



# Neath Port Talbot Replacement Local Development Plan Review

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal of Replacement Local Development Plan  
Pre-Deposit Document (RLDP Preferred Strategy)

On behalf of **Neath Port Talbot Council**



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

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## Abbreviations

<b>List of Abbreviations</b>	
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
DPM	Development Plans Manuals
EqIA	Equalities Impact Assessment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ER	Environmental Report
EU	European Union
HIA	Health Impact Assessment
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
ISA	Integrated Sustainability Appraisal
LA	Local Authority
LDP	Local Development Plan
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LSE	Likely significant effect
NGA	National Growth Area
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPTCBC	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council'
NPTC	Neath Port Talbot Council
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
NPTPSB	NPT Public Service Board
PCPA	Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
PWA	The Planning (Wales) Act
REN	Resilient ecological networks
RGA	Regional Growth Areas
RLDP	Replacement Local Development Plan
RR	Review Report
SA	Sustainability Appraisal

<b>List of Abbreviations</b>	
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SBCD	Swansea Bay City Deal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SDP	Strategic Development Plan
SoNaRR	Second State of Natural Resources Report
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SSA	Strategic Search Areas
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
TAN	Technical advice notes
TAN 20	Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language
WBFGA	Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act
WFG	Wellbeing of Future Generations
WLIA	Welsh Language Impact Assessment
WG	Welsh Government

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Stantec UK has been commissioned by Neath Port Talbot Council (NPTC) to undertake an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) of the NPT Local Development Plan (LDP) Review and the emerging NPT Replacement LDP (RLDP) ('the emerging RLDP').
- 1.1.2 This report is the first stage of an ISA process to identify, assess and address in an integrated manner any likely significant effects (LSEs) on the environment (including European Sites), sustainability, health and equalities of undertaking the NPT LDP Review (resulting in the preparation of the RLDP). The report outlines the proposed approach to undertaking the ISA process, incorporating a suite of statutory and non-statutory assessment processes:
- **Sustainability Appraisal (SA)** as required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 ('the 2004 Act') and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 ('the 2015 Regulation');
  - **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** as required by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 ('the SEA Regulations');
  - Supporting the implementation of **wellbeing goals and wellbeing objectives** (and the discharge of associated duties) as required under **the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (WBFGA) 2015**. The preparation of the RLDP needs to consider social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being;
  - **Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)** under the Equality Act 2010 – covering the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Socio-economic Duty;
  - **Health Impact Assessment (HIA)** – non-statutory but needed to support robust SEA, EqIA and wellbeing assessment processes; and,
  - **Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)** as required under the 2004 Act, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015 and PPW 12<sup>th</sup> Edition.

## 1.2 Purpose and Objectives

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the findings of an ISA, incorporating SEA, of the substantive proposals set out within the NPT RLDP Pre-Deposit Documents, i.e. the RLDP Preferred Strategy and associated Background Papers. This ISA Report responds to relevant statutory requirements, considers the evolution of the emerging RLDP to date and presents an assessment of likely significant environmental and wider sustainability effects from the Pre-Deposit Documents. For the purpose of fulfilling statutory SEA requirements, this ISA Report acts as the statutory Environmental Report that is required to accompany each substantive component of the emerging RLDP at the time of public consultation.
- 1.2.2 The objectives of this report are to fulfil statutory SA and SEA reporting requirements, to identify likely significant effects from the NPT RLDP Pre-Deposit Documents and to recommend mitigation and enhancement measures which should be incorporated into the emerging RLDP as it develops to ensure the avoidance of likely significant adverse environmental effects and to enhance its effectiveness.

## 1.3 Structure of this Report

- 1.3.1 This report is structured as follows:

- **Section 1:** the remainder of this section identifies core statutory requirements for undertaking the SA, incorporating SEA, of the emerging RLDP;
- **Section 2:** explains the background to the development of the emerging RLDP and provides a summary of its proposed content and purpose;
- **Section 3** outlines key sustainability information and issues which have informed the SA process undertaken to date and which should be taken account of in the emerging RLDP itself. The section is supported by detailed baseline analysis and a review of relevant plans and programmes provided in **Appendices A** and **B** respectively;
- **Section 4** provides an overview of the SA process undertaken to date, including how matters raised by the SEA Consultation Bodies in previous stages of the ISA have been addressed. The ISA Framework being used to assess the LSEs of the emerging RLDP is provided in full in **Appendix C**;
- **Section 5** presents the key findings of the SA undertaken in respect of the NPTC RLDP Pre- Deposit Documents, i.e. all substantive components within the Preferred Strategy. The detailed ISA undertaken in respect of the proposed RLDP strategic framework (comprising the LDP Vision, Strategic Objectives and Growth Strategy) and proposed Strategic Policies is set out in **Appendices D** and **E** respectively; and,
- **Section 6** outlines the next steps in the SA process.

