determine. Growth and inward migration at this scale is assumed to potentially 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 Developments PSD9: Advertisements
ISA12 – 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.	PSD6: Community Facilities
ISA13 – 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.	

ISA14 – 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.	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	This supports a level of growth that will provide a significant number of affordable homes in both urban and rural areas.	
IISA Comments and recommendations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies. 			

SP 2: Retail and Town Centres			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Plan Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+		
ISA2 – Biodiversity		Any development has 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.	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands, and hedgerows PSD12: Light and Air Pollution
ISA3 – 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 and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA4 – 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	SP 16: Climate Change CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel PSD12: Light and Air Pollution

		access to sustainable modes of transport if sited outside of town centres.	
ISA5 – Water	I	Effects on water quality and supply is largely dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	SP9: Infrastructure SP16: Climate Change CCH4: Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources
ISA6 – Material Assets	0		
ISA7 - Soil	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA7 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
ISA9 – Landscape	+	This policy supports the protection and enhancement of existing townscapes.	
ISA10 – 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.	
ISA11 – 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	WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments PSD9: Advertisements

		Language. Provisions have also been made for new rural retail facilities which may serve Welsh language strongholds. However, large developments are likely to lead to workforce changes which may impact adversely upon the language.	
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	0		
ISA13 – Education and Skills	0		
ISA14 – Economy	++	Protecting and enhancing the vibrancy, viability and attractiveness of our retail centres will have strong positive effects on the County’s economy.	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	This policy promotes the accessibility to services and considers the needs of the population	
ISA Comments and Recommendations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies. 			

SP 3: Sustainable Distribution – Settlement Hierarchy			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – 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. Nevertheless, the provision of growth and development to rural areas is likely to impact on greenfield land and undisturbed areas of biodiversity. Alongside negative factors outlined in ISA3 and ISA4, this is likely to be contrary to living within environmental limits 1-1.	See relevant policies below.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	-	Provision of growth and development to rural areas is likely to impact on greenfield land and undisturbed areas of biodiversity.	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: Green Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows
ISA3 – 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. Whilst the majority of development will be directed to the top tiers of the settlement hierarchy, growth in rural area may be contrary to this.	TRA2: Active Travel CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	Directing growth to sustainable locations with sufficient access to facilities, services and transport is likely to	CCH6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Developments

		reduce private car use and associated carbon emissions. The policy does make explicit reference to evidencing a sites access to sustainable modes of transport if sited outside of town centres. It is largely dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed – the policy does make explicit reference to evidencing (AQMZs). However, widespread distribution across both urban and rural area is likely to increase vulnerability of Carmarthenshire to the effects of climate change (4-2), and adversely impact upon climate resilience.	SP 16: Climate Change CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel PSD12: Light and Air Pollution
ISA5 – Water	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA5 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed. Information required from DCWW Review of Consents as to site specific capacity for growth with respect to water abstraction and waste water treatment.	SP 9: Infrastructure SP 12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places CCH4: Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance INF5: Rural Allocations outside Public Sewerage System Catchments (SG3)
ISA6 – 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.	CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel
ISA7 - Soil	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA7 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking

			PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
ISA9 – Landscape	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA9 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking BHE2: Landscape Character
ISA10 – 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	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	?	Alignment of this policy with ISA11 is difficult to determine. Growth and inward migration at this scale is assumed to potentially 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. With limited data to make an informed appraisal, providing monitoring data on the relationship between Growth Distribution and impact on Welsh language communities will help future understanding.	WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments
ISA12 – 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.	
ISA13 – 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.	
ISA14 – Economy	++	Growth in line with the settlement hierarchy provides opportunity to support sustainable rural and urban economies across the county.	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	++	Growth in line with the settlement hierarchy provides opportunity to address needs locally and to promote the design of vibrant, inclusive settlements.	
ISA Comments and Suggestions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thoughts should be made to paragraph 4.2.24 (PPW) relating to the potential cumulative effects of development occurring throughout the plan period within the open countryside (and tier 4 settlements). Multiple developments permitted under local needs housing could have a permanent adverse effect upon the landscape, and limit accessibility to services, sustainable travel, and community facilities. Local needs should have a locational and/or resource requirement aspects, and help to ensure the viability of the local community - providing benefits for support socio-economic ISA objectives. 			

SP 4: A Sustainable Approach to Providing New Homes			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	I	This policy looks to support a sustainable economy by providing opportunities for needs to be met locally (ISA1). However, as a matter of principle, all development is likely to increase localised pollution (air, water, or land (soil contamination) which will need to be appropriately addressed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimise, mitigate/compensate) to counter the adverse environmental effects. Consequently, this conflicts with 1-1 of ISA1 and, therefore, the effect is predicted to be dependent on the implementation of policy/allocations.	See all relevant policies below.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	-	Housing provision, in particular in rural areas, is likely to impact on greenfield land and undisturbed areas of biodiversity.	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: Green Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows INF5: Rural Allocations outside Public Sewerage System Catchments
ISA3 – 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 and Blue Infrastructure Network CCH6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Developments SP 16: Climate Change CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel

			PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA4 – 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.	CCH6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Developments SP 16: Climate Change CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA5 – Water	I	This policy provides for a housing growth within the 14.6% capacity provided for in Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water’s (DCWW) Resource Management Plan. Nevertheless, development would lead to an increase in diffuse pollution and wastewater which could adversely impact SACs catchments. Therefore, the alignment of this policy with ISA5 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	INF5: Rural Allocations outside Public Sewerage System Catchments CCH4: Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources SP 16: Climate Change NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity
ISA6 – 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.	
ISA7 - Soil	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA7 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.

<p>ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment</p>	<p>I</p>	<p>The alignment of this policy with ISA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed</p>	<p>SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods</p>
<p>ISA9 – Landscape</p>	<p>+/-</p>	<p>The policy specifically outlines criteria for sustainable development, including a presumption against inappropriate development outside of development limits (except where they are subject to other policies of this Plan, e.g., BHE2).</p>	<p>BHE2: Landscape Character BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas</p>
<p>ISA10 – Population</p>	<p>++</p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p>ISA11 – Welsh Language</p>	<p>+/-</p>	<p>Alignment of this policy with ISA11 is difficult to determine. Growth and inward migration has the potential to dilute Welsh language and culture in certain areas, although may also provide housing in rural areas with a high proportion of Welsh Speakers. However, it does increase the potential for retaining young Welsh speakers in the county and so may also have a positive effect.</p>	<p>WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments PSD9: Advertisements</p>

ISA12 – 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.	
ISA13 – 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.	
ISA14 – Economy	++	Supports growth at a level that will create a minimum of 4,140 jobs over the plan period, in line with the Council's core ambitions.	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	This supports a level of growth that will provide a significant number of affordable homes in both urban and rural areas.	
ISA Comments and Recommendations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies. 			

SP 5: Affordable Homes Strategy			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development		This policy looks to support a sustainable economy by providing opportunities for needs to be met locally (ISA1). However, as a matter of principle, all development is likely to increase localised pollution (air, water, or land (soil contamination) which will need to be appropriately addressed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimise, mitigate/compensate) to counter the adverse environmental effects. Consequently, this conflicts with 1-1 of ISA1 and, therefore, the effect is predicted to be dependent on the implementation of policy/allocations.	See all relevant policies below.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	-	Housing provision, particularly in rural areas, is likely to impact on greenfield land and undisturbed areas of biodiversity.	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3 Corridors, networks, and features of distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4 Green Infrastructure – Trees, woodlands, and hedgerows
ISA3 – 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 and Blue Infrastructure Network CCH6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Developments SP 16: Climate Change CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network

ISA4 – Climatic Factors	-	Affordable housing located in rural areas may result in an increase in private car use and associated CO ² emissions if not located near good public transport networks and active travel routes.	CCH6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Developments SP 16: Climate Change CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA5 – Water		This policy provides for a housing growth within the 14.6% capacity provided for in Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water's (DCWW) Resource Management Plan. Nevertheless, development would lead to an increase in diffuse pollution and wastewater which could adversely impact SACs catchments. Therefore, the alignment of this policy with ISA5 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	INF5: Rural Allocations outside Public Sewerage System Catchments CCH4: Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources SP 16: Climate Change NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity
ISA6 – 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.	
ISA7 - Soil		The alignment of this policy with ISA7 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment		The alignment of this policy with ISA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods

ISA9 – Landscape	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA9 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking BHE2: Landscape Character
ISA10 – 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.	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+	The delivery of a minimum 1700 affordable homes to reflect the LHMA and support the delivery of balanced and sustainable communities should in principle be helpful in encouraging the growth of the Welsh language. However, growth and inward migration may still have the potential to dilute Welsh language and culture in certain areas. 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. However, this policy does increase the potential for retaining young Welsh speakers in the county and is, therefore, considered to have a minor positive effect.	WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments PSD9: Advertisements
ISA12 – 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.	

ISA13 – 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.	
ISA14 – 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.	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	++	Policy facilitates the delivery of affordable housing, which in turn, removes barriers and creates opportunities for disadvantaged sections of society.	
ISA Comments and Recommendations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested that due to likely need for affordable housing in rural as well as urban areas of Carmarthenshire, policy SP5 make specific reference be made in the supporting text to the protection of the natural environment when locating affordable housing and sensitivity to Welsh language resilience. • Suggested that policy SP5 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. • Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies, and access to facilities should be enhanced through PSD6: Community Facilities. 			

SP 6: Strategic Sites			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This policy looks to support a sustainable economy, and provides opportunity for needs to be met locally.	
ISA2 – 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.	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: Green Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows
ISA3 – 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 and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA4 – 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.	CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel

ISA5 – 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.	SP9: Infrastructure CCH4: Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources
ISA6 – 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.	
ISA7 - Soil		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 ISA7 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment		The alignment of this policy with ISA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
ISA9 – Landscape		The alignment of this policy with ISA9 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking BHE2: Landscape Character
ISA10 – 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.	
ISA11 – 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 is likely to create opportunities for young people in the county, a proportion of which are Welsh speaking. Pentre Awel, Llanelli, is a partnership between several organisations (local colleges, universities, and health board) which promote the Welsh Language. However, uncertainty remains as to the effects of in migration of non-Welsh speakers to the county as a result of these developments.	This scoring was upheld through: WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments PSD9: Advertisements
ISA12 – 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.	
ISA13 – 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.	
ISA14 – Economy	++	Both facilities are part of significant inward investment to the county and have the potential to create thousands of high quality jobs.	

ISA15 – 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	
ISA Comments and Recommendations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies. 			

SP 7: Employment and the Economy			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – 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.	
ISA2 – 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.	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: Green Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows
ISA3 – 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 and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	+	Allocation of employment land in line with the plans’ spatial strategy/settlement framework is likely to decrease the need to travel.	
ISA5 – Water	?	Employment development will increase the level of demand for water supply and sewerage discharge, but	SP9: Infrastructure CCH4: Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources

		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.	
ISA6 – Material Assets	+	Allocation of employment land in line with the plans' spatial strategy/settlement framework is likely to reduce the need to travel.	
ISA7 - 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 ISA7 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
ISA9 – Landscape	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA9 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking BHE2: Landscape Character
ISA10 – 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.	

ISA11 – Welsh Language	+	The allowance 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.	
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	0		
ISA13 – 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.	
ISA14 – 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.	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	Increasing employment land in both urban and rural areas will contribute positively to promoting the retention of young people and social inclusion.	
ISA Comments and Suggestions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies. Make provision to highlight the fact that employment developments may also include landscaping, buffer zones, and GBI. 			

