

**Monmouthshire Local Development Plan
2011-2021**

**Adoption Statement
(Including SA/SEA Statement)**

February 2014

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 When a Local Planning Authority adopts its Local Development Plan (LDP) it is required to prepare and publish an adoption statement in accordance with Regulation 25(2) of the Town & Country Planning (Local Development Plans)(Wales) Regulations 2005. Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 also requires the Council to prepare and publish a strategic environmental assessment /sustainability appraisal statement as part of the LDP adoption process. This document has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of these regulations.

2.0 Section 1: Local Development Plan (LDP) Statement of Adoption

(Regulation 25(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plans) (Wales) Regulations 2005)

2.1 The Monmouthshire Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-2021 was adopted on 27 February 2014 and became operative on this date. The adopted LDP forms the development plan for Monmouthshire (excluding that part of the County within the Brecon Beacons National Park) and sets out the strategy, policies and land use allocations that will shape the future of the County and guide development up to 2021. The Monmouthshire LDP replaces the Monmouthshire Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

2.2 Copies of the Adopted Monmouthshire LDP, the Inspector's Report, Sustainability Appraisal Report, Habitats Regulations Assessment and LDP Adoption Statement are available for public inspection free of charge at the following locations:

- Monmouthshire County Council, Planning Reception, County Hall, Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA (9.00am – 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 9.00am – 4.30pm on Friday)
- Monmouthshire County Council Libraries in Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow, Gilwern, Monmouth and Usk during normal opening hours; and
- Monmouthshire County Council One-Stop-Shops in Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow and Monmouth during normal opening hours.

2.3 The documents are also available to view on the Council's website at:

www.planningpolicy.monmouthshire.gov.uk

2.4 A charge will be made for hard copies of these documents.

2.5 A person aggrieved by the Local Development Plan who desires to question its validity on the ground that it is not within the powers conferred by Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 or that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation

to the adoption of the Local Development Plan, may, within six weeks from 6 March 2014, make an application to the High Court under Section 113 of the 2004 Act.

3.0 Section 2: Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) Adoption Statement

(Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004)

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.1 Planning legislation requires that Local Development Plans are subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA). This is a systematic process that is designed to evaluate the predicted social, economic and environmental effects of development planning. European and UK legislation also require that LDPs are subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This process considers the effects of development planning on the environment and where significant adverse effects are predicted the SEA aims to identify means to avoid or mitigate these effects. Government guidance advises that the SA and SEA processes are carried out in an integrated way and requires plans to be subject to SA incorporating SEA.
- 3.2 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 require that a statement be made available to accompany the Adopted Plan in order to provide the following information:
- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;
 - How the Environmental Report (SA/SEA) has been taken into account;
 - How opinions expressed in relation to the consultations on the plan/programme and Environmental Report have been taken into account;
 - How the results of any transboundary consultations have been taken into account;
 - The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
 - The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.
- 3.3 The LDP was also subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), including Appropriate Assessment. The HRA assessed the impacts of the LDP in combination with the effects of other plans and projects on European sites designated for their ecological status. This assessment also accompanied the Deposit LDP and was reported separately.
- 3.4 The remainder of this document addresses these matters in turn. It should be noted, however, that a substantial amount of information relating to these

matters is contained within existing documents such as the SA/SEA reports, LDP Consultation Report and Inspector's Report. In accordance with paragraph 8.5.2 of the Local Development Plan Manual (June 2006), rather than duplicate this material, appropriate cross references are made to relevant documents within this statement.

How Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Local Development Plan

- 3.5 SA/SEA has been undertaken to inform all stages of plan preparation. The appraisal has included several stages and reports. These demonstrate the feedback process between plan making and the sustainability appraisal, allowing sustainability considerations to be integrated into the LDP during its preparation. The SA/SEA has been prepared on behalf of Monmouthshire County Council by consultants Peter Brett Associates (formerly Baker Associates).
- 3.6 The following stages of the SA/SEA have been undertaken in the preparation of the LDP. For ease of reference the document number for the Monmouthshire LDP Examination library is noted alongside each document.

