

# LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

## Sustainability Group

Meeting, 8 March 2006

### Record of Meeting

#### Attendance

Phil Griffiths	Caerphilly CBC (Countryside)
Dave Lucas	Caerphilly CBC (Forward Planning)
Richard Jones	Countryside Council For Wales
Catherine Anderson	Environment Agency
Stanley Evelyn	British Telecom
Steve Spode	Welsh Development Agency
Pat Martin	Caerphilly CBC (Conservation)
Steve Martin	Caerphilly CBC (Energy)
Paul Cooke	Caerphilly CBC (Sustainability)
Claire Davies	Caerphilly CBC (Environmental Health – Pollution)
Rhian Kyte	Caerphilly CBC (Planning)
Ralph Bourke	Caerphilly CBC (Research)
Derek Price	Caerphilly CBC (Leisure)
Steve Lawrence	Caerphilly CBC (Education)

#### Apologies

Richard Keveren	CADW
Kerry Morgan	Health Authority
Lorraine Howells	Farmers Union of Wales
Alison Hitchen	Gwent Police
Neil Daniels	Caerphilly CBC (Landscape)
Alison Jones	Caerphilly CBC (Ecology)
Melanie Phillips	Caerphilly CBC (Economic Development)
Ian McVicar	Caerphilly CBC (Economic Development)
Pat Mears	Caerphilly CBC (Planning)

#### Outcomes For The Meeting

- 1 All members to have an understanding of the SA/SEA process, its importance, and how it interacts and affects the LDP.
- 2 Agreement on the Terms Of Reference for the Group
- 3 For all members to input their expertise and knowledge into the evolving Scoping Report, particularly in respect of the issues and indicators for the Scoping Report.



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## 1,2,3, Presentations

5,6, In order to comply with Outcome 1, presentations on the SA/SEA process and how it links in with the LDP and how the Sustainability Group relates to the other LDP Management Groups, were given by Phil Griffiths and Dave Lucas.

## 4 Terms Of Reference

In order to comply with Outcome 2, a general discussion was held during which all comments on the Terms of Reference were noted for inclusion as amendments. The following provides an outline of the general issues discussed:

### *Primary Purpose*

Para 1. Accepted without modification.

### *Objectives*

Para 2. Explanation requested on the way in which the LDP Management Groups (LDP Focus Group; Stakeholder Panel; Standing Conference) The Council and the Sustainability Group interact and their separate roles. The Sustainability Group advises on the production of the SA/SEA but does not have any decision-making powers. The Sustainability Group makes recommendations to the Focus Group who have delegated powers to agree documentation to be sent out on public consultation. Accepted without modification.

### *Membership Mandate*

Para 3. Accepted without modification.

### *Composition*

Para 4. The Group were generally satisfied with those identified to be on the Group. However there were three suggestions for additional Members of the Group, firstly a representative of the Council's Health Improvement Team; secondly a representative of the Council's Waste management Team; thirdly a representative from the Council's Community Safety Team.

*Given that the role of the Group is to advise on the production of the SA/SEA it has been decided to invite the representatives onto the Group.*

*In taking this decision it has been acknowledged that the Council representation on the group will increase, and it could be viewed that the Council are seeking to overpower the group. It must be stressed that this is not the case and the inputs of all members are welcomed and will be treated equally. The Group does not make decisions and, where recommendations are being put forward to the Focus Group, all alternative views will be considered.*



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## *Quorum*

Para 5. Agreed without amendment.

## *Meeting Chair*

Para 6. Accepted without modification. A question was raised whether the external representatives had any issues or problems with the Chair and Vice-Chair both being Council Officers. It was outlined that the only role of the Chair/Vice-Chair was in resolving conflicting advice or issues, and as the group was advisory and ultimately the Council were responsible decisions on the content of the SA/SEA, then Council Officers were better placed to make such decisions. An external member of the group concurred stating that Council Officers are best placed to see the issue in the larger context where other members of the group may have, due to their respective expertise, a narrower view.

## *Meeting Frequency*

Para 7. It was noted that the requirement for dates to be given at least 6 months in advance preclude the option for extraordinary or special meetings as and when the LDP and SA/SEA process requires. Therefore it was agreed that an amendment should be included that allowed shorter notice for such meetings, with an explanation of the circumstances in which the shorter notice would be used.