SP 8: Welsh Language and Culture			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This policy looks to protect and enhance the social fabric of the County’s communities.	
ISA2 – Biodiversity	0		
ISA3 – Air Quality	0		
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	0		
ISA5 – Water	0		
ISA6 – Material Assets	0		
ISA7 - Soil	0		
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	+	This policy looks to protect local cultural distinctiveness from potential negative effects as a result of development.	
ISA9 – Landscape	0		

ISA10 – Population	++	Promoting Welsh language and ensuring sufficient employment and housing opportunities are likely to help retain young Welsh speakers within the County.	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	++	This Policy encourages the growth of the Welsh Language and directly related with ISA11.	
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	0		
ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	Protecting and enhancing Welsh Language and Culture is likely to have a positive effect on Welsh literacy.	
ISA14 – Economy	+	Promoting Welsh language and ensuring sufficient employment and housing opportunities are likely to help retain young Welsh speakers within the County.	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	++	This policy looks to protect and enhance the social fabric of the County’s communities.	
ISA Comments and Recommendations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no negative impacts predicted as a result of this policy • 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, and in 5+ rural areas. 			

SP 9: Infrastructure			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This policy underpins the ability to deliver develop sustainably, ensuring access to services and facilities and creating sustainable economic centres.	
ISA2 – 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.	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: Green Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows
ISA3 – 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.	
ISA4 – 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.	
ISA5 – 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.	

ISA6 – 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.	
ISA7 - Soil	-	Development directed to locations with sufficient infrastructure may reduce flexibility to promote regeneration of land.	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	+/-	Development directed to locations with sufficient infrastructure may reduce flexibility to avoid sensitive cultural heritage and historic environment features. Nevertheless, well designed facilities could reflect local character and distinctiveness, and also provide further access to assets.	SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
ISA9 – Landscape	-	Development directed to locations with sufficient infrastructure may reduce flexibility to avoid sensitive landscape areas.	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking BHE2: Landscape Character
ISA10 – 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.	
ISA11 – Welsh Language		The alignment of this policy with ISA11 is dependent on the type of infrastructure, its' situation, and manner in which they are developed.	WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments PSD9: Advertisements
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+	This policy will increase accessibility to services and facilities including health and leisure facilities.	

ISA13 – 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.	
ISA14 – 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.	
ISA15 – 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.	
ISA Comments and Suggestions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies. 			

SP 10: Gypsy and Traveller Provision			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	This policy promotes the inclusion of Gypsy and Traveller community by allocating land to specifically address their housing need.	
ISA2 – 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.	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: Green Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows
ISA3 – Air Quality	0		
ISA4 – 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 SP10 are affected to varying degrees in relation to the Development Advice Map Zone C1.	SP9: Infrastructure CCH4: Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance SP16: Climate Change
ISA5 – 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.	SP9: Infrastructure CCH4: Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Networks

		It is noted that the 3 locations listed under SP9 are affected to varying degrees in relation to the Development Advice Map Zone C1.	
ISA6 – Material Assets	+	Both sites are in sustainable locations with good access to facilities and services as well as public transport routes.	
ISA7 - Soil	-	The development of both sites will involve the loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces.	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	0	The proposed sites have no impact on any sites of archaeological importance, historic landscapes, or listed buildings.	
ISA9 – Landscape	1	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.	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking BHE2: Landscape Character
ISA10 – Population	+	This policy promotes the inclusion of Gypsy and Traveller community by allocating land to specifically address their housing need.	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	?	Alignment of this policy with ISA11 is difficult to determine. Growth and inward migration have 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. Insufficient data to make prediction.	

ISA12 – 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.	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	Both sites are located in good proximity to education facilities and services.	
ISA14 – Economy	+	Both sites are located in good proximity to existing employment sites.	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	This policy promotes the inclusion of Gypsy and Traveller community by allocating land to specifically address their housing need.	
ISA Comments and Suggestions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 CCH5: 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: The Visitor Economy			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	I	This policy contributes positively towards maintaining a sustainable economy in the County and promotes health and wellbeing. However, the alignment of this policy with ISA1 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	See relevant policies below
ISA2 – 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.	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: Green Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows
ISA3 – 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 and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA4 – 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	CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel PSD12: Light and Air Pollution

		located will ensure that developments are located in areas that are accessible by public transport.	
ISA5 – 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 developed would determine the way in which water would be affected.	CCH4: Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources
ISA6 – 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.	
ISA7 - Soil	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA7 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed	SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
ISA9 – 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.	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking BHE2: Landscape Character

ISA10 – 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.	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	?	Alignment of this policy with ISA11 is difficult to determine. Economic growth and resulting inward migration have 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. Insufficient data to make prediction.	WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments PSD9: Advertisements
ISA12 – 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.	
ISA13 – 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.	
ISA14 – Economy	++	This policy looks to facilitate tourism related development, which is a key component of Carmarthenshire’s economy and a major source of employment.	
ISA15 – 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.	
ISA Comments and Suggestions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies. 			

SP 12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	++	This policy supports sustainable development and includes regard to Well-being and integration of communities.	
ISA2 – Biodiversity	+	Retention and creation of green infrastructure creates opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity.	
ISA3 – 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.	
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	++	Retention and creation of green infrastructure can mitigate effects of climate change by recycling CO ₂ 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.	
ISA5 – Water	+	Encouraging the incorporation of SUDS into future development as well as retention and creation of green infrastructure aligns positively with ISA5.	
ISA6 – Material Assets	+	This policy encourages new development to have regard for generation, treatment and disposal of waste.	
ISA7 - Soil	+	Retention and creation of green infrastructure aligns positively with the avoidance of loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces	
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and	+	This policy actively seeks to promote high quality design that reflects local character and distinctiveness.	

Historic Environment			
ISA9 – Landscape	+	This policy actively seeks to promote high quality design in keeping with the surrounding landscape.	
ISA10 – 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.	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+	This policy recognises the need for development (including social infrastructure) to exhibit a clear understanding of local character and distinctiveness which would include the Welsh Language, in addition to landscape context (applicable to the whole County as the Council has previously deemed it as linguistically sensitive).	
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+	This policy encourages new development to have regard for Well-being and, in particular, access to open space and recreation.	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	0		
ISA14 – Economy	+	Creation of vibrant, safe and sustainable communities in likely to encourage the retention and inflow of people to Carmarthenshire, which will contribute positively to the economy.	
ISA15 – 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.	
ISA Comments and Recommendations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest specific reference is made to net benefits for biodiversity, ecological resilience, 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)
- No negative impacts on ISA Framework are predicted as a result of this policy.

SP 13: Rural Development			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+/-	This policy contributes positively towards maintaining a sustainable economy in the County and promotes health, wellbeing and social inclusion. However, it has several predicted adverse effects (see below) which may be contrary to living within environmental limits.	See relevant policies below
ISA2 – 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.	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: Green Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows
ISA3 – 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 (AQMZs). Retention of facilities and services in rural settlements will also contribute positively by reducing private car use.	

ISA4 – 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.	
ISA5 – 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.	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Networks SP9: Infrastructure CCH4: Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources
ISA6 – Material Assets	+	This policy supports the retention of facilities and services in rural settlements and therefore aids in addressing needs locally.	
ISA7 - Soil	-	Rural development is likely to result in a loss of permeable greenfield land to hard standing.	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
ISA9 – Landscape	-	Rural development is unlikely to result in derelict land being repurposed.	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking BHE2: Landscape Character

ISA10 – 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.	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+/-	Alignment of this policy with ISA11 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 potentially may led to the retention of young Welsh speakers in the county. Analysis within the WLIA references the 2011 Census which suggested that 45% of in migrant persons came from other parts of Wales with ~33% of households having one adult who spoke Welsh.	WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments
ISA12 – 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.	
ISA13 – 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.	
ISA14 – 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.	

ISA15 – 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.	
ISA Comments and Recommendations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any residual negative impacts and remaining uncertainty can be sufficiently mitigated by revised LDP Plan Policies. 			

SP 14: Maintaining and Enhancement of the Natural Environment			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+		
ISA2 – Biodiversity	++	This policy directly aligns with ISA2 to protect and enhance the natural environment.	
ISA3 – Air Quality	+	Protection and enhancement of the natural environment will contribute to the filtering and removal of pollutants from the air.	
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	+	Protection and enhancement of the natural environment can mitigate effects of climate change by recycling CO ₂ and also providing cooling effects and absorption of rain water which can reduce risk of flooding.	
ISA5 – Water	+	This policy includes the protection and enhancement of waterbodies.	
ISA6 – Material Assets	0		
ISA7 - Soil	+	This policy includes the protection and enhancement of soil resources.	
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	+	The natural environment is strongly linked with cultural heritage.	

ISA9 – Landscape	+	This policy directly refers to the protection and enhancement of Carmarthenshire’s landscape.	
ISA10 – 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.	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	0		
ISA12 – 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.	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	The natural heritage of Carmarthenshire is a valuable resource in the education of children and adults.	
ISA14 – Economy	+	Protection of Carmarthenshire’s natural assets preserves the biodiversity and unique natural environment within the County, which enhances the tourism and visitor economy.	
ISA15 – 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.	
ISA Comments and Recommendations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No negative impacts on ISA Framework are predicted as a result of this policy. 			

- Suggested changes to the policy wording to strengthen the requirement to protect and enhance the natural environment; Remove reference to PPW and TAN5 to include 'all National Policy and legislative requirements' to include other applicable laws; use different terminology to align with current focus (i.e., net benefit for biodiversity)
- Specific reference should be made in the supporting text to the Council's Duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 2018.

SP 15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment.			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	Protection of the built and historic environment contributes positively towards sustainable development and well-being objectives.	
ISA2 – Biodiversity	0		
ISA3 – Air Quality	0		
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	0		
ISA5 – Water	0		
ISA6 – Material Assets	0		
ISA7 - Soil	0		
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	++	This policy directly supports the protection and enhancement of Carmarthenshire’s cultural heritage and high-quality design.	
ISA9 – Landscape	+	This policy directly supports the safeguarding of the County’s townscapes and landscapes.	

ISA10 – 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.	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+	The built heritage of Carmarthenshire has strong links to Welsh Culture.	
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+	Protection of the built and historic environment preserves access to cultural heritage for Well-being purposes.	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	The built heritage of Carmarthenshire is a valuable resource in the education of children and adults.	
ISA14 – Economy	+	Protection of Carmarthenshire’s cultural assets preserves the diversity and rich heritage of the County, which enhances the tourism and visitor economy.	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	Ensuring the build and historic environment are protected will ensure accessibility to such resources is as wide as possible, especially to disadvantaged sections of society.	
ISA Comments and Suggestions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No negative impacts on ISA Framework are predicted as a result of this policy. • Although this policy does not directly impact on ISA3 – 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. • 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. 			

SP 16: Climate Change			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	++	Policy supports climate resilience in future development and will contribute to reducing Carmarthenshire’s carbon footprint.	
ISA2 – Biodiversity	+	Encouraging sustainable transport will in turn have positive effects on air quality, which currently impacts on certain designated sites in the County.	
ISA3 – Air Quality	+	Encouraging sustainable transport will in turn have positive effects on air quality by reducing car related emissions.	
ISA4 – 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.	
ISA5 – Water	+	Encouraging the incorporation of SUDS into future development as well as flood resilient design align positively with ISA5.	
ISA6 – Material Assets	+	This policy ensures the consideration of sustainable transport in new development.	
ISA7 - Soil	0		
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	0		

ISA9 – Landscape	0		
ISA10 – Population	?	Climate resilient developments have the potential, by extension, to promote the continuation (and development) of sustainable communities – leading to the retention of young people .	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	0		
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+	Minimising the need to travel supports active travel.	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	?	Has the potential to foster the development of skills associated with delivering innovative, climate responsive design.	
ISA14 – Economy	?	Indirectly promotes green jobs and sustainable businesses.	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	?	Climate responsive design has the potential to improve safety and security for people and property.	
ISA Comments and Suggestions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A stronger statement needs to be made to a commitment to reduce carbon emissions in policy. • 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. • 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 ISA7 – 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. 			