SA Scoping Report

- Draft SA (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report, March 2008 (*EBLDP.2*)

Options Stage

- Sustainability Appraisal of the Strategic Options Report, February 2009 (*published as Appendix 2 of EBLDP.10*)

Pre-Deposit Stage

- Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report, May 2009 (*EBLDP.10*)
- Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report – Non Technical Summary, May 2009 (*EBLDP.11*)

Deposit Stage

- Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Monmouthshire Deposit LDP, June 2011 (*EBLDP.20*)
- Non-Technical Summary of the Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Monmouthshire Deposit LDP, June 2011 (*EBLDP.21*)
- SA/HRA Changes Log, June 2011 (*EBLDP.25*)

Alternative Sites Stage

- All site specific representations on the Deposit LDP were subject to their own sustainability appraisals which were assessed in the

Alternative Sites Independent Review of Site Sustainability Appraisals, June 2012 (SE.17).

Focused Changes Stage

- Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Monmouthshire County Council Deposit LDP (Amended to take account of focused changes and consultation responses), September 2012 (*EBLDP.36a*)
- Non-Technical Summary of the Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Monmouthshire County Council Deposit LDP (Amended to take account of focused changes and consultation responses), September 2012 (*EBLDP.36c*)
- Sustainability Appraisal Report Amended to take into account Focused Changes and Consultation Responses – Addendum Log, September 2012 (*EBLDP.36b*)

Examination Stage

- Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum – Amended and Additional Sites, July 2013 (*EBLDP.45*)
- Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum – Site at Coed Glas, Abergavenny, January 2014 (*EXAM.125*)

Adoption

The final SA Report of the Adopted LDP consists of the Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum: Final SA post Planning Inspector's Binding Recommendations and MAC Changes which includes the following appendices:

- Appendix A: Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum – Screening of the Inspector's Recommended Changes (including Matters Arising Changes (MACs) suggested by the Council and the Inspector's Matters Arising Changes (IMACs)), February 2014
- Appendix B: Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Monmouthshire County Council Deposit LDP (Amended to take account of focused changes and consultation responses), September 2012 (*originally EBLDP.36a*)
- Appendix C: Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum – Amended and Additional Sites, July 2013 (*originally EBLDP.45*)
- Appendix D: Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum – Site at Coed Glas, Abergavenny, January 2014 (*originally EXAM.125*)

3.7 The above mentioned reports provide a useful background to the SA process and are available to view on the Council's web site: www.planningpolicy.monmouthshire.gov.uk

How the Environmental Report has been taken into account

- 3.8 The SA/SEA (Environmental Report) and the LDP were developed in parallel with each stage of the SA/SEA informing and influencing the development of the plan's policies and site allocations in order to ensure that the LDP promotes sustainable development. The following text summarises how the issues identified through the key stages of SA/SEA have informed and influenced the LDP.
- 3.9 *SA Scoping:*
The initial stage of the SA was to prepare the scoping report. The SA Scoping Report (*EBLDP.2*) was prepared in March 2008 and set out the key sustainability issues facing the County and included baseline data collection, the review of plans, programmes, policies and strategies and stakeholder input, together with the suggested SA objectives, indicators and targets to be used to assess the future sustainability effects of the LDP. The scoping stage provided a valuable opportunity to gain an understanding of the plan area in order to ensure that the SA process could be well informed by a full appreciation and understanding of local circumstances. Central to this scoping process was giving opportunities for those with specialist knowledge of sustainability issues and the area to have an input in the SA. The report was consulted on for 5 weeks in April /May 2008. Although the Council has not produced a revised scoping report, the Sustainability Framework was revised as a result of comments received and endorsed by Council (November 2008). In addition, the baseline and the plans and programmes have been updated and reported on in the SAR as the SA process progressed.
- 3.10 *Options Stage:*
The SA of the LDP Strategic Options Report was undertaken in February 2009 (*Appendix 2 of EBLDP.10*) to feed into the Preferred Strategy process. The SA at this stage assessed the main sustainability implications for implementing the three options for housing growth and the four options for the spatial strategy set out in the LDP Options Report, helping to define and refine the strategic and spatial options and inform the Preferred Strategy.
- 3.11 *Pre-deposit Stage:*
The Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (ISAR) (*EBLDP.10*) considered the outcomes of the SA process to the Preferred Strategy Stage. The ISAR included the recording of the results of the appraisal work undertaken to get to the Preferred Strategy, including predicting and evaluating the effects of the LDP options on the social, environmental and economic objectives. The purpose of this stage was to give an indication of what the relative sustainability implications would be of implementing the alternative spatial strategy and growth options as set out in the initial policies. Each of the

