

SECTION 11

SELF-ASSESSMENT: TESTS OF SOUNDNESS

Procedural Tests		Self-Appraisal Evidence (PS = Preferred Strategy)
Test P1	It has been prepared in accordance with the Delivery Agreement including the Community Involvement Scheme	<p>The Delivery Agreement (DA) sets out the process for the production of the LDP and the preparation of the SEA/SA, based upon the requirements laid out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005, the SEA Directive and the LDP Manual 2006. This test will be proven by a check against the main procedures outlined in the DA</p> <p>Commencement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Statutory Agreement to commence work on the LDP – April 2005 ◆ Consultation on DA/CIS – 9 January 2006 - 20 February 2006 ◆ WAG Agree DA/CIS – 4 May 2006 <p>Pre-Regulation 14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Candidate sites invited – 8 December 2005 ◆ Development of Evidence Base - ongoing ◆ Vision Developed - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LDP Focus Group – 13 April 2006 ● Sustainability Group – 27 April 2006 ● Stakeholder Panel – 28 April 2006 ◆ Vision Agreed by Council – 27 June 2006 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Development of SEA/SA Baseline information – Ongoing ◆ Produce SEA/SA Document 1 – Scoping Report - Completed ◆ Produce SEA/SA Document 2 - Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Policies - Completed ◆ 5 Week Involvement Process with Statutory Consultees – 14 June to 19 July 2006 ◆ Agreement of SEA/SA Document 1 – The Scoping Report as the basis for the assessment of

		<p>the LDP strategies and for consultation and SEA/SA Document 2 – The Review of Relevant Plans programmes and Policies for consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Group – 11 October 2006 • LDP Focus group by e-mail decision • Council – 21 November 2006 <p>Regulation 14 : Pre-Deposit Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Issues & Strategic options prepared with involvement and participation of Stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General 2 week consultation – 31 July to 14 August 2006 • Standing Conference – 23 August 2006 • Joint Area Steering Group – 23 August 2006 • Stakeholder Panel – 24 August 2006 ◆ Consensus on Preferred Strategy (PS) achieved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council – 28 September 2006 ◆ Preferred Strategy document agreed for Consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDP Focus Group - 7 February 2006 • Stakeholder panel - 15 February 2007 • Council – 3 April 2007 ◆ SEA/SA Document 3 – The Assessment of The Preferred and Alternative LDP Strategies, preparation of Assessment Tests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Group - 30 November 2006 ◆ Assessments of the Alternative Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Group – 31 January 2007 ◆ SEA/SA Document 3 - The Assessment of The Preferred and Alternative LDP Strategies agreed for consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDP Focus Group - 7 February 2006 • Stakeholder panel - 15 February 2007 • Council – 3 April 2007 <p>Regulation 15 : Pre-Deposit Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Caerphilly LDP Preferred and Alternative Strategies made available for comment – 18 April to 30 May 2007
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Test P2	The plan and its policies have been subjected to sustainability appraisal including strategic environmental assessment	<p>SEA/SA Part 1, Document 3 – The Assessment of the Preferred and Alternative LDP Strategies is the document that details the methodology, process and results of the assessments of the alternative and preferred LDP strategies against the Sustainability Objectives identified in SEA/SA Part 1, Document 1 – The Scoping Report. These assessments and the assessment process conform to the requirements laid out in the SEA Directive and the LDP Manual.</p> <p>The Preferred Strategy was not identified as the most sustainable strategy in the assessments of the strategies. However the LDP has provided sound and robust reasons why the Preferred Strategy was chosen (Paragraph 9.8 refers).</p> <p>The Preferred Strategy has taken account of the findings of the assessment process and has been amended to take account of most issues that have arisen. Some of the issues have not resulted in changes at this point, but reasons for this are given in Appendix 12 of the Preferred Strategy Document – Mitigation and Changes to Preferred Strategy.</p>

Consistency tests		
<p>Test C1</p>	<p>It is a land use plan which has regard to other relevant plans, policies and strategies relating to the area or to adjoining areas</p>	<p>SEA/SA Part 1, Document 2 – The Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Policies has been produced to meet the SEA Directive requirement that all relevant plans, policies and programmes from all levels of government (i.e. European down to local level) are reviewed to identify any implications for the Local Development Plan and the SEA/SA process. This document identifies all implications for the LDP. The LDP Preferred Strategy document has taken account of those implications that are appropriate for a strategic level. Other, more detailed implications will be taken account of in the Deposit LDP.</p> <p>The LDP Preferred Strategy document does directly address some more of the more directly relevant documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development Scheme - Starting to Live Differently [2004] (Paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4) • The Wales Spatial Plan [2004] (Paragraphs 2.4 to 2.8) • Turning Heads : A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020 [2006] (Paragraphs 2.9 to 2.11) • MIPPS – Housing [2006] (Paragraphs 2.12 to 2.18) • Regional Transport Plan [in production] (Paragraphs 2.19 to 2.21) • South East Wales Regional Waste Plan [2004] (paragraphs 2.23 to 2.26) • South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party - Regional Technical Statement (Paragraphs 2.27 to 2.31) • Caerphilly Community Strategy, Community Planning in Action [2004] (Paragraphs 3.2 to 3.6) • The Living Environment Partnership Strategy (Paragraphs 3.7 to 3.9) • The Smart Alternative (3.10 to 3.11) • Caerphilly Employment Sites Supply and Market Appraisal [2006] (Paragraphs 3.12 to 3.14)