SP 17: Transport and Accessibility			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	++	This policy underpins the ability to deliver develop sustainably, by reducing private car use and ensuring access to services and facilities.	
ISA2 – Biodiversity	+	Reduced private car use will decrease related air pollutants that have negative effects on European designated sites in some areas of Carmarthenshire.	
ISA3 – Air Quality	++	This policy will contribute to the delivery of a sustainable travel network which will have strong positive effects on improving air quality.	
ISA4 – 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.	
ISA5 – Water	0		
ISA6 – 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.	
ISA7 - Soil	0		
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	0		

ISA9 – Landscape	0		
ISA10 – Population	+	This policy looks to address social inclusion through increased accessibility to employment, services and facilities	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	0		
ISA12 – 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.	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	This policy looks to increased accessibility to services and facilities including education and skills facilities.	
ISA14 – Economy	0		
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	This policy looks to address social inclusion through increased accessibility to employment, services and facilities	
ISA Comments and Suggestions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No negative impacts on ISA 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. 			

SP 18: Mineral Resources			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA1 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	
ISA2 – 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.	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: Green Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows
ISA3 – Air Quality	-	The location of aggregates is driven by site specific geological conditions and so reducing distances required to transport goods will be difficult.	PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	-	The location of aggregates is driven by site specific geological conditions and so reducing distances required to transport goods will be difficult.	
ISA5 – Water	-	Whilst the alignment of this policy with ISA5 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed, impact upon groundwater resources cannot be completely avoided.	
ISA6 – 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.	
ISA7 - Soil	-	The location of aggregates is driven by site specific geological conditions and so has less flexibility to avoid impacts on specific soil resources.	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
ISA9 – 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
ISA10 – Population	0		
ISA11 – Welsh Language	0		
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	-	Whilst the alignment of this policy with ISA12 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed, impacts upon human health and wellbeing will (in varying degrees) occur. Development	

		may restrict access to Wales’ natural and cultural heritage impacting upon well-being, and pollutants through several pathways (noise, air, and water) may impact human health.	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	0		
ISA14 – Economy	+	Extraction of aggregates supports development and economic growth.	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	0		
ISA Comments and Suggestions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide further mitigation of this policy against ISA4 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. • 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. • 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 underground coal gasification. • To mitigate for residual impacts on ISA7 – 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. • Although specific policy MR1 Mineral Proposals goes some way to mitigating any residual negative impacts on ISA9 – 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			
ISA Objective	Appraisal	Comments	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA1 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	
ISA2 – 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.	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: Green Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows
ISA3 – Air Quality	I	Energy from Waste (EfW) sites are tightly regulated with respect to pollutants such as SO ₂ , NO _x , HCl and CO. Effects ultimately depend on the type and location of waste management facilities.	PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network WM1 Sustainable Waste Management and New Development
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	I	Energy from Waste (EfW) sites are tightly regulated with respect to pollutants such as SO ₂ , NO _x , 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 and Blue Infrastructure Network WM1 Sustainable Waste Management and New Development

ISA5 – Water	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA5 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	
ISA6 – Material Assets	+	This policy directly refers to the waste hierarchy and the promotion of recycling and minimising waste.	
ISA7 - Soil	-	Waste disposal including landfill and disposal of ash from EfW sites may adversely affect soil resources.	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	I	The alignment of this policy with ISA8 is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed.	SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
ISA9 – Landscape	I	The policy makes direct reference to any proposal having no significant adverse effect on local amenity	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking BHE2: Landscape Character
ISA10 – Population	0		
ISA11 – Welsh Language	0		
ISA12 – 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.	

ISA13 – Education and Skills	0		
ISA14 – Economy	+	New waste management sites generate jobs and local, long term employment opportunities.	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	0		
ISA Comments and Suggestions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy should include a criterion stating that no significant impacts in the environment should occur because of waste management proposals. • Suggest more in the supporting text regarding sustainable location of waste management facilities especially when situated outside of development limits. • To further strengthen mitigation against potential negative effects on ISA9 – Landscape, reference should be made to design of buildings being in keeping with surrounding landscape. • Include reference to the proximity principle to minimise distance between where waste is generated and managed. • Suggest including some wording around the importance of green infrastructure for visual, noise and air pollution screening. 			

Appendix G: ISA of Specific Policies

Appendix G SA of rLDP of Specific Policies

This document contains the appraisal of 78 specific policies (and associated ISA commentary) contained with the rLDP (split over 18 strategy policies, note that SP6 does not contain any specific policies and is, therefore, not included below). It should be read in conjunction with Chapter 6.6 of the ISA report. A summary of the results of the appraisal against the ISA Framework are presented in Table # of the ISA report. Where relevant, the commentary has been expanded upon for those policies which have undergone minor change since their previous assessment in the SA Report (2020), however, new commentary has been provided for those new specific policies, those which have major changing in context/wording, and those which have been scored differently considering an updated scope and/or baseline.

The table below contains the assessment criteria for draft policies and reasonable alternatives, as adapted from Welsh Government Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (2020).

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 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
I	Effect on the Sustainability objective depends on how the policy and allocation are implemented	Suggestions for implementation
0	Neutral effect compared to the current situation	Consider whether intervention could bring positive effects
?	Uncertain effect – more information needed	Consider where this will come from – who has it? What will be done about collecting it? When will it be collected?

SP1 Strategic Growth				
Specific Policies	SG1: Regeneration and Mixed-Use Sites SG2: Reserve Sites SG3: Pembrey Peninsula			
ISA Objective	SG1	SG2	SG3	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development				See relevant policies below
ISA2 – Biodiversity	-	-	-	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks, and Features Of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: GBI – Trees, Woodlands, and Hedgerows
ISA3 – Air Quality	-	-	-	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD12: Light and Air Pollution
ISA4 – Climatic Factors			-	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points

				<p>CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance TRA2: Active Travel</p>
ISA5 – Water			-	<p>SP 9: Infrastructure SP 12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places CCH4: Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance INF5: Rural Allocations outside Public Sewerage System Catchments (SG3)</p>
ISA6 – Material Assets	+		+	
ISA7 – Soil	+/-		+/-	<p>PSD3: GBI Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking</p>
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage				<p>SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas BHE2: Landscape Character NE1: Regional and Local Designations SP 12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods.</p>

ISA9 – Landscape				<p>SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places</p> <p>SP 14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment</p> <p>SP 15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment</p> <p>BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas</p> <p>BHE2: Landscape Character</p> <p>PSD11: Noise Pollution</p> <p>PSD12: Light and Air Pollution</p> <p>NE1: Regional and Local Designations</p>
ISA10 – Population	++	+	++	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+/-	+/-	+/-	<p>SP 8: Welsh Language and Culture</p> <p>WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments</p> <p>PSD9: Advertisements</p>
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+		+	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	+		+	
ISA14 – Economy	++	++	++	

ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	I	+	
Commentary				
<p>These three policies individually look to support a sustainable economy and provides opportunity for needs to be met locally (ISA1), and mixed-use employment sites will provide employment/business opportunities (ISA14). All development is likely to increase localised pollution (air, water, or land (soil contamination) and will, therefore, needs to be appropriately addressed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimise, mitigate and/or compensate).</p> <p>SG1 – This appraisal considered the likely impacts from the provision of all mixed-use allocations outlined within the policy. Several sites outlined contain respect to existing nearby infrastructure (e.g., PrC1/MU2, PrC1/MU3) (ISA6/12/13/15), and few use brownfield land which conserves soil resource (ISA7). Nevertheless, all sites will be assessed separately in more detail within section 6.8 of the ISA Report. 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 GBI and biodiversity assets on the site. Flooding risk is increasing within Wales and while a limited number of sites contained within SG1 are currently located within a flood risk zone (as identified in the TAN 15 Development Advice Maps), it is important an adaptive response is considered on a site basis to avoid a conflict within increasing climate resilience (4-3) ISA4. Therefore, at an overall strategic level, the likely effect on ISA4 and ISA5 depends on how allocations are implemented.</p> <p>SG2 – Specific reference in the policy to accordance with policies on high quality design, GBI and active travel routes are welcomed. To further mitigate any negative impacts on ISA2 – Biodiversity, suggest specific reference is made to policy SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment. Development would have to comply with TAN15 and policy CCH5: 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 ISA7 – Soil and ISA9 Landscape. Increasing employment provision across the county can help retain young people which in turn will have a positive effect on ISA11 – Welsh Language. However, Growth and inward migration have the potential to dilute Welsh language and culture in certain areas.</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 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 to reduce any potential impacts on ISA9 Landscape.</p>				
ISA Comments & Recommendations				

SG1 – Ensure sites are assessed accordingly, with reference of the likely adverse impacts as identified on a strategic level.
SG2 – Suggest specific reference is made to policy SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
SG3 – Suggest additionally wording is added to supporting text regarding the cultural and biodiversity importance of Pembrey (explicitly stating mitigating policies). 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.

SP2: Retail and Town Centres			
Specific Policies	RTC1: Protection of Local Shops and Facilities RTC2: Retail in Rural Areas		
ISA Objective	RTC1	RTC2	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	I	See relevant policies below (ISA2/7)
ISA2 – Biodiversity	0	-	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks, and Features Of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: GBI – Trees, Woodlands, and Hedgerows
ISA3 – Air Quality	+/-	+	PSD12: Light and Air Pollution

			PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	+	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance TRA2: Active Travel
ISA5 – Water	0	I	SP 12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places CCH4: Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance INF5: Rural Allocations outside Public Sewerage System Catchments (RTC3)
ISA6 – Material Assets	+	+	
ISA7 – Soil	+	-	PSD3: GBI Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage	+	0	
ISA9 – Landscape	+	I	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places SP 14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment

			<p>SP 15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment</p> <p>BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas</p> <p>BHE2: Landscape Character</p> <p>PSD11: Noise Pollution</p> <p>PSD12: Light and Air Pollution</p> <p>NE1: Regional and Local Designations</p>
ISA10 – Population	+	+	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+	+	
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+	+	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	+	
ISA14 – Economy	++	+	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	
Commentary			
<p>These two policies individually look to support a sustainable economy and provides opportunity for needs to be met locally (ISA1), and support employment/business opportunities (ISA14).</p>			

RTC1 – 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 ISA3 Air quality, ISA4 Climatic Factors and ISA6 Material Assets. This policy also scores positive against the socio-economic ISA Objectives as retention of facilities and services will promote the retention of young people by providing jobs and access to skills development. Both the primary and secondary town centre retail areas within Carmarthen is a 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.

RTC2 – 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 SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment and associated specific policies. To ensure ISA1 is achieved, mitigation associated with ISA2 and ISA7 must be ensured.

ISA Comments & Recommendations

RTC2 – Acknowledgement in the policy that primary and secondary town centre retail areas may be within a AQMA and that retail applications would be subject to submission of an Air Quality Assessment as per policy PSD12 Light and Air Quality.

All – policies should signpost to their potential requirement to fulfil WL1 and promote the use of the WL through PSD9.