policies was appraised against the sustainability objectives using a standardised matrix to ensure a systematic appraisal. This version of the SA Report was consulted on alongside the Preferred Strategy in June/July 2009. Consultation responses on the ISAR have been taken into account in moving forward with the SA process.

3.12 *Deposit Stage:*

This stage of the SA is the appraisal of the Deposit LDP. At this stage the additional details including completed strategic policies, new development management policies and site allocations were subject to sustainability appraisal.

3.13 An initial SA of the Deposit LDP was completed to allow sufficient time for any matters raised to be considered by the LDP team/ officers of the Council and change made if necessary. The Council prepared a Changes Log (*EBLDP.25*) to show how the SA had influenced the content of the final Deposit LDP which can be found on the Council's website.

3.14 The Sustainability Appraisal Report (SAR) (*EBLDP.20*) was published for consultation alongside the Deposit LDP in October/ November 2011.

3.15 *Focused Changes Stage:*

Representations on the Deposit LDP were considered and a number of changes to the Deposit LDP were proposed – these 'Focused Changes' were assessed through the SA/ SEA process. The SA report was subsequently updated to take account of the Focused Changes to the LDP and to reflect comments on the SA during Deposit stage consultation (*EBLDP.36a*). An addendum log was also produced to identify any changes made (*EBLDP.36b*).

3.16 *Examination Stage:*

In response to the Inspector's Preliminary Findings with regard to housing provision, the Council produced an Amended and Additional Sites Consultation Report which identified proposed amendments to existing site allocations and other proposed additional sites in order to achieve an increased housing target. A Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum (*EBLDP.45*) was prepared to accompany the proposed changes and was published alongside the Amended and Additional Sites Report (July/ August 2013). An additional sustainability appraisal for the proposed site at Coed Glas Abergavenny was also undertaken (*EXAM.125*).

3.17 In response to matters raised during the Examination hearing sessions a series of changes known as Matters Arising Changes arose. A final schedule of proposed changes, including those put forward by the Council (MACs) and

those that the LDP Inspector deemed necessary to make the LDP sound (IMACs) is provided in Appendix A of the Inspector's Report. These proposed changes have been screened to assess if they are likely to have any new or different sustainability implications. This screening is detailed in Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum – Screening of the Inspector's Recommended Changes (February 2014). No new or different significant effects were identified.

How opinions expressed in relation to the consultation on the plan / programme and Environmental Report have been taken into account