1.3.2 In accordance with statutory requirements (see below), this report is accompanied by a **Non-Technical Summary**.

## 1.4 Statutory Requirements

1.4.1 This section provides a succinct review of the range of statutory requirements which will be addressed through undertaking an ISA of the LDP Review.

### LDP Preparation and Review

- 1.4.2 The publication of the Draft LDP Review Report (NPTC, 2020) has triggered a process through which a RLDP will be prepared and then adopted for the NPTC area. Statutory requirements relating to the preparation of LDPs are therefore now applicable to the LDP Review, including in respect of SA and SEA.
- 1.4.3 NPTC started work on its RLDP in 2021. Preliminary findings from the 2022 'Call for Sites', alongside information obtained from the Annual Monitoring Reports, and growth projections indicates that there was a requirement for additional housing land to be identified and existing infrastructure and viability matters that require more time to overcome.
- 1.4.4 Given this, the Council decided to stop the preparation of the RLDP, and to start the process again. A Draft Delivery Agreement (DA) was approved by Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023, and following consultation was submitted to the WG.
- 1.4.5 The DA was subsequently approved by WG on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023, and allows NPT Council to formally commence preparation of the RLDP. The DA sets out a 3.5-year process to anticipated adoption of an RLDP in April 2027, with a plan end date of 2038.

### Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

- 1.4.6 Under Section 62(6) of the 2004 Act, emerging LDPs need to be subject to SA, which is statutorily required to guide the selection and development of policies and proposals for



inclusion in LDPs in terms of their potential social, environmental and economic effects. The SA presently required for the LDP Review will need to build upon the SA, incorporating SEA, prepared for the NPT LDP 2011-2026 (adopted January 2016). As the 'Full Review' procedure is being used, the LDP Review will effectively mirror the original LDP preparation process and will result in the preparation and adoption of a RLDP (rather than the existing LDP only being subject to individual changes).

- 1.4.7 When undertaking a SA, the WG asks LPAs to consider the value and opportunities for an integrated assessment approach to preparing an LDP. Paragraph 4.5 of the DPM Edition 3 (2020) considers that *"The integration of statutory and key elements such as WBFGA 2015 requirements, Equalities Act, Welsh language, and Health Impact Assessment (HIA) (when relevant) into a single Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) will enable a more transparent, holistic and rounded assessment of the sustainability implications of growth options, objectives, policies and proposals"*. Accordingly, to achieve these benefits whilst meeting applicable statutory requirements, an ISA is to be carried out for the NPT LDP Review.

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**

- 1.4.8 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 as amended ('the SEA Regulations') require Responsible Authorities, including local authorities such as NPTC, to assess the likely significant environmental effects of implementing relevant plans and programmes, as defined within the regulations. The SEA Regulations also require Responsible Authorities to examine the likely significant environmental effects of reasonable alternatives to the plan or programme under consideration. Where required, the assessment is to be prepared following a staged reporting process known as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

- 1.4.9 In line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, the following terms are used throughout this report:

- 'Environmental effects' refers to effects on all environmental factors prescribed in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, including *"population"*, *"health"* and *"material assets"* in the broadest sense, which therefore includes coverage of social, economic and infrastructure related issues. Cultural, including Welsh Language, issues are also covered under the cultural heritage SEA topic. This approach helps to ensure assessment proportionality and integration between SEA and other statutory assessment processes undertaken as part of this ISA; and,
- The term 'likely significant effects' refers to all likely effects which, when assessed on an objective basis, are considered significant (as opposed to not significant) and therefore need to be reported within the context of the SEA Regulations. Such effects may also need to be reported in accordance with other relevant statutory requirements (see below).

### **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

- 1.4.10 The WBFGA 2015 seeks to directly place Wales on a sustainable path to improving well-being. The WBFGA requires that public bodies carry out sustainable development which is defined<sup>1</sup> as:

*"Sustainable development" means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals."*

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<sup>1</sup> The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 Section 2 sets out the definition of sustainable development for the planning system and directly refers to the definition in the WBFG Act