SP3: Sustainable Distribution – Settlement Framework		
Specific Policies	SD1: Development Limits	
ISA Objective	SD1	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	I	See all relevant policies below.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	+/-	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: Green and Blue Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows
ISA3 – Air Quality	+/-	PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	+	
ISA5 – Water	I	SP 12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places CCH4: Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources

		<p>CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance</p> <p>INF5: Rural Allocations outside Public Sewerage System Catchments</p>
ISA6 – Material Assets	+	
ISA7 – Soil	+/-	<p>PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Networks</p> <p>SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.</p>
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage		<p>SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment</p> <p>PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking</p> <p>PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods</p>
ISA9 – Landscape		<p>SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places</p> <p>PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking</p> <p>BHE2: Landscape Character</p>
ISA10 – Population	+	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	?	<p>SP 8: Welsh Language and Culture</p> <p>WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments</p> <p>PSD9: Advertisements</p>
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+	

ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	
ISA14 – Economy	++	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	++	
Commentary		
<p>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 SP14: 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 and Blue Infrastructure Network, PSD4: Green and Blue Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows all provide mitigation for any residual negative impacts of development on ISA2 - Biodiversity and ISA7 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 GBI can mitigate for these potential impacts.</p> <p>Any potential for negative impacts on ISA8 or ISA9 in the implementation of this policy can be mitigated by policies SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment, PSD1 Placemaking and Sustainable Places, PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods, SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places and BHE2: Landscape Character.</p> <p>To conserve water resources, development limits should have regard to water supply, sewage connection, and/or feasibility of expanding existing networks with sufficient nutrient headroom at the WwTW servicing that area (in collaboration with DCWW).</p> <p>This policy aligns directly with ISA15 and has some regard to the Council's Socio-Economic Duty, encouraging the provision of homes in rural areas to ensure the long-term viability of rural communities. Alignment to ISA11 is difficult to determine due to insufficient data available that is based upon the impact of developments limits upon language/culture.</p>		
ISA Comments & Recommendations		

Ensure mitigating policies cover all potential scenarios that may be developed within each tier to avoid circumstances which will likely lead to adverse environmental effects.

SP4: A Sustainable Approach to Providing New Homes

<p>Specific Policies</p>	<p>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</p>									
<p>ISA Objective</p>	<p>HOM1</p>	<p>HOM2</p>	<p>HOM3</p>	<p>HOM4</p>	<p>HOM5</p>	<p>HOM6</p>	<p>HOM7</p>	<p>HOM8</p>	<p>HOM9</p>	<p>Mitigating Policies</p>
<p>ISA1 – Sustainable Development</p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p>See relevant policies below</p>
<p>ISA2 – Biodiversity</p>	<p>+/-</p>	<p>+/-</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p>-</p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p>SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks, and Features Of Distinctiveness</p>

										<p>PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network</p> <p>PSD4: GBI – Trees, Woodlands, and Hedgerows</p>
ISA3 – Air Quality	-		+	+	-	0	-	0	0	<p>PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network</p> <p>PSD12: Light and Air Pollution</p>
ISA4 – Climatic Factors						0		0		<p>SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places</p> <p>CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points</p> <p>CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance</p> <p>TRA2: Active Travel</p>
ISA5 – Water										<p>SP 9: Infrastructure</p> <p>SP 12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places</p> <p>CCH4: Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources</p> <p>CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance</p> <p>INF5: Rural Allocations outside Public Sewerage System Catchments (SG3)</p>

ISA6 – Material Assets		+	+	+	-	+	+/-		-	<p>SP 9: Infrastructure</p> <p>SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places</p> <p>CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points</p> <p>TRA2: Active Travel</p>
ISA7 – Soil					0	0	+		0	<p>PSD3: GBI Networks</p> <p>SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment</p> <p>PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking</p>
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage							+	0	0	<p>SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment</p> <p>BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas</p> <p>BHE2: Landscape Character</p> <p>NE1: Regional and Local Designations</p> <p>SP 12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places</p> <p>PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking</p> <p>PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods.</p>

ISA9 – Landscape	+/-				+/-		+			<p>SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places</p> <p>SP 14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment</p> <p>SP 15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment</p> <p>BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas</p> <p>BHE2: Landscape Character</p> <p>PSD11: Noise Pollution</p> <p>PSD12: Light and Air Pollution</p> <p>NE1: Regional and Local Designations</p>
ISA10 – Population	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+	+	+	+	?	+	?	?	?	<p>SP 8: Welsh Language and Culture</p> <p>WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments</p> <p>PSD9: Advertisements</p>
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	

ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	
ISA14 – Economy	++	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	

Commentary

These policies look to support a sustainable economy by providing opportunities for needs to be met locally (ISA1). However, as a matter of principle, all development is likely to increase localised pollution (air, water, or land (soil contamination) and will need to be appropriately addressed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimise, mitigate/compensate). Consequently, this conflicts with 1-1 of ISA1 and, therefore, the effect is predicted to be dependent on the implementation of policy/allocations. Additionally, affordable housing within these policies and specialist housing is likely to have a positive effect by (1-4) removing barriers and promoting opportunities for behavioural change. Flooding risk is increasing within Wales and while a limited number of the sites contained within HOM1 are currently located within a flood risk zone (as identified in the TAN 15 Development Advice Maps), it is important an adaptive response is considered on a site basis to avoid negative conflict within increasing climate resilience (4-3) ISA4. Therefore, at an overall strategic level, the likely effect on ISA4 and ISA5 depends on how allocations are implemented.

HOM1 – This appraisal considered the likely impacts from the provision of all allocations outlined within the policy. Nevertheless, all sites will be assessed separately in more detail within section 6.8 of the ISA Report. 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 GBI and biodiversity assets on the site.

HOM2 – Development limits are likely to avoid damage to biodiversity within rural areas but additional may place pressure of urban biodiversity.

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, particularly within urban areas (including AQMAs). 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 Dŵr 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 ISA10 population, ISA12 Health and Wellbeing and ISA15 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 SP14: 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. Nevertheless, this kind of development will likely have positive effects upon ISA7, and potentially reduce the use of finite resources and the emission greenhouse gases compared with an entirely new development.

HOM8 – Care should be taken to ensure no negative effects on the landscape as a result of residential caravans, in addition to water pollution from wastewater/sewage disposal.

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 SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment and policy NE2: Biodiversity, however the policy wording could be strengthened to further mitigate these impacts.

HOM5/7/8/9 – unknown effect upon the WL. These kinds of development may support the retention of people within the County, however the likely effect of this is difficult to predict.

ISA Comments & Recommendations

HOM1/2/3/4 – specific reference should be made to ensure the regeneration of contaminated land / brown field sites.

HOM5 – specific reference should be made to ensuring provision of secure cycle parking and access to active travel routes particularly within 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.

HOM5 – This policy should consider flooding risk existing dwellings and development. For those which are likely to flood, conversion/subdivision aimed at expanding occupancy is likely to put others at risk of flooding within applicable areas. To overcome this is should stipulate that developments must be climate/flood resilient and, potentially, increase the resilience of the existing dwelling.

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.

SP5: Affordable Homes Strategy

<p>Specific Policies</p>	<p>AHOM1: Provision of Affordable Homes AHOM2: Affordable Homes – Exceptions sites</p>		
<p>ISA Objective</p>	<p>AHOM1</p>	<p>AHOM2</p>	<p>Mitigating Policies</p>
<p>ISA1 – Sustainable Development</p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p>See relevant policies below</p>
<p>ISA2 – Biodiversity</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks, and Features Of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: GBI – Trees, Woodlands, and Hedgerows</p>
<p>ISA3 – Air Quality</p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p>PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network</p>
<p>ISA4 – Climatic Factors</p>	<p> </p>	<p> </p>	<p>SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance</p>

			TRA2: Active Travel
ISA5 – Water			<p>SP 9: Infrastructure</p> <p>SP 12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places</p> <p>CCH4: Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources</p> <p>CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance</p> <p>INF5: Rural Allocations outside Public Sewerage System Catchments (SG3)</p>
ISA6 – Material Assets	0	0	
ISA7 – Soil		-	<p>PSD3: GBI Networks</p> <p>SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment</p> <p>PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking</p>
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage			<p>SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment</p> <p>BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas</p> <p>BHE2: Landscape Character</p> <p>NE1: Regional and Local Designations</p> <p>SP 12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places</p> <p>PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking</p> <p>PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods.</p>
ISA9 – Landscape			SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places

			BHE2: Landscape Character PSD11: Noise Pollution
ISA10 – Population	++	++	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+	+	
ISA12 – Health and Well-being			
ISA13 – Education and Skills			
ISA14 – Economy	+	+	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	++	++	
Commentary			
<p>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.</p> <p>The alignment of these two policies with ISA3/4/5/7/8/9/12/13) is dependent on the choice of sites and manner in which they are developed. With regard to ISA15, these policies effect the design of settlements that improve social fabric by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions, through the promotion the delivery of affordable housing.</p> <p>This policy has some regard to the Council’s Socio-Economic Duty, encouraging the market to contain affordable homes for those experiencing inequalities.</p>			

Both will likely have negative impacts on biodiversity and AHOM2 will adversely impact on soil as it allows for development outside development limits which may involve greenfield land.

ISA Comments & Recommendations

Ensure that the definition of local needs (as contained within AHOM2) is reflective of the Socio-Economic Duty and Equality Duty to address the inequalities that result from differences in occupation, education, place of residence, social class, or/and protected characteristic, with relevant relation to affordable housing need.

SP7: Employment and the Economy

Specific Policies	<p>EME1: Safeguarding of Employment Sites EME2: Employment – Extensions and Intensification EME3: Employment Proposals on Allocated Sites EME4: Employment Proposals on Non-Allocated Sites EME5: Home Base Businesses</p>					
ISA Objective	EME1	EME2	EME3	EME4	EME5	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+					See relevant policies below (ISA2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9)
ISA2 – Biodiversity	0		-	-		<p>SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks, and Features Of Distinctiveness PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: GBI – Trees, Woodlands, and Hedgerows</p>
ISA3 – Air Quality	0	-	-	-	0	<p>PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD12: Light and Air Pollution</p>

ISA4 – Climatic Factors	0	-	-	-	0	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance TRA2: Active Travel
ISA5 – Water	0					SP 9: Infrastructure SP 12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places CCH4: Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance INF5: Rural Allocations outside Public Sewerage System Catchments (SG3)
ISA6 – Material Assets	0	+	+	+	-	
ISA7 – Soil	0				0	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage	0		0		0	
ISA9 – Landscape	0			0		SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places BHE2: Landscape Character PSD11: Noise Pollution
ISA10 – Population	+	+	+/-	+	?	

ISA11 – Welsh Language	0	+	+	+	?	SP 8: Welsh Language and Culture WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments PSD9: Advertisements
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	0	+	+	+	?	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	0	+	+	+	+	
ISA14 – Economy	++	++	++	++	++	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	+	+	+	
Commentary						
<p>EME1 – exceptions listed in policy wording may allow for other kinds of development indirectly beneficial to ISA10/15 dependent on development type. This factor allows for changes to suit local needs. Nevertheless, the main purpose of this policy is to safeguard land for future employment use which has direct benefit for the future economy (and relates to the WBFGA Goals)</p> <p>EME3 – These sites will be assessed separately in more detail within section 6.8 of the ISA Report. This policy provides more opportunities for sustainable and small businesses with mixed use sites (also employment, and potentially urban fabric benefits too). However, this allowance could also take up future development land reducing the land available for housing, if within competing areas.</p> <p>EME4 – The ISA predicts no negative effects on ISA9 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.</p> <p>EME5 – It is difficult to predict whether this policy would likely impact on ISA10/11/12.</p>						

ISA Comments & Recommendations

EME 2/EME3/EME4 – retention of onsite GBI would aid in the protection of the amenity of neighbouring properties.

EME3/EME4 – should refer to development proposals being non-detrimental in terms of the respective character and appearance of the townscape/landscape, and must provide net benefits for biodiversity to overcome predicted ISA2 issues.

EME3 – **policy** wording to avoid conflict between different land uses.