- 3.18 Consultation is a key component of the SA/SEA process. Consultation for the SA/SEA of the LDP has been undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations.
- 3.19 For SA/SEA there is statutory requirement to consult authorities with environmental responsibilities, which in Wales are: Natural Resources Wales (NRW) (formerly the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and Environment Agency Wales (EAW)) and Cadw. In addition, consultation should be taken with the public and a wider range of interested stakeholders.
- 3.20 Consultation with the statutory bodies, stakeholders and the wider public was undertaken at the following key stages of the SA/SEA process:
- *SA Scoping Report*
The SA Scoping Report to provide background to the SA process was prepared in March 2008 and made available for public consultation. A summary of consultation replies and proposed changes relating to the SA/SEA framework were reported to Council in November 2008 (*EBLDP.5*) and the framework revised accordingly. Full responses received in response to the Scoping Report consultation were documented in the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Draft Scoping Report – Report of Consultation, May 2009 (*EBLDP.9*).
 - *Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (ISAR) of the Preferred Strategy*
The ISAR was published for consultation alongside the Preferred Strategy in June/ July 2009. The results of this consultation, together with the Council's responses, are provided in Section D of the Pre-deposit Consultation on the Preferred Strategy, Initial Sustainability Report and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report: Report of Consultation (Including Recommendations for Further Work on the LDP) and its associated appendices, January 2010 (*EBLDP.13*).

- *Sustainability Appraisal of the Deposit LDP*
The Sustainability Appraisal Report was published for consultation alongside the Deposit LDP in October/ November 2011. Changes made to the SA as a result of the consultation on the Deposit LDP are set out in the Sustainability Appraisal Report Amended to take account of the Focused Changes and Consultation Responses Addendum Log, September 2012 (*EBLDP.36b*). Appendix A of the Addendum Log provides the responses to the comments received on the SA at Deposit LDP consultation stage.
- *Sustainability Appraisal of the Amended and Additional Sites*
The SA of the amended and additional sites was published for consultation alongside the Amended and Additional Sites Consultation Report in July/ August 2013. Representations received in response to this consultation were passed onto the Inspector for her consideration. A number of these made reference to the findings of the SA, which was also subject to discussion at the Examination hearing sessions.

- 3.21 In addition to the statutory consultations on SA Reporting stages a stakeholder working group was established to gain the views of others early on in the SA of the LDP. The workshop events allowed input into the method of SA and helped inform both the SA and the LDP. These are detailed further in the LDP Consultation Report (*EBLDP.35a*) and SAR (*EBLDP.36a*).

How the results of any transboundary consultations have been taken into account

- 3.22 No transboundary issues were raised through the SA/SEA process.

The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with

- 3.23 As part of the development of the LDP, the Council considered a range of spatial and policy options which were subject to SA/SEA. The findings of the initial SA of the four spatial options suggested that no one option was sufficient by itself to optimise opportunities for sustainable development. This contributed to the decision, therefore, that the chosen spatial strategy should be a 'hybrid' of the four options seeking to maximise the benefits of each option and minimise the dis-benefits. This hybrid strategy was subject to further SA/SEA assessment which supports the approach taken.
- 3.24 More detail on the consideration of the strategic options and the SA/SEA recommendations is provided in the following reports:
- SA of Strategic Options

- SA of the Preferred Strategy (ISAR)
- SA of the Deposit LDP (SAR)

Reasons for selecting the preferred growth and spatial options (including the consideration given to the findings of the SA) are set out in Chapter 5 of the Preferred Strategy (*EBLDP.8*) and in Justification Background Papers (*EBS.20 and EBS.21*).

The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme

- 3.25 LDP Regulation 37 requires the Council to prepare, and subsequently submit to Welsh Government, an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) that is required to monitor specific items as well as identifying policies that are not being implemented. In addition to this requirement, Regulation 17 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 requires the Council to monitor the most significant effects of the plan. These statutory requirements to monitor the plan and its significant environmental effects will be undertaken through the AMR.
- 3.26 Chapter 8 of the Adopted LDP sets out the Monitoring Framework which provides the basis for assessing the effectiveness of the LDP policy framework. Appendix 7 of the SA Report (September 2012) sets out the monitoring framework for the SA of the LDP which details the monitoring measures identified through the SA process that could be used to monitor sustainability issues. It is intended that the SA/SEA monitoring will be carried out annually and reported as part of the Annual Monitoring Report for the LDP.

Further Advice

- 3.27 If you require any further information or have any questions please contact the Development Plans Team:

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