

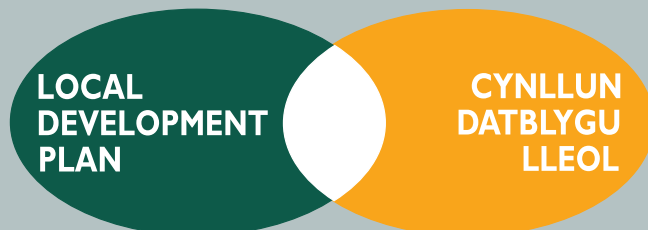


The Local Development Plan for Newport

Your Community, Your Plan

Vision and Objectives

February 2009



The Vision

“As a gateway to Wales, Newport will be a City that celebrates its culture and heritage while being a focus for diverse economic growth. It will be a place that people recognise as a lively, dynamic, growing city, with communities living in harmony in a unique natural environment.”

This vision provides the core of the LDP. It will drive forward the intended changes for Newport from 2011. The vision addresses the main priorities for taking Newport forward in land use and transportation terms- as discussed at the three consultation events and taking into account the Community Strategy and the Wales Spatial Plan. It has also been considered important to provide a vision that makes the City more distinctive from anywhere else.

Objectives

Sustainable use of land

The most important aim of the LDP will be to achieve well-designed, sustainable development. Sustainable development is recognised by many as “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Consequently, the LDP will look to foster social progress, effective protection of the environment and prudent use of natural resources while maintaining sustainable economic growth. Sustainability will be at the heart of every stage of the plan and the LDP will be tested by a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment as required by the Welsh Assembly Government and the SEA Directive¹. Proposals should seek to make the best use of previously developed land and minimise the consumption of natural resources through appropriate design methods.

Objective 1

To ensure that all development makes the most efficient use of natural resources by seeking to locate development in the most sustainable locations, minimises the impact on the environment and makes a positive contribution to local communities.

¹ SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) is a legally enforced European assessment procedure required by Directive 2001/42/EC (known as the SEA Directive).

Climate Change

Climate Change is now a key issue for every LDP in Wales. There is a need to seek to make a positive commitment to reducing the impact development and the use of land has on climate change. The LDP will require development proposals to make an early commitment to addressing the causes of climate change. This could be shown in terms of the location of development, energy efficiency and by utilising sustainable energy technologies and waste recycling. Safe and active travel routes will also need to be encouraged so as to foster recreation and physical activity.

Objective 2

To ensure that development and land uses in Newport make a positive contribution to helping to minimise the causes of climate change and to mitigating the impacts, by incorporating the principles of sustainable design, reducing the need to travel, providing safe and active travel routes, and managing the risks and consequences of flooding.

Economic Growth

Newport is seen as a major economic hub nationally and locally. It occupies a strategic location in Wales where there are opportunities for Newport to play an even more vital role in the regional economy. There are strong aspirations to drive forward the existing economic growth so as to provide investment and thereby employment for the indigenous and growing population of the City, especially with regard to knowledge based industries. Economic viability of a site will be an important consideration as will be the appropriateness of the use relative to adjacent uses.

Objective 3

To enable a diverse economy that meets the needs of the people of Newport and those of the wider South East Wales economic region.

Housing

One of the main land use issues for the LDP is for it to guide the provision and distribution of housing in the City. The LDP will need to provide an adequate supply of housing land capable of meeting the housing needs of the city in the most sustainable locations. Development proposals should therefore, make maximum use of previously developed land and be close to facilities.

Objective 4

To ensure that there is an adequate supply of land for housing in the most sustainable locations, and to ensure that the quantity, quality and variety of housing provision meets the needs of the population. Also to foster the creation of places which contribute to local distinctiveness and thriving communities.

Conservation and the Environment

Conservation of the natural and built environment is fundamental to and a long standing aspect of the planning process. It is now well recognised that the existing population has a duty to preserve and enhance the natural and built environment for future generations. Development proposals will be favoured where they recognise the importance of local distinctiveness and the contribution built and natural environments can make to communities. The LDP will look to encourage well thought out regeneration proposals and master plans as they can play an important role in enhancing the quality of the built environment.

Objective 5

To ensure that all development or use of land does not adversely affect, and seeks to preserve or enhance, the quality of the built environment.

Objective 6

To protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment, including protected and non-protected species and habitats, regardless of greenfield or brownfield status, and also including the protection of controlled waters.

Community Facilities and Infrastructure

In order to avoid placing pressure on existing facilities and infrastructure, while taking account of the economic viability of the site, appropriate new or enhanced community facilities will be encouraged as proposals in their own right or as a requirement of other development proposals. Appropriate infrastructure should include water supplies, the sewerage system and the removal of surface water from it.

The following facilities should be provided within an acceptable walking distance, dependent on the size of the population:

- Sustainable waste management facilities
- Nursery school
- Primary school
- Secondary school
- Health Centre
- Local shop
- Pub
- Post Office
- Community Centre
- Local Centre
- District Centre/Superstore
- Leisure Centre
- Open space/ green space

Objective 7

To ensure the provision of appropriate new, and/or enhanced existing, community facilities.

Culture and Accessibility

The principle that services and facilities should be sustainable and safely accessible to all regardless of culture, age, gender, and impairment is considered important to achieving sustainable development. Development proposals should therefore provide convenience and enjoyment of use for all and strive to enhance cultural identity.

Objective 8

To ensure that development proposals and uses are socially and physically accessible to all, taking account of the needs of all individuals.