LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Sustainability Group

Meeting, 30 November 2006
Record of Meeting

Attendance

Phil Griffiths	Caerphilly CBC (Countryside)
Dave Lucas	Caerphilly CBC (Forward Planning)
Neil Maylan	Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust
Claire McCorkindale	Environment Agency
PC Morgan	Gwent Police
Alison Palmer	GAVO
Richard Jones	Countryside Council for Wales
Steve Lawrence	Caerphilly CBC (Education)
Rhian Kyte	Caerphilly CBC (Vice Chair LDP Focus Group)
Ralph Bourke	Caerphilly CBC (Research)

Apologies

Steve Spode	DEIN (Formerly WDA)
Richard Kevern	Cadw
Caroline Drayton	EA
Stanley Evelyn	British Telecom
Alison Palmer	GAVO
Ian McVicar	Caerphilly CBC (Economic Development)
Alison Jones	CCBC Ecologist
Steve Martin	CCBC Energy Officer
Howard Rees	CCBC Community Safety
Mark Rees-Williams	CCBC Highways
Rhodri Lloyd	Caerphilly CBC (Waste Management)
Howard Rees	Caerphilly CBC (Community Safety)

REGENERATION

THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

EDUCATION FOR LIFE

HEALTH SOCIAL CARE & WELL BEING

Outcomes For The Meeting

1. Provide an update on Committee Report on Agreed Scoping Report.

2. To consider assessment tests to be used to assess the alternative strategies for the LDP

3. To use the assessment tests against a simplified strategy to evaluate their overall performance at assessing strategies.

15   Update on Committee Report for the Agreed Scoping Report

15.1   DL advised that the agreed Scoping Report had been accepted by the LDP Focus Group to be placed on consultation in April as part of t eh LDP Strategy statutory consultation. A report was also submitted through the committee cycle (Regeneration Scrutiny, Cabinet and Full Council) with a recommendation to endorse the LDP Focus Group decisions. The report completed the Committee Cycle with the Full Council meeting held on 21 November 2006.

15.2   The agreed Scoping Report would now form part of the consultation exercise on the Alternative strategies of the LDP in April.

16   Discussion over the Assessment Tests

16.1   Members of the Group had been supplied with 20 suggested Assessment Test that were the subject of discussion prior to the meeting. All the Assessment tests were considered by t he group and, where appropriate, changes have been agreed to the assessment tests. The following table outlines the issues that were raised and

	Assessment Test	Comment	Amended and Agreed Test
1	Promote reduced resource consumption by residents.	Agreed without amendment	*Promote reduced resource consumption by residents.*
2	Provide a sufficient amount and mix of housing to sustain communities.	The last three words should be deleted as they pre-empt the strategies and favour the Sustainable Settlement Strategy unfairly.	*Provide a sufficient amount and mix of housing*
3	Provide a range of educational opportunities.	The test should seek that all, or at the very least a large proportion, of educational opportunity are catered for. Include the word "wide" before "range".	*Provide a wide range of educational opportunities.*
4	Promote equal access opportunities for all	The test as worded is unwieldy and unspecific. The test should be reworded to test equal opportunity, rather than equal access.	*Promote equality of opportunity*
5	Provide for business investment and increase the range of job opportunities.	Agreed without amendment	*Provide for business investment and increase the range of job opportunities.*
6	Promote a mixed economy and increase the wealth of residents	A mixed economy doesn't necessarily mean a healthy one. "Mixed should be deleted and	*Promote a diverse economy and increase the wealth of residents*

		"diverse" be included instead.	
7	Encourage residents to remain in the County Borough	Agreed without amendment	*Encourage residents to remain in the County Borough*
8	Provide a healthy and safe environment and an improved feeling of well-being for residents.	Agreed without amendment	*Provide a healthy and safe environment and an improved feeling of well-being for residents.*
9	Ensure no deterioration to air quality.	The test did not reflect the Sustainability Objective, which sought an improvement to air quality.	*Ensure improvement to air quality*
10	Protect the landscape and built heritage of the County Borough.	Agreed without amendment	*Protect the landscape and built heritage of the County Borough.*
11	Protect the Cultural Identity of the County Borough and its settlements.	It is unnecessary to include the statement regarding settlements, as that is inherent in protecting the cultural identity of the county borough as a whole.	*Protect the cultural identity of the County Borough.*
12	Ensure the protection of water resources and water quality improved.	Agreed without amendment	*Ensure the protection of water resources and water quality improved.*
13	Ensure the incidence of flooding is not increased.	It is the scale and extent of flooding that is the issue and not the number of times it occurs.	*Reduce the impact of flooding.*
14	Ensure the efficient use of land and soils including the protection of important geological sites.	The test should assess whether the use of land is effective in protecting important sites, land and soils.	*Ensure the effective use of land and soils including the protection of important geological sites.*
15	Reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the reuse of materials	Agreed without amendment	*Reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the reuse of materials*
16	Safeguard the biodiversity of the County Borough.	The appropriate word is conserve, not safeguard.	*Conserve the biodiversity of the County Borough*
17	Assist in meeting climate change obligations primarily through reducing CO2 production.	Agreed without amendment	*Assist in meeting climate change obligations primarily through reducing CO2 production.*
18	Reduce the need to travel	The impact of the car is the predominant measure within the authority, as such direct reference in the text is important.	*Reduce the need to travel, particularly by car*
19	Promote the supply and use of renewable energy	Agreed without amendment	*Promote the supply and use of renewable energy*
20	Improve existing infrastructure and promote community satisfaction	It is misleading to test against "improving" infrastructure, as this could be contrary to other tests. Improvement in performance of existing infrastructure should be what is sought.	*Improve the performance of existing infrastructure*