## *Meeting Information*

Para 8. This issue raised some debate. The Council advised that it would like to see the requirement for the submission of papers cut to 7 days (1 working week) instead of 14 days, as it would assist in meeting deadlines for the production of work. Members of the Group advised that in some cases they would need to circulate documentation within their organisations in order to generate worthwhile comment, and suggested 21 days would be preferable. It was agreed that the requirement remain at 14 days but papers should be sent early if at all possible. Agreed with no amendment.

Para 9. Agreed without amendment. It was outlined that the Schedule of outcomes will be sent with the documentation sent 14 days prior to the meeting.



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## ***Resolving Disagreement***

Para 10. The Council advised that all comments and documents produced as part of the group would be eligible to be placed into the public realm as part of the transparent production of the LDP. Therefore members should be careful to ensure that their comments and material they bring to the meetings is not confidential in nature. A grammatical error was identified and a small change was agreed.

## ***Reporting Mechanism***

Para 11. It was suggested that the draft record of each meeting be sent to members for consideration prior to being finalised. It was also decided that a period of 14 days (two working weeks) would be allowed for comments and if not comments were received by that date then it would be assumed that the relevant body had no comments to make. These changes were agreed.

Para 12. Agreed without amendment.

## ***Additional Discussion***

The issue of substitutes was raised and discussed. It was agreed that substitutes would be allowed, providing that they were fully aware of the background of the meeting, could contribute fully to the meeting and that they complied with the requirements of the Membership Mandate. It was agreed that a statement to this effect be included in the Terms of Reference.

A copy of the amended terms of Reference has been appended to this record (Appendix 1).

## **7 Discussion of the Scoping Report Issues**

### ***7.1 Populations and Human health***

#### **Issues**

Affordability of running homes as well as  
Affordability of homes

Land availability for cemeteries/burial  
grounds

Outmigration. What is happening  
now/future population levels

Quality of public/private transport,  
including links

Economic Growth within the authority

#### **Indicators/Comments**

Internet access at home (BT and other  
provider have info)

Home working

Areas covered by Broadband



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Housing Fitness	provision Proportion of unfit housing per 100 (all houses) [subject of new legislation] Rating system reflective of “fitness”?
Health	Areas of Contaminated land and remediation in situ. Air pollution (crossover) Provision of urban green space, country parks, recreational space.
Obesity / Sexual Health / Diet	Land use implications? Links to Health and Well-Being Strategies Informal Play area provision Cycleways Green Access Routes
Affordable Home Strategy (WAG)	
Is Race Equality an Issue	Required by Specific Legislation (e.g. Welsh language Act) Ensured through consultation on Equality
Education	Qualifications School Sites

## 7.2 *Biodiversity*

### **Issues**

Non Statutory as well as statutory sites require protection  
Development on protected sites  
Loss of species due to climate change  
Invasive species  
Relationship between habitats – wildlife corridors and connections  
Eco corridors

### **Indicators/Comments**

Included in Local Biodiversity Action Plan and its background evidence base  
  
Basis of LBAPs for this purpose agreed with CCW

## 7.3 *Water*



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## Issues

Water quantity

- Permeable surfaces
- Hard surfaces provided by development
- Water dispersal and run-off

Water levels and abstraction

- Confirmed that water is available from the Rhymney now that the Waterloo Paint Works has closed

Flooding – Lag Times

Flashy catchment

Water as a recreational resource

Impact on Infrastructure

Water consumption

Water recycling

## Indicators

Amount of development hard surface

Flashiness of storm water

Percentage of development within zones C1 and C2 approved contrary to Environment Agency advice.

Data available?

Data Available?

## 7.4 Cultural Heritage & Landscape

### Issues

Need to define what is meant by “Cultural heritage and Landscape)

Include Welsh Language Policy?

Verbal Heritage / living experience

Built heritage

Buildings at risk

- Include sites/buildings of local interest?

New sites coming under protection, possibly non statutory designated sites

New Monuments afforded protection by forthcoming legislation

Development Control implications

Regional / local distinctiveness

### Indicators

Re-evaluation of heritage culture assets

Need to collate register

Data collection issues.

Difficult to measure.



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Is it a land-use issue?

Recreational conflicts with landscapes, e.g. off-road biking.

Urban/Green landscapes – Settlement identities

Increased change to landscapes due to agricultural practice, which is not controlled by planning.

## *Other Issues.* – Light Pollution

Following discussions on the Cultural Heritage and Landscape topic, the meeting considered whether to continue, as the closing time for the meeting was close. It was agreed that, due to the high level of input being made by the group to that point, further input should not be curtailed by a lack of time and that the last four topics be considered at the next meeting to be held on April 27. The meeting concluded.



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