SP8: Welsh Language and Culture		
Specific Policies	WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments	
ISA Objective	WL1	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	
ISA2 – Biodiversity	0	
ISA3 – Air Quality	0	
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	0	
ISA5 – Water	0	
ISA6 – Material Assets	0	
ISA7 – Soil	0	
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage	++	

ISA9 – Landscape	0	
ISA10 – Population	++	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	++	
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	
ISA14 – Economy	+	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	++	
Commentary		
<p>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 ISA8 Cultural Heritage and ISA11 Welsh Language. This policy directly relates to Welsh Language requirements.</p>		
ISA Comments & Recommendations		
<p>Provide clarity on the need stated within the policy wording for mitigation (an overview in supporting text will suffice whilst retaining details for SPG).</p>		

Strategic Policy	SP9: Infrastructure					
Specific Policies	INF1: Planning Obligations INF2: Healthy Communities INF3: Broadband and Telecommunications INF4: Llanelli Waste Water Treatment Surface Water Disposal INF5: Rural Allocations outside Public Sewerage System Catchments					
ISA Objective	INF1	INF2	INF3	INF4	INF5	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	+		+		
ISA2 – Biodiversity	+	0	-	+	+/-	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks, and Features Of Distinctiveness
ISA3 – Air Quality	0	+	+	0	0	PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	0	+	+	+	0	CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance

ISA5 – Water	+	0	0	+	+	CCH4: Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
ISA6 – Material Assets	+	+	+	+	+	
ISA7 – Soil	0	0	?	+	+/-	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage	+	0	0	0	0	
ISA9 – Landscape	+	+	!	+	+/-	SP 15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas BHE2: Landscape Character PSD12: Light and Air Pollution NE1: Regional and Local Designations
ISA10 – Population	+	+	+	+	+	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+	0	+	0	?	SP 8: Welsh Language and Culture WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments PSD9: Advertisements

ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+	++	+	+	+	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	+	+	0	0	
ISA14 – Economy	0	+	++	+	+	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	+	0	+	
Commentary						
<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 ISA12 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. This policy relates to mental health components HIA and ensures particular WBFGA goals.</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. Improved telecommunications have other secondary benefits too, for example, home working can also reduce commuting rates which will be beneficial for air quality and carbon emissions. These developments are likely to be detrimental to ISA2/9. It is difficult to predict whether this kind of development will have longterm adverse effects on soil, although construction such as underground pipes is likely to cause short term adverse effects.</p> <p>INF4 - This policy looks to safeguard the water quality of the Llanelli catchment area through the sustainable management of surface water. This policy performs well against the ISA Framework.</p> <p>INF5 – This policy looks to resolve proliferation of private sewers which are having a detrimental impact on the environment. This is likely to reduce diffuse pollution and, therefore, protect biodiversity (and landscape by extension), however, this policy indirectly supports the creation of new developments in rural areas (potentially greenfield sites) adversely impacting upon biodiversity and soil, although beneficial to the long-term viability of local communities (in turn this may impact upon the Welsh Language although difficult to determine).</p>						

ISA Comments & Recommendations

INF5 – provide clarity/signpost to the mitigation policies within the supporting text.

SP10: Gypsy and Traveller Provision		
Specific Policies	GTP1: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	
ISA Objective	GTP1	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	I	See relevant policies below.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	I	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
ISA3 – Air Quality	0	
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	-	SP9: Infrastructure CCH4: Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance SP16: Climate Change
ISA5 – Water	I	CCH4: Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
ISA6 – Material Assets	+	
ISA7 – Soil	-	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network

		SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage	0	
ISA9 – Landscape	 	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places BHE2: Landscape Character PSD11: Noise Pollution
ISA10 – Population	+	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	?	SP 8: Welsh Language and Culture WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments PSD9: Advertisements
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	
ISA14 – Economy	+	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	++	
Commentary		

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 SP14: 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 ISA Objectives and duties.

Alignment of this policy with ISA11 is difficult to determine. Growth and inward migration have 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.

The location of the newly proposed site is in close proximity to existing residential and commercial development. Existing green Infrastructure corridors should also be maintained as buffer zones to mitigate any negative impacts on landscape.

This policy has some relation to the Socio-Economic Duty and Equality Duty by addressing the inequalities that result from differences in occupation, education, place of residence, social class, or/and protected characteristic. It directly supports ISA15 by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions, and improving accessibility to services, particularly for disadvantaged sections of society.

ISA Comments & Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council give due consideration as to whether SP9 complies with the policy requirements contained in Policy CCH5: 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.

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 ISA recommends that this is retained as a buffer to the adjoining railway line.

SP10: The Visitor Economy					
Specific Policies	VE1: Visitor Attractions and Facilities VE2: Holiday Accommodation VE3: Touring Caravan, Camping and Non-Permanent Alternative Camping Accommodation VE4: Static Caravan and Chalet Sites and Permanent Alternative Camping Accommodation				
ISA Objective	VE1	VE2	VE3	VE4	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	See relevant policies below.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	-	-	-	-	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
ISA3 – Air Quality			-	-	PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel
ISA4 – Climatic Factors			-	-	CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel

ISA5 – Water					CCH4: Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
ISA6 – Material Assets			-	-	CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel
ISA7 – Soil					PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage	?	?	?	?	SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas BHE2: Landscape Character NE1: Regional and Local Designations SP 12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods.
ISA9 – Landscape					SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places BHE2: Landscape Character PSD11: Noise Pollution
ISA10 – Population	?	?	?	?	SP1: Strategic Growth

					SP3: Sustainable Distribution – Settlement Framework
ISA11 – Welsh Language	?	?	?	?	SP 8: Welsh Language and Culture WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments PSD9: Advertisements
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+	+	+	+	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	+	0	0	
ISA14 – Economy	++	++	++	++	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	+	+	
Commentary					
<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 GBI and CCH5: 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 SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment. Neither policy make reference to ensuring sites are accessible by public 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</p>					

probable. This will be addressed at a planning application stage and is mitigated by compliance with policy SP15: 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.

It difficult to predict the likely impact of tourism upon ISA8/10/11.

ISA Comments & Recommendations

VE1 – Consider placing this sentence from the supporting text into policy wording and strengthen wording (i.e.,g There *must* be no social, economic and environmental harm arising from the proposal, and satisfactory levels of accessibility must be in place).

VE3/VE4 – Suggest addition of this wording to both policies in order to mitigate for any negative effects on ISA3 Air Quality and ISA4 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.

Suggest addition of the mitigation of detrimental impacts within SP11 policy wording to apply to all policies. i.e., To facilitate environmental sustainability, new tourism-related developments must acknowledge local distinctiveness and sense of place, and be resilient to climate change and deliver net benefits for biodiversity. Alternatively, signpost to SP12

SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places

Specific Policies	PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network PSD4: Green and Blue 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														
	ISA Objective	PSD1	PSD2	PSD3	PSD4	PSD5	PSD6	PSD7	PSD8	PSD9	PSD10	PSD11	PSD12	PSD13	Mitigating Policies
	ISA1 – Sustainable Development	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	
	ISA2 – Biodiversity	I	I	++	++	0	I	+	+	0	I	+	+	I	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
	ISA3 – Air Quality	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	++	0	PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network

															CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	0	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel	
ISA5 – Water		+	+	+	0		+	+	0	0	0	0	+	CCH4: Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment	
ISA6 – Material Assets	0	+	+	0	++	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel	
ISA7 – Soil		+	+	+	+		+	+	0		0	0	+	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network	

															SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	1
ISA9 – Landscape	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	1	1	+	+	+	+	+
ISA10 – Population	+	+	+	+	0	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
ISA11 – Welsh Language	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	0	0	+	+	+	+	+
ISA13 – Education and Skills	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
ISA14 – Economy	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	0

Commentary

PSD1 – This policy could have positive effects on ISA3 Air Quality and ISA4 Climatic factors if it made reference to low carbon design, renewable energy, and GBI 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 ISA5 Water. The policy has neutral effects on ISA6 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.

PSD9 – Positive effects are predicted against ISA11 Welsh Language and ISA13 Education and Skills as it may contribute to improving Welsh literacy within the County.

ISA Comments & Recommendations

PSD1 – Include in criteria a reference to low carbon design/ incorporation of renewable energy into development. Also make reference to incorporation of GBI 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.

SP13: Rural Development						
Specific Policies	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					
ISA Objective	RD1	RD2	RD3	RD4	RD5	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development						See relevant policies below.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	-	-		-		SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
ISA3 – Air Quality	-	-	+	+/-	-	PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	-/+	-	+	+/-	-	CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel

ISA5 – Water	0	0	0	0	0	CCH4: Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
ISA6 – Material Assets	-	-	0	+	-	CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points TRA2: Active Travel
ISA7 – Soil	?	?	0	0	0	PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage					0	
ISA9 – Landscape						SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places BHE2: Landscape Character PSD11: Noise Pollution
ISA10 – Population	+	+	0	0	0	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	?	SP 8: Welsh Language and Culture WL1: Welsh Language and New Developments PSD9: Advertisements
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+/-	+/-			0	

ISA13 – Education and Skills	0	0	+	1	1	
ISA14 – Economy	+	+	+	+	+	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	1	1	1	1	0	
Commentary						
<p>RD1/2/4 – 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 SP14: 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 ISA3 Air Quality, ISA4 Climatic Factors and ISA6 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 ISA9 Soil are uncertain as it will be dependent on the footprint of the proposed replacement dwelling. Adherence to policies PSD3 GBI and SP14: 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 ISA8 Cultural Heritage and ISA9 Landscape. The policy does not encourage access to facilities and services, however it does increase access to the natural environment.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>RD1/2/3 – Increased residential properties in rural areas may provide homes to young Welsh Speakers, however, considering the cost typically associated with this kind of development, it may also provide second homes for inward mitigation</p> <p>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.</p>						

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.

ISA Comments & Recommendations

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 CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points.

To mitigate likely impacts upon biodiversity, state within specific policies (or within overarching SP13) that development should have no effect upon or have net benefits for biodiversity.

SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment

Specific Policies	<p>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</p>							
	ISA Objective	NE1	NE2	NE3	NE4	NE5	NE6	NE7
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	+	+	+	+	I	+	CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
ISA2 – Biodiversity	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment
ISA3 – Air Quality	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	+	+	+	0	+	+/-	+	CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance
ISA5 – Water	+	+	+	0	+	-	+	CCH4: Water Quality and the Protection of Water Resources

ISA6 – Material Assets	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	
ISA7 – Soil	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	
ISA9 – Landscape	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	
ISA10 – Population	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	
ISA14 – Economy	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	
Commentary								

NE1, NE2, NE3 and NE4 all have positive effects across the ISA Objectives due to the protective nature of these policies on the Natural Environment, with strong positive effects predicted on ISA2 Biodiversity.

NE5 reference in the policy to adherence with SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment sufficiently mitigates any potential for negative effects on Biodiversity.

NE6 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 CCH5: 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.

NE7 – Potential negative impacts on ISA2 Biodiversity and ISA9 Landscape are made neutral by the wording of the policy.

ISA Comments & Recommendations

- 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.
- Policy NE6, suggest adding wording to criteria - b) They will not unacceptably harm the seascape **or landscape** through inappropriate scale, mass and design to strengthen mitigation against negative impacts on ISA9 Landscape.
- Policy NE6 should also make reference to the fact that recreational pressures should be considered in any planning application.

Strategic Policy	SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment		
Specific Policies	BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas BHE2: Landscape Character		
ISA Objective	BHE1	BEH2	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	+	
ISA2 – Biodiversity	0	+	
ISA3 – Air Quality	0	+	
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	0	+	
ISA5 – Water	0	+	
ISA6 – Material Assets	+	0	
ISA7 – Soil	+	+	
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage	++	+	

ISA9 – Landscape	+	++	
ISA10 – Population	0	+	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	+	0	
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	0	+	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	0	0	
ISA14 – Economy	+	+	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	
Commentary			
<p>Policy BHE1 has positive effects across many ISA Objectives due to the protective nature of these policies on the built environment, with strong positive effects predicted on ISA8 Cultural Heritage. It is unknown whether this would have a likely impact upon the promotion of Welsh language, however it does for the promotion of Welsh culture,</p> <p>BEH2 has positive effects across the ISA Objectives, with strong positive effects predicted on ISA9 Landscape.</p>			
ISA Comments & Recommendations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no negative impacts predicted as a result of these policies. 			