- 1.4.11 The WBFGA prescribes seven national Wellbeing Goals to be achieved through Five Ways of Working which public bodies need to demonstrate they have carried out in undertaking their sustainable development duty. Furthermore, it requires Public Service Boards (comprising local authorities and partner agencies) to define local wellbeing objectives.
- 1.4.12 In response to this duty, the NPT Well-being Plan (2023-2028) sets out the NPT Public Services Board's long-term vision for the area as well as priorities for action over the plan period. It identifies six wellbeing objectives which are to be used to guide and bring about wellbeing improvements for local people in the area.
- 1.4.13 Therefore, whilst there is not a specific statutory requirement to publish a WFG Assessment in respect of the LDP Review, there is a need for NPTC to demonstrate throughout the LDP Review how their emerging RLDP complies with the Section 3 duty (Well-being duty on public bodies to carry out sustainable development). In practice this means that the ISA should include specific reporting of likely effects from the emerging RLDP on wellbeing, the national wellbeing goals and local wellbeing objectives.
- 1.4.14 The DPM 2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) requires LDPs to demonstrate how it contributes towards the achievement of the well-being goals, objectives and five ways of working, noting that these goals should be integral to the preparation of the Scoping Report and subsequent development of the final SA framework to assess the Plans growth options, objectives, policies and proposals (Para 4.10 & 4.12). Each decision-making body must demonstrate compliance with the requirements of WBFGA 2015.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)**

- 1.4.15 Statutory requirements to avoid discrimination and to assess the likely equalities impacts of emerging policies, programmes and projects are set out in the Equality Act 2010. This legislation was enacted by the UK Parliament to consolidate previous anti-discrimination legislation and to implement the four major European Union (EU) Equal Treatment Directives<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.4.16 Insofar as LDP policies and proposals affect access to services, amenities, economic opportunities and social activities, the implementation of the LDP Review (resulting in the adoption of a RLDP) is likely to result in different impacts upon different demographic groups, persons with protected characteristics and those facing socio-economic disadvantage. It may also help to tackle intersectional inequalities and impact the delivery of other policies and organisations working to address societal inequalities. The Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio-economic Duty under the Equality Act 2010 are applicable to the LDP Review, meaning that the ISA will incorporate a proportionate equalities impact assessment (EqIA) to address the requirements of both duties.

### **Public Sector Equality Duty**

- 1.4.17 Section 149 of the Act sets out a 'public sector equality duty' which requires public authorities, in exercising their functions, to "have due regard to the need to:
- a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
  - b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

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<sup>2</sup> EU Directives 2000/78/EC, 2000/43/EC, 2006/54/EC (all enacted) and proposed Directive COM/2008/0426 final - CNS 2008/0140

- c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

1.4.18 The protected characteristics referenced within this duty are specified within Section 4 of the Act, namely: Age; Disability; Gender reassignment; Marriage and Civil partnership; Pregnancy and maternity; Race; Religion or belief; Sex; and Sexual orientation.

### **Socio-economic Duty**

1.4.19 In March 2021 the WG commenced the Socio-economic Duty under Sections 1 – 3 of the Equality Act 2010. The Socio-economic Duty places a legal responsibility on public bodies in Wales to actively consider how through their strategic decision making they can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage. This differs from the Public Sector Equality Duty which considers only reducing inequalities of opportunity. However, the Socio-economic Duty identifies a need to consider both ‘communities of place’ and ‘communities of interest’ in terms of people who share an experience and are particularly impacted by socio-economic disadvantage.

1.4.20 Demographic groups who share one or more of the protected characteristics listed in Section 4 of the Equality Act 2010 can be considered ‘communities of interest’, meaning there is a direct link between the Socio-economic and Public Sector Equality Duties.

1.4.21 The Socio-economic Duty applies to the LDP Review as local authorities are prescribed bodies for implementing the duty under the Equality Act 2010 and the preparation of a RLDP clearly constitutes the making of decisions of a strategic nature by NPTC regarding their statutory functions.

### **Health Impact Assessment (HIA)**

1.4.22 The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 contains a provision to require a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to be carried out to assess the likely effect of the plans and programmes on health and mental well-being and inequality. Regulations will be produced (yet to be published) to specify when an HIA is required to be carried out by public bodies and how it should be undertaken. LPAs will need to have regard to any further legislation (Regulations) and guidance in this respect.

1.4.23 Paragraph 4.17 in the DPM 2020 highlights that the HIA process provides a systematic, yet flexible and practical framework that can be used to consider the wider effects of local and national policies or initiatives and how they, in turn, may affect people’s health. The HIA process can be integrated into the SA from the start. The SEA Directive (Annex I (f)) requires human health to be considered as part of the assessment of environmental effects. The health component of an SEA can be broadened to include both physical and mental health objectives of an HIA.

1.4.24 This ISA will therefore incorporate a proportionate HIA component in order to demonstrate compliance with SEA and EqIA requirements relating to the assessment of likely health effects from the emerging LDP Review.