16.2   The agreed set of tests that will be used to assess the strategies are as follows:

    1   Promote reduced resource consumption by residents.

    2   Provide a sufficient amount and mix of housing

    3   Provide a wide range of educational opportunities.

    4   Promote equality of opportunity

    5   Provide for business investment and increase the range of job opportunities.

    6   Promote a diverse economy and increase the wealth of residents

    7   Encourage residents to remain in the County Borough

    8   Provide a healthy and safe environment and an improved feeling of well-being for residents.

    9   Ensure improvement to air quality

    10   Protect the landscape and built heritage of the County Borough.

    11   Protect the cultural identity of the County Borough.

    12   Ensure the protection of water resources and water quality improved.

    13   Reduce the impact of flooding.

    14   Ensure the effective use of land and soils including the protection of important geological sites.

    15   Reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the reuse of materials

    16   Conserve the biodiversity of the County Borough

    17   Assist in meeting climate change obligations primarily through reducing CO_2 production.

    18   Reduce the need to travel, particularly by car

    19   Promote the supply and use of renewable energy

    20   Improve the performance of existing infrastructure

17   Evaluation of Assessment Tests

17.1   The Group then undertook an unfacilitated and independent (i.e. did not include DL or PG) workshop to assess a "Bare Bones" strategy, apply the assessment tests in order to review how the tests perform and consider whether they represent an appropriate tool to undertake the assessment of the alternative and preferred strategies of the emerging LDP. The strategy was assessed against each of the assessment tests in turn, using the following responses:

✗✗   The Strategy delivers significant negative impacts which undermine the Sustainability Objective

✗   The Strategy delivers negative impacts which require mitigation or amendment

●   The Strategy has little or no anticipated impact, either positive or negative.

○   Impacts are anticipated, but more detailed information would be required to identify the level and nature of the impacts.

?   The Strategy could result in positive or negative impacts dependant upon how it is implemented.

+ The Objectives have potential to be compatible and may result in positive effects, or are considered to be compatible but only minor positive effect is envisaged.

++ The Objectives are definitely compatible and significant positive effect is envisaged to one or both Objectives.

17.2 Comments for each assessment test were also taken where the group considered them appropriate or pertinent to the implementation of the strategy. The results were recorded in the form of a matrix table, included below:

Assessment Test	Result	Comments/Mitigation
1 Promote reduced resource consumption by residents.	**+**	If strategy meets the LDP Objective of "resource efficient settlement" it follows that it will meet this assessment test.
2 Provide a sufficient amount and mix of housing	**+**	Whilst it provides sufficient amount, it may not realise a sufficient mix.
3 Provide a wide range of educational opportunities.	**?**	
4 Promote equality of opportunity	**+**	Targeting development to individual settlements, widening access to services.
5 Provide for business investment and increase the range of job opportunities.	**+**	Proactive targeting of Growth.
6 Promote a diverse economy and increase the wealth of residents	**O**	Not possible to comment on increase in wealth.
7 Encourage residents to remain in the County Borough	**++**	Positive as targeted individual settlements, could prevent out-migration
8 Provide a healthy and safe environment and an improved feeling of well-being for residents.	**O**	Hard to quantify the impact without more detailed proposals.
9 Ensure improvement to air quality.	**?**	Dependant upon implementation. Makes headway in relating new development near to key transport nodes. Infrastructure improvement could prevent standing traffic.
10 Protect the landscape and built heritage of the County Borough.	**+**	Development will change landscape character overall. Dependant upon how strategy is implemented. Requires strong design policies and development in the right locations.

11	**Protect the Cultural Identity of the County Borough**	✚	Promoting the role and function of individual settlement, keep communities and expand. Could expand cultural identity
12	**Ensure the protection of water resources and water quality improved.**	✗	Need to address sustainable urban drainage, correct siting of development and water efficiency.
13	**To reduce the impact of flooding**	✗	Need to address flood consequences assessment, surface water drainage, locating development outside flood plains.
14	**Ensure the effective use of land and soils including the protection of important geological sites.**	✗	Needs to address sensitive development and appropriate location and targeting and use of brownfield sites
15	**Reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the reuse of materials**	✗	Implementation of appropriate recycling methods. Sustainable construction techniques (policies to encourage)
16	**Conserve the biodiversity of the County Borough**	✗	Use of Greenfield sites Development in the right place, retain green corridors – ecological connectivity
17	**Assist in meeting climate change obligations primarily through reducing CO2 production.**	✚	Development near key Transport nodes. New builds more energy efficient.
18	**Reduce the need to travel, particularly by car**	✚	Development near key transport nodes. Expansion of existing settlements.
19	**Promote the supply and use of renewable energy**	?	
20	**Improve the performance existing infrastructure**	✚	Objective of strategy is to improve infrastructure.

17.3   As part of the exercise the group was requested to identify three key mitigation requirements or issues that were raised as part of the assessment. The Group brought only two forward, both of which raised issues for the implementation of the strategy:

a.   Sensitive siting of development

b.   Quality of design.

17.4   As a final part of the exercise the views of the group were sought on whether the assessment tests were an appropriate tool for assessing the alternative strategies. The group agreed they were and that they should be carried through into the assessment part of the Part 1 SEA/SA work.

The meeting closed upon completion of this workshop.