SP16: Climate Change

Specific Policies	<p>CCH1: Renewable Energy within Pre-Assessed Areas and Local Search Areas CCH2: Renewable Energy Outside Pre-Assessed Areas and Local Search Areas CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points CCH4: Water Quality and the Protection of Water CCH5: Flood Risk Management and Avoidance CCH6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Developments CCH7: Climate Change – Forest, Woodland and Tree Planting</p>							
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ISA Objective	CCH1	CCH2	CCH3	CCH4	CCH5	CCH6	CCH7	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
ISA2 – Biodiversity	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE2: Biodiversity
ISA3 – Air Quality	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	++	++	+	+	++	+	+	
ISA5 – Water	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	

ISA6 – Material Assets	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	
ISA7 – Soil	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage	l	l	+	0	0	0	0	SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment
ISA9 – Landscape	+/-	+/-	0	0	+	+/-	+	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places BHE2: Landscape Character PSD11: Noise Pollution
ISA10 – Population	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	
ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	+	0	0	0	?	?	
ISA14 – Economy	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	0	0	+	0	+	+	+/-	

Commentary

CCH1/2 – Renewable energy is essential in ensuring a low carbon energy source and combatting climate change, therefore this policy has strong positive effects on ISA4 Climatic Factors. Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development have the potential to have negative impacts on biodiversity, particularly when located in proximity to protected sites. These impacts can be somewhat mitigated by policy SP14: 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 ISA9 Landscape can be mitigated by policies SP11 Platemaking and Sustainable Places and BHE2: Landscape Character. These kind of developments are have potential to foster the development of skills associated with delivering innovative, climate responsive design.

CCH3 – 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 in turn will have benefits for ISA3 Air Quality and ISA4 Climatic Factors, by reducing transport related emissions. Improvements to air quality are also beneficial to ISA12 Health and Well-being, ISA2 Biodiversity and ISA8 Cultural Heritage.

CCH4 – Is a protective policy for water quality and quantity and so has strong positive effects on ISA5 Water. Protecting water quality will also have positive impacts across the ISA Objectives, particularly on ISA2 Biodiversity as well as ISA7 Soil.

CCH5 – 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 ISA4 Climatic Factors and ISA5 Water. This ensures that the wellbeing and safety of Carmarthenshire's residents as well as their property, so is positive against ISA Objectives ISA12 Health and Wellbeing, ISA14 Economy and ISA15 Social Fabric. Encouragement of SUDS can also have positive impacts on ISA2 Biodiversity.

CCH6 – 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 ISA4 Climatic Factors.

CCH7 – 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 ISA Objectives ISA3 – Air Quality, ISA4 Climatic Factors and ISA5 Water. If publicly accessible, new woodland can provide opportunities for recreation which will have positive effects against ISA12 Health and Wellbeing. Nevertheless, there has been some previous contention over woodland planting in rural communities.

ISA Comments & 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.
- Relevant SPG on CCH1/2 should include mitigation guidelines to avoid impacts upon biodiversity.
- CCH4 – Reference should be had to paragraph 11.534(a) of Policy PSD12 in relation to proposals that can lead to increases in nutrient loading to the environment and the potential impact on water and air.
- Suggest CCH5 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 CCH6, 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.
- CCH7 – policy wording should include the consideration of wider landscape issues (*Proposals should consider potential adverse effects upon the environment, cultural heritage, communities, and landscape, and, where appropriate, follow the mitigation hierarchy*) and highlight the multiple benefits which well managed trees can have.
- Make reference to climate and nature emergency as appropriate.

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					
ISA Objective	TRA1	TRA2	TRA3	TRA4	TRA5	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development		+		+	+	See below policies.
ISA2 – Biodiversity	-		-		0	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness PSD3 GBI Network PSD4 GBI – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
ISA3 – Air Quality	+/-	++	+	+	0	PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	+/-	++		+/-	0	CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points

						PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA5 – Water	0	+		0	0	
ISA6 – Material Assets	+/-	++	+	+	0	
ISA7 – Soil	-	-	-	+	0	PSD3 GBI Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage			+	+	0	SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
ISA9 – Landscape				+	0	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking BHE2: Landscape Character
ISA10 – Population	0	+	+	+	0	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	0	0	0	0	0	
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+/-	++	+	+	+	CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points PSD12: Light and Air Pollution

						PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	+	0	0	0	
ISA14 – Economy	++	+	+	+	0	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	+	+	+	0	
Commentary						
<p>TRA1 – Construction of transport infrastructure can have negative impacts on ISA2 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 ISA Objectives ISA3, ISA4, ISA6 and ISA12. 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 CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points which increases the county’s infrastructure for electric vehicles, PSD12: Light and Air Pollution and PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network. 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 ISA Objectives ISA13, ISA14 and ISA15 due to the fact that increasing infrastructure will result in better access to facilities and services including education facilities.</p> <p>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 SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment, NE1: Regional and Local Designations, NE2: Biodiversity, NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness, PSD3 GBI Network and PSD4 GBI – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows. Increasing the ability of cyclists and walkers to access safe and connected paths will have positive impacts on ISA12 - Health and Wellbeing, and may result in less private car use which has positive impacts on ISA3 Air Quality and ISA4 Climatic Factors. Nevertheless, thoughtful development may safeguard biodiversity in the long-term.</p> <p>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 ISA4 Climatic Factors and ISA5 Water.</p>						

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 SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment, NE1: Regional and Local Designations, NE2: Biodiversity, NE3 Corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness, PSD3 GBI Network and PSD4 GBI – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows. Nevertheless, thoughtful development may safeguard biodiversity in the long-term.

ISA Comments & 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.

SP18: Mineral Resources				
Specific Policies	MR1: Mineral Proposals MR2: Mineral Buffer Zones MR3: Mineral Safeguarding Areas			
ISA Objective	MR1	MR2	MR3	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	-	0	0	See below
ISA2 – Biodiversity	-	0	-	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness PSD3: GBI Network PSD4: GBI – Trees, woodlands, and hedgerows MR1: Mineral Proposals
ISA3 – Air Quality	-	0	-	PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network MR1: Mineral Proposals
ISA4 – Climatic Factors	-	0	0	CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points

				PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA5 – Water	-	+	0	
ISA6 – Material Assets	-	0	0	Strategic Policy SP 18: Mineral Resources
ISA7 – Soil	-	0	-	PSD3 GBI Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment. MR1 Mineral Proposals
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage		0		SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
ISA9 – Landscape		+	-	SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking BHE2: Landscape Character MR1 Mineral Proposals
ISA10 – Population	0	+	0	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	0	0	0	

ISA12 – Health and Well-being	-	+	0	PSD12: Light and Air Pollution
ISA13 – Education and Skills	0	0	0	
ISA14 – Economy	+	0	+	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	0	+	0	
Commentary				
<p>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 SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment. The policy wording itself mitigates for any potential negative impacts on ISA3 Air Quality, ISA4 Climatic Factors, ISA5 Water, ISA6 Material Assets, ISA8 Cultural heritage and ISA9 Landscape. The LDP policies identified in the matrix also further mitigate for any potential for impacts that may remain. This type of development by its very nature of finite resources, would not ISA1.</p> <p>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 ISA12 Health and Wellbeing, as well as positive effects on ISA9 Landscape, ISA10 Population and ISA15 Social Fabric.</p> <p>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.</p>				
ISA Comments & Recommendations				
<p>MR1 – Change policy wording to ensure developments create net benefits for biodiversity and climate to mitigate adverse effect identified above. Likely impact upon water resources needs addressing.</p>				

SP19: Sustainable Waste Management				
Specific Policies	WM1: Sustainable Waste Management and New Development WM2: Landfill Proposals WM3: Agricultural Land – Disposal of Inert Waste			
ISA Objective	WM1	WM2	WM3	Mitigating Policies
ISA1 – Sustainable Development	+	-	+/-	See relevant policies below
ISA2 – Biodiversity	0	-	-	SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment NE1: Regional and Local Designations NE2: Biodiversity NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness PSD3 GBI Network PSD4 GBI – Trees, woodlands and hedgerows
ISA3 – Air Quality	0	-	0	PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network

ISA4 – Climatic Factors	0	-	0	CCH3: Electric Vehicle Charging Points PSD12: Light and Air Pollution PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
ISA5 – Water	0		?	
ISA6 – Material Assets	++	-	+/-	
ISA7 – Soil	+		+	PSD3 GBI Networks SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment.
ISA8 – Cultural Heritage	0			SP15: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking PSD2: Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
ISA9 – Landscape	+	-		SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking BHE2: Landscape Character
ISA10 – Population	0	0	0	
ISA11 – Welsh Language	0	0	0	
ISA12 – Health and Well-being	+		0	

ISA13 – Education and Skills	+	0	0	
ISA14 – Economy	+	+	+	
ISA15 – Social Fabric	+	0	0	
Commentary				
<p>WM1 – This policy promotes a circular economy across all types of development.</p> <p>WM2 – Whilst the policy wording is prescriptive in manner, this type of development requires land resources and likely poses long-term adverse effects upon the environment (including air quality, water quality, and soil function, and human health and wellbeing).</p> <p>WM3 – This policy may conflict with the ideals of the circular economy.</p>				
ISA Comments & Recommendations				
<p>WM2/3 – make specific reference to having no significant impact on biodiversity.</p> <p>WM3 – Refine what is considered a inert waste and ensure that it will not pose any adverse effect to the environment, biodiversity, and/or human health, and will not endanger the quality of water resources.</p>				

Appendix H: Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)

To follow.

Appendix I: Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Appendix I: Equality Impact Assessment

This document is the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the 2nd Deposit rLDP (the ‘Plan’). It is based upon a template created by the Equalities Team within Carmarthen County Council. Whilst a standalone assessment, it should be read in consideration of the sociological impacts outlined within the Integrated Impact Assessment (ISA), and alongside the plans, policies, and vision contained within the Plan for further context. In addition to the 9 protected characteristics outlined within The *Equality Act 2010*¹, the Council recognises the potential disparity of impact the rLDP may have on the Welsh language, and, therefore, this characteristic has been screened in to this process. The EqIA will be appropriately reviewed considering any changes made to the Plan in response to the consultation process and upon adoption, and associated legislation and guidance will be monitored to ensure the fulfilment of our legislative requirement. A EqIA of the preferred strategy (conducted in December 2018) initially identified that potentially high negative impacts may disproportionately affect age, disability, race, and the Welsh language. In addition to other sociological impacts and considerations (i.e., the Social-Economic Duty), particular regard of these characteristics was given throughout the Plan making process and were monitored (alongside all protected characteristics) during the iterative process between the ISA and the Plan.

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¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15>

1.1 The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) brings together and replaces the previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act. It simplifies and strengthens the law, removes inconsistencies, and makes it easier for people to understand and comply with it. The majority of the Act came into force on 1 October 2010.

The Act includes a new public sector equality duty (the 'general duty'), replacing the separate duties on race, disability, and gender equality. This came into force on 5 April 2011.

1.2 What is the general duty?

The aim of the general duty is to ensure that public authorities and those carrying out a public function consider how they can positively contribute to a fairer society through advancing equality and good relations in their day-to-day activities. The duty ensures that equality considerations are built into the design of policies and the delivery of services and that they are kept under review. This will achieve better outcomes for all.

The duties are legal obligations. Failure to meet the duties may result in authorities being exposed to legal challenge.

Under equality legislation, public authorities have legal duties to pay 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality with regard to race, disability and gender, including gender reassignment, as well as to promote good race relations. The Equality Act 2010 introduces a new public sector duty which extends this coverage to age, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and religion or belief. The law requires that this duty to pay 'due regard' be demonstrated in the decision-making process. It is also important to note that public authorities subject to the equality duties are also likely to be subject to the obligations under the Human Rights Act and it is therefore wise also to consider the potential impact that decisions could have on human rights as part of the same process.