Test C2	It has regard to national policy	<p>SEA/SA Part 1, Document 2 – The Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Policies has been produced to meet the SEA Directive requirement that all relevant plans, policies and programmes from all levels of government (i.e. European down to local level) are reviewed to identify any implications for the Local Development Plan and the SEA/SA process. This document identifies all implications for the LDP. The LDP Preferred Strategy document has taken account of those implications that are appropriate for a strategic level. Other, more detailed implications will be taken account of in the Deposit LDP.</p> <p>Whilst taking account of all of the implications from National Policy identified in Chapter 2 (pages 11 to 42) of SEA/SA Part 1 Document 2, the Preferred Strategy document also directly references:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development Scheme - Starting to Live Differently [2004] (Paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4) • The Wales Spatial Plan [2004] (Paragraphs 2.4 to 2.8) • Turning Heads : A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020 [2006] (Paragraphs 2.9 to 2.11) • MIPPS – Housing [2006] (Paragraphs 2.12 to 2.18)
Test C3	It has regard to the Wales Spatial Plan	<p>SEA/SA Part 1, Document 2 – The Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Policies has been produced to meet the SEA Directive requirement that all relevant plans, policies and programmes from all levels of government (i.e. European down to local level) are reviewed to identify any implications for the Local Development Plan and the SEA/SA process. This document identifies all implications for the LDP. The LDP Preferred Strategy document has taken account of those implications that are appropriate for a strategic level. Other, more detailed implications will be taken account of in the Deposit LDP.</p> <p>Whilst taking account of all of the implications from the Wales Spatial Plan identified in Chapter 2 (pages 27 to 32) of SEA/SA Part 1 Document 2, the Preferred Strategy document also directly references:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wales Spatial Plan [2004] (Paragraphs 2.4 to 2.8)
Test C4	It has regard to the Community Strategy	<p>The Preferred Strategy document directly references the Council’s Community Strategy, and its companion document the Living Environment Partnership Strategy, in paragraphs 3.2 to 3.9</p>

Coherence and Effectiveness Tests		
<p>Test CE1</p>	<p>The plan sets out a coherent strategy from which its policies and allocations flow and, where cross boundary issues are relevant, it is compatible with the development plans prepared by neighbouring authorities</p>	<p>The preferred strategy is comprised of eight component elements. Each of these elements were identified through the community involvement process, being derived from the Objectives found in the Council Community Plan. The eight elements represent those elements that were considered to be most appropriate for inclusion in the LDP Strategy, for varying reasons. The Preferred Strategy has been “fleshed out” from the “bones” of the elements and have incorporated other factors as well, e.g. Wales Spatial Plan, National Planning Policy, European directives. The Preferred Strategy clearly identifies the eight elements upon which it is based (paragraph 6.4 refers). The remainder of the Strategy context is a natural corollary from the eight elements.</p> <p>The strategic policies provide the policy basis to realise the eight elements of the Preferred Strategy within the scope of other legislation and guidance which development plans must also take account of.</p> <p>There are no significant or strategic cross boundary issues in respect of the Preferred Strategy, although this may change when the detail is added in the Deposit LDP. The Preferred Strategy has, however, taken account of relevant regional guidance.</p>
<p>Test CE2</p>	<p>The strategy, policies and allocations are realistic and appropriate having considered the relevant alternatives and are founded on a robust and credible evidence base.</p>	<p>The Preferred Strategy and its policies are based upon:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key issues arising from the Community Plan (Appendix 4 refers) 2. A functional analysis of each settlement in the county borough (Appendix 6 refers) 3. An overview of settlement facilities (Appendix 7 refers). <p>The Stakeholder Panel, whose remit is a sounding board to test elements of the LDP prior to consultation, has reviewed the Strategy and has found the Preferred Strategy to be realistic and appropriate for the basis of the emerging LDP (The Report of Findings - Development of Alternative Strategic Options (Sept 2006) refers).</p> <p>The Preferred Strategy was not identified as the most sustainable strategy in the assessments of the strategies. However the LDP has provided sound and robust reasons why the Preferred Strategy was chosen (Paragraph 9.8 refers).</p>

<p>Test CE3</p>	<p>There are clear mechanisms for implementation and monitoring</p>	<p>The Preferred Strategy has not specifically included monitoring indicators against which the LDP Strategy can be assessed. The Strategy document, by its very nature is strategic and as such there are a large number of detailed issues that could influence how effective the LDP is at meeting its objectives.</p> <p>Similarly the Preferred Strategy document does not include a section on implementation either, for the same reasons.</p> <p>However the strategic policies that have been identified do indicate, to some extent, where monitoring indicators could be used. The Preferred Strategy document also provides a general outline of how the Preferred Strategy will be implemented. However both of these issues are considered more appropriate for inclusion in the detailed Deposit Plan</p>
<p>Test CE4</p>	<p>It is reasonably flexible to enable it to deal with changing circumstances.</p>	<p>By its very nature the Preferred Strategy has to be flexible because it does not include matters of detail. Consequently the Strategy can be implemented in a wide variety of ways dependant upon how the detailed policy is incorporated into the strategy document later in the LDP process. However, the Preferred Strategy is flexible enough to accommodate future change and is capable of retaining that flexibility with the inclusion of appropriate detail later in the process.</p>