1.3 Carmarthenshire County Council's approach to Equality Impact

To ensure that the council is considering the potential equality impact of its proposed policies and practices, and in order to evidence that we have done so, every proposal will be required to be supported by the attached Equality Impact Assessment. Where this assessment identifies a significant impact then more detail may be required.

1.4 Reporting on assessments

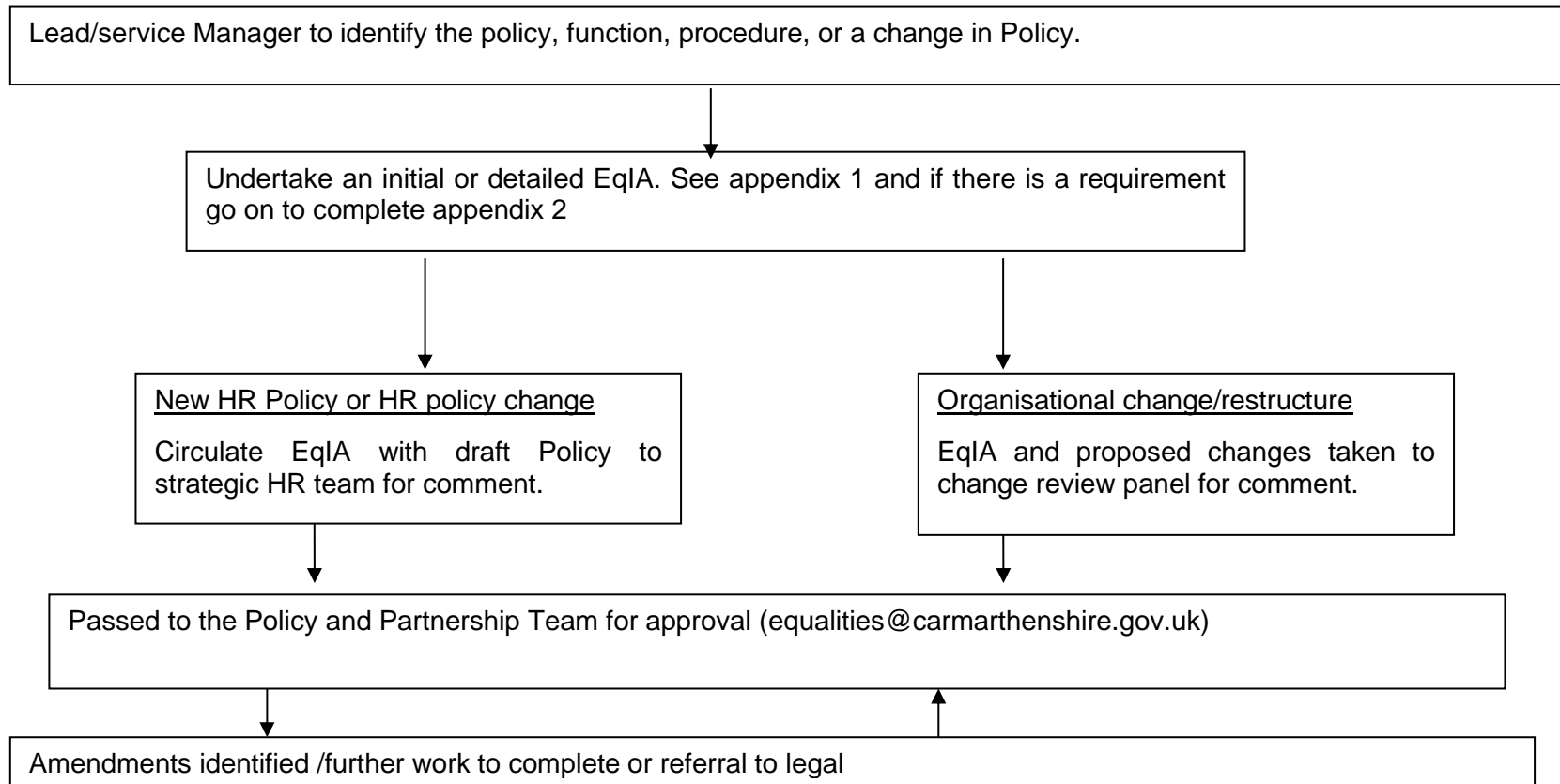
Where it is clear from the assessment that the likely impact on the authority's ability to meet the general duty is substantial, then it must publish a report.

1.5 Initial and Detailed Equality Impact Assessments

The initial EqIA is a simple and quick method of assessing the effect of a policy, function, procedure, decision including financial cuts on one or more of the protected characteristics.

The Service Manager responsible for the relevant new or revised policies, functions, procedures, and financial decisions must undertake, at least, an initial EqIA and where relevant a detailed Equality Impact Assessment, must be attached as background paper with reports to Executive and Scrutiny.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment – Process to follow where HR implications have been identified



2. Initial Equalities Impact Assessment (rLDP)

Department: Forward Planning (Place & Sustainability – Environment)	Completed by (lead): Ian R Llewelyn	Date of initial assessment: January 2020 Revision Date: December 2022
Area to be assessed: (i.e., name of policy, function, procedure, practice, or a financial decision)	Carmarthenshire County Council Deposit Revised Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018–2033	
Is this existing or new function/policy, procedure, practice, or decision?	New Policy	
What evidence has been used to inform the assessment and policy? (please list only)		
<p>In preparing this Plan, full regard has been had to a range of requirements and influencing factors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation – including the <i>Planning and Compulsory Purchases Act 2004</i>, <i>Planning (Wales) Act 2015</i>, <i>Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015</i>, <i>Environment (Wales) Act 2016</i> and European Directives; • National Planning Policy; • <i>Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Regulations) 2015</i>; • Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan and objectives – “the Carmarthenshire we want”; • Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire – The Council’s New Corporate Strategy 2018 – 2023 (2019 update); • Carmarthenshire Economic Recovery Plan (April 2021) • Evidence gathered – including that on population and household projections; and • Feedback and engagement. 		

- Baseline data collated in Appendix B (ISA)
- Plan, Policies, and Programmes contained within Appendix A (ISA)

The preparation of the Deposit rLDP has emerged from a robust approach in respect of gathering evidence and stakeholder engagement. There have been 12 meetings of the LDP Advisory Panel since November 2017 (up until consultation planned in January 2023). This Panel is drawn up from Elected Members and its primary purpose is to take political ownership of the Revised LDP. There has been a strong emphasis on engagement and consensus building. Since January 2018, there has also been:

- LDP Key Stakeholder Forum meetings;
- LDP workshop / seminar for Town and Community Councils;
- Developer Forum meetings;
- Several meetings and presentations with political groups;
- Regular reporting to the full County Council;
- Annual Monitoring Reports; and
- Publication of the Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy for consultation (which was accompanied by an initial Equalities Impact Assessment).
- Online consultation to support and inform the identification of the Plan's issues vision and objectives, in addition to the initial Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment.

In January 2021, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) published evidence showing many riverine Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) waterbodies were failing phosphorous standards (e.g., Afon Teifi). In response, alterations to the Plan had to be made to ensure potential development followed nutrient neutrality in the affected catchments. During this time, to ensure the Plan was current and robust, it was continually updated to reflect new evidence and information, and, therefore, other changes were also made for a variety of reasons.

<p>1. Describe the aims, objectives or purpose of the proposed function/policy, practice, procedure or decision and who is intended to benefit.</p>	<p>The Council is required under the provisions of the <i>Planning and Compulsory Purchases Act 2004</i> to prepare and have in place an adopted LDP. Its preparation and content is governed by legislation and procedural regulations. The current LDP was adopted in December 2014, however the Council resolved in January 2018 to commence work on a Revised LDP for the period 2018–2033.</p> <p>Once adopted, the Revised LDP will be the land use plan for the County (excluding that area contained within the Brecon Beacons National Park) and, therefore, decisions will be based on its content unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy for the Revised LDP (The Strategy) was an important first stage of the Plan making process.</p> <p>This Strategy contained several key elements, notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key Issues that the Plan seeks to contribute to addressing;• A Vision for what Carmarthenshire will look like 2033;• Strategic Objectives to address the issues and deliver the Vision;• Growth Strategy concerning the number of houses and jobs required during the plan period;• Spatial Strategy concerning the location of the proposed houses and jobs during the plan period;• Strategic policies; <p>The plan itself will build upon these elements further and additionally include specific policies; candidate development sites; implementation and monitoring; and proposal maps on a geographical basis, amongst other considerations.</p>
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The key issues associated with the proposed rationale were grouped under the national well-being goals which means that they are framed within the context of the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*. This ensured that social, economic, and environmental interests are embedded into the Plan making process. The issues highlight some of those notable challenges for the County, with further information available within the Issues, Vision, and Objectives Topic Paper (which was re-published in December 2019 as updated).

The vision directly incorporates the vision set out in the Council's Corporate Strategy "*Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire - the next 5 years 2018–2023*". Whilst there is no vision to directly draw upon from the Carmarthenshire Wellbeing Plan, the Revised LDP vision reflects its four well-being objectives which are (1) Healthy Habits (2) Early Intervention (3) Strong Connections and (4) Prosperous People and Places. A "One Carmarthenshire" approach recognises the need to balance conflicting demands and interests and provides a platform for consensus and shared ownership of the Revised LDP.

The Council has reached an important milestone with the publication of the Revised LDP for consultation in January 2022. The Deposit Revised LDP consists of several key elements which reflect stages in its preparation. It has sought to build on the preparation of, and consultation responses to, the Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy. The recommendations of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal – Strategic Environmental Assessment have also been responded to where appropriate. In this respect, engagement has, in accordance with the provisions of the Delivery Agreement, been an important aspect of the Strategy's preparation, with the contribution of technical consultees and other focused groups being instrumental in guiding the Deposit Plan's content.

A key element of the Deposit Plan is founded on the need for the Plan to make appropriate provision for a sustainable and deliverable level of growth - reflecting the ambitions of the County and meeting the needs of its communities. This has been supported by a robust and updated evidence whilst seeking to deliver on key strategic influences including:

- The Council's Strategic Regeneration Plan 2015 – 2030: Transformations;
- Swansea Bay City Deal – including Yr Egin and the Wellness and Life Science Village;
- The New Corporate Strategy 2018 – 2023;
- The Council's Well-being Objectives; and
- Recent Council resolutions – including the declaration of a Climate Emergency and the motion on Planning and the Welsh language;
- Rural Taskforce Report and recommendations;
- National planning policy and legislative agenda;
- Our Commitment to Affordable Homes 2015 – 2020 and Affordable Housing Delivery Plan 2016-2020;
- Building More Council Homes – 'Our ambition and plan of action';
- Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5-years.

The LDP seeks to promote and develop the economy across Carmarthenshire and the Deposit Revised Plan identifies appropriate land allocations to reflect Carmarthenshire as an ambitious County which attracts investment and provides opportunities for those living and working in our communities and well as a key player within a Swansea Bay regional context.

The proposed growth levels would also seek to challenge and address current demographic patterns particularly the out-migration as evidenced in the 16-19 age group. It provides opportunities to balance the demographics of the

County through the retention of, and in-migration of younger adults (including those returning) to the County, and address some of the issues which could be perceived from an aging population.

In recognising the changing evidence base in relation to demographic change an addendum Report on Carmarthenshire's Population and Household Forecasts has been prepared. It identifies latest population and household projections reflecting the iterative nature of the Plan making process.

The spatial approach to the distribution of land represents a Balanced Community and Sustainable Growth Strategy, a revision to the approach in the current LDP and one which seeks to address the issues highlighted in the Review Report, as well as reflecting the feedback in the formulation of the preferred strategy. The revised spatial hierarchy and the distribution of growth will therefore be expressed through the settlement framework as grouped under respective clusters which seek to characterise areas across the County. These are identified within the Deposit Plan.

Key themes and policy areas set out within the revised deposit LDP include:

- Provide for the requirement of 8,822 new homes;
- To maximise affordable housing delivery providing for >1,000 new affordable homes. Note: this figure will be subject to further refinement ahead of the publication of the Deposit LDP. Additional evidence gathering in respect of viability and the impact on the affordable housing target and policies will also be ongoing;
- Provision for over 88 ha of employment land;
- Defined levels of development viability;
- Identify levels of developer contributions (s106) and key priority areas;
- Recognise the economic opportunities to sustain and enhance rural economies;

- Support regeneration and strategic ambitions for the County and region;
- Promote a settlement framework which supports cohesion between settlements and communities;
- Reflect the linguistic needs of the County and its communities and their cultural characteristics;
- Distribute development in accordance with the settlement hierarchy, reflecting the principles of sustainability and the functional attributes of settlements;
- Respect and enhance the rich and diverse environmental qualities of the County;
- To reflect the need for new homes in rural areas;
- Reflect matters of infrastructural capacity – notably within the Llanelli Waste Water Treatment Works catchment area;
- Contribute towards the achievement of the statutory Conservation Objectives of the Caeau Mynydd Mawr Special Area of Conservation;
- Contribute to the delivery of physical and social regeneration opportunities;
- Create diverse and cohesive developments and communities;
- Reflect the diversity across the County, and within its settlements and communities;
- Focus retail change in established centres whilst providing opportunities which will assist in achieving viable, self-supporting settlements and sustainable communities;
- Define search areas for the siting of wind and solar renewable energy developments;
- Recognise the contribution of ‘previously developed land’;
- To provide opportunities to maximise on the County’s visitor economy potential;
- Protect and enhance the natural, historic, and built conservation qualities of Carmarthenshire; and,
- Contribute to an integrated transport network both within the County and region.

	<p>In taking the above forward, the Deposit LDP, its evidence base, and its contextual influences, includes several new policy areas and/or an additional focus on aspects around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placemaking and Well-being of future generations; • Green Infrastructure; • Climate Change and Sustainable Development; • The Welsh language; • Flood avoidance; • Reserve Regeneration Sites; and • Rural Planning Policy. <p>The Deposit Revised LDP seeks to acknowledge and respond to changes in evidence and consider the emerging growth provisions of the emerging National Development Framework as it progresses through the reporting process. The Revised LDP will continue to develop as new evidence, policy guidance and legislation emerges. It should also be noted that further non-substantive amendments to the Plan and its supporting documents will be undertaken to ensure its content is complete ahead of the consultation on the Deposit LDP. It will also ensure the Plan is up to date and reflects the latest factual and evidential position.</p>		
<p>The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have “due regard” to the need to:</p>	<p>2. What is the level of impact on each group/ protected</p>	<p>3. Identify the risk or positive effect that could result for each of the group/protected characteristics?</p>	<p>4. If there is a disproportionately negative impact what</p>

<p>(1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation;</p> <p>(2) advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and</p> <p>(3) foster good relations between different groups</p> <p>(see guidance notes)</p>		<p>characteristics in terms of the three aims of the duty?</p> <p>Please indicate high (H) medium (M), low (L), no effect (N) for each.</p>	<p>Risks</p>	<p>Positive effects</p>	<p>mitigating factors have you considered?</p>
<p>Protected characteristics</p>	<p>Age</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>The Plan fails to recognise the age profile of the County. It is noted within the key issues that Carmarthenshire has an ageing population.</p>	<p>The Plan seeks to re-balance the demographic profile of the County. This reflects the current trend in outmigration amongst younger age groups and a reliance on migration as the driver for population change. The Plan in seeking to re-balance the age profile provides for opportunities for a good working and living environment for all, creating prosperous and attractive communities. With</p>	

				regards to the provision of new homes, there is an emphasis on a mix of housing types, including affordable homes orientated towards community need.	
	Disability	H	The Plan directs development to locations that are inaccessible.	The Plan seeks to direct development to sustainable locations which are accessible by through a range of transport means including public transport. The Plan has strong emphasis on equality. Specific reference is made to Strategic Objectives 4 and 10.	
	Gender reassignment	N		The Plan will seek to develop a land use framework which ensures opportunities for enhanced inclusivity.	

Race	H	The Plan fails to recognise the needs of specific communities.	The Plan contains a land use framework which ensures opportunities for enhanced inclusivity. Reference is made to the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller communities within Carmarthenshire. In this respect the Plan makes specific provision for their needs through Strategic Policy SP9 and related detailed policies.	
Religion/Belief	N		The Plan provides a land use framework which responds to the identified issues through its vision, strategic objectives and strategic policies which is inclusive of religion/belief or other social considerations.	
Pregnancy and maternity	L		The Plan will seek to develop a land use framework which ensures opportunities for	

			enhanced inclusivity. The Plan seeks to integrate other plans and strategies and promoting accessibility to services.	
Sexual Orientation	N		The Plan will seek to develop a land use framework which ensures opportunities for enhanced inclusivity.	
Sex	N		The Plan will seek to develop a land use framework which ensures opportunities for enhanced inclusivity.	
Welsh language	H	The Plan fails to make adequate provision to promote and safeguard the interests of the Welsh language and	The Welsh language is explicitly covered in Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language. Both provide appropriate guidance on how to	

			<p>aspects of linguistic sensitivity.</p>	<p>consider the Welsh Language in preparing an preparing LDP.</p> <p>The Plan through its strategic objectives and Strategic Policy SP7 (and related detailed policies) make provision to support proposals which safeguard and promote the interests of the language.</p> <p>The Council is also subject to the Welsh Language Standards. Reference is made to the Topic Paper and evidence prepared in relation to the Welsh language which is published alongside the deposit LDP.</p>	
	Marriage/Civil Partnership	N		<p>The Plan will seek to develop a land use framework which ensures opportunities for enhanced inclusivity.</p>	

	Any other area	The plan must have regard to the social-economic duty.			
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5. Has there been any consultation/engagement with the appropriate protected characteristics?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - In that the Deposit Plan is subject to full Public consultation (as was the Preferred Strategy).
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6. What action(s) will you take to reduce any disproportionately negative impact, if any? The potential for any disproportionate impact will be monitored throughout the Plan making process. In this respect the Plan will be subject to continual iteration through to its adoption and will also be subject to the preparation of a Sustainability Appraisal which will also consider and make recommendations on its impacts both environmentally and socially. The Deposit Revised LDP will be accompanied by an Easy Read Version and a similar document was available alongside the Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy. Additionally, the deposit Revised LDP and any accompanying materials will be available in other formats upon request.
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7. Procurement Following collation of evidence for this assessment, are there any procurement implications to the activity, proposal, service. N/A Please take the findings of this assessment into your procurement plan. Contact the corporate procurement unit for further advice.

8. Human resources Following collation of evidence for this assessment, are there any Human resource implications to the activity, proposal or service?
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N/A		
9. Based on the information in sections 2 and 6, should this function/policy/procedure/practice or a decision proceed to Detailed Impact Assessment? (recommended if one or more H under section 2)	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Approved by: Head of Service	, Head of Planning	Date:

3. Detailed Equalities Impact Assessment (rLDP)

Department:	Forward Planning (Place & Sustainability – Environment)
Completed by (lead):	Ian R Llewelyn
Date of Detailed assessment:	December 2022
Area to be assessed: (<i>Policy, function, procedure, practice or a financial decision</i>)	Carmarthenshire County Council Deposit Revised Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018–2033
Is this existing or new function/policy/Procedure/practice	New Policy

1. Describe the aims, objectives or purpose of the function/policy, practice or procedure and who is intended to benefit.	Please see initial EqIA above.
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<p>2. Please list any existing documents, evidence, research which have been used to inform the Detailed equality impact assessment. (This must include relevant data used in this assessment)</p>	<p>Please see initial EqIA.</p>			
<p>3. Has any consultation, involvement been undertaken with the protected characteristics to inform this assessment? (please provide details, who and how consulted)</p>	<p>Please see initial EqIA.</p>			
<p>4. What is the actual/likely impact?</p>	<p>Within the initial assessment, potential High impacts were noted in relation to the following characteristics: Age; Disability; Race; and the Welsh language.</p>			
<p>5. What actions are proposed to address the impact? (<i>The actions</i></p>	<p>What are we going to do?</p>	<p>Who will be responsible?</p>	<p>When will it be completed?</p>	<p>How will we know we have achieved our objective?</p>

<p><i>needs to be specific, measurable and outcome based)</i></p>	<p>In terms of age, the Plan provides opportunities for retention of, and migration of younger adults into the County- most notably by delivering a minimum of new jobs. This Plan makes provision for a range of age groups recognising the diverse demographics across the County. Whilst the Plan does not specifically identify housing for the elderly or supported living these can (and are) accommodated and considered against the Plan's policy framework. The preparation of the Plan has been supported by engagement with a range of statutory and non-statutory bodies. This has included</p>	<p>Elected Members and officers of the County Council and relevant service partners.</p>	<p>Plan to be adopted in 2023 and ongoing monitoring of implementation throughout the Plan period.</p>	<p>Adoption of the Revised LDP and then through the Annual monitoring of the Plan.</p>
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	the integration of strategic community infrastructure within the Plan's policies and proposals.			
	In terms of disability, the Plan seeks to deliver developments that are accessible and integrated thus ensuring ease of access for all. Reference is made to Strategic Policy 12 & Policy PSD1.	Elected Members and officers of the County Council and relevant service partners.	Plan to be adopted in 2023 and ongoing monitoring of implementation throughout the Plan period.	Adoption of the Revised LDP and then through the Annual monitoring of the Plan.
	In terms of race, the Plan meets an identified need in terms of Gypsy and Traveller provision. Reference is made to Strategic Policy 10 & Policy GTP1.	Elected Members and officers of the County Council and relevant service partners.	Plan to be adopted in 2023 and ongoing monitoring of implementation throughout the Plan period.	Adoption of the Revised LDP and then through the Annual monitoring of the Plan.
	In terms of the Welsh language, the Plan seeks to promote the Welsh language and culture and is committed	Elected Members and officers of the County	Plan to be adopted in 2023 and ongoing monitoring of	Adoption of the Revised LDP and then through the Annual monitoring of the Plan.

	<p>to contributing to the Welsh Government's long-term aim of achieving 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. Reference is made to Strategic Policy 8, Policy WL1 & Policy PSD9.</p>	<p>Council and relevant service partners.</p>	<p>implementation throughout the Plan period.</p>	
<p>6. How will actions be monitored?</p>	<p>The Council's elected Members have ownership of the Revised LDP. As a result, the progress being made on the introduction of the above actions, as well as the wider Revised LDP, will be scrutinised by Elected Members. Reference is also made to the Revised LDP Delivery Agreement between the Welsh Government and the County Council which sets out how the Plan will be prepared and in what timescale.</p> <p>The preparatory process of the Revised LDP requires that the Plan be subject to Independent Examination. Subject to the LDP Inspector finding the Plan sound, a key monitoring stage in the progress of the above actions will be the Council's adoption of the Revised LDP. It should be noted that the findings of the Inspector will be binding on the Council.</p> <p>Following the adoption of the Plan, the Council's focus will then turn to implementation. The Plan will form the basis of decision making within the LPA area. There is a requirement to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report, whilst there is also a requirement for a review to be undertaken every 4 years. It should be noted that some of the above actions may be subject to a specific monitoring indicators.</p>			
<p>Approved by: Head of Service</p>	<p>, Head of Planning</p>	<p>Date:</p>		

4. Review following consultation

This chapter will be updated accordingly.

For further information regarding Assessing Impact, please contact the -

Policy & Partnership Team

Chief Executive's Department

01267 22(4914) / (4676) equalities@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

A copy of the assessment was sent to the above e-mail address upon completion.