### **Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)**

1.4.25 The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Standards require the following effects to be considered:

- What effect, if any, the RLDP would have on the opportunities for other persons to use the Welsh language, or treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language;

- How the RLDP could have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for other persons to use the Welsh language, or treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language; and,
- How the RLDP could be developed so that it doesn't have or reduces any adverse effects which the policy decision would have on opportunities for other persons to use the Welsh language or treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

1.4.26 In line with statutory requirements, PPW, TAN 20 and WG expectations, the ISA incorporates a proportionate assessment of likely effects on the use of the Welsh language. This assessment will consider the evidence of the impacts of the spatial strategy, policies and allocations on the use of the Welsh language.

1.4.27 According to Paragraph 3.4 of the DPM 2020, the PCPA 2004 as amended by the PWA 2015 (section 11) confirms the requirement for the SA to include an assessment of the likely impacts of the plan on the use of the Welsh language in the plan area. The purpose of this is to ensure that the scale and location of change set out in the plan supports the Welsh language and ensure appropriate mitigation measures are in place, if required.

### **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

1.4.28 Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 ('the HRA Regulations') requires that a HRA must be undertaken to demonstrate compliance with applicable statutory duties where a plan or project is considered likely to have significant effects on European Sites and is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site. Caselaw has established that HRA requirements apply to the preparation of 'local plans' prepared for town and country planning purposes including LDPs, meaning that an HRA process must be undertaken for the LDP Review.

1.4.29 To differentiate between effects assessed in the context of the SEA and HRA Regulations, the term "*Likely Significant Effects*" (LSE) is used throughout this report to refer to only those effects which are considered significant in the context of Regulation 63 of the HRA Regulations.

1.4.30 A HRA Screening report has been conducted and submitted together with this ISA report.

## **1.5 ISA Process**

1.5.1 By according with the above statutory requirements through a holistic approach, ISA is one of the key methods by which plan-making can deliver sustainable development. When used in this way from the outset of the LDP process, ISA Process is a plan-making tool rather than simply a reporting mechanism and can be considered as 3 main steps.

- **Screening and Scoping:**
  - Whereas Regulation 5(3) has the effect that a SEA will always be required in relation to the preparation of an LDP, Regulations 5(6) and 9(1) require "minor modifications" to an existing plan or programme to first be screened to determine whether the modifications are likely to have significant effects on the environment and therefore whether a full SEA needs to be undertaken. The DPM continues to make it clear that SEA screening is required for all LDP Reviews as in legal terms the existing LDP is simply being reviewed and this could result in "minor modifications", although the SEA Regulations do not define the scope of that term. The ISA Scoping Report (September 2023) sets out a draft SEA Screening Determination for the consideration of the SEA Consultation Bodies.

- In terms of Scoping, Responsible Authorities must provide the SEA Consultation Bodies with sufficient information to enable them to consider the proposed scope, level of detail and consultation period for an 'Environmental Report' (ER) to accompany the emerging plan or programme. Where SEA is incorporated within a wider SA the term ER is interchangeable with ISA Report as the latter necessarily includes all of the information that would be required within a standalone ER. Whilst there is no specific statutory requirement to undertake Scoping in relation to EqIA, HIA, WFG Assessment and WLIA, the SA Scoping process raises a similar need for 'assessment framing' to undertake proportionate assessment of these. Thus, there is a need to confirm the scope of the ISA in all respects, ensuring robustness and proportionality throughout the process. The approach taken with the ISA Scoping Report (September 2023) responds to all statutory requirements, with the proposed ISA Framework, ISA methodology and ISA consultation arrangements detailed in Sections 5 and 6.
- **Assessment:** As noted above, in terms of SA, Section 62(6) of the 2004 Act requires Responsible Authorities preparing LDPs in Wales to "*to carry out a sustainability appraisal of the proposals*" within it and to "*prepare a report of the findings of the appraisal*". Given that the LDP Review will be an iterative process and in legal terms is a review of the existing LDP, an ISA Report will need to accompany each substantive element of the RLDP as it emerges, in particular the preparation of RLDP Pre-Deposit and subsequently RLDP Deposit Documents. Each ISA Report must be consulted on in tandem with the emerging RLDP, with the ISA Report for the final LDP Deposit Document then submitted to the W G to support an independent examination of the RLDP. Similarly, Regulation 12 of the SEA Regulations requires Responsible Authorities to prepare and consult on an ER to "*identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing*" each iteration of a relevant and qualifying plan, as well as the effects of its reasonable alternatives. As above, the scope, level of detail and consultation period of the ISA, fully incorporating all SEA requirements, should first be defined through screening and scoping. In line with best practice established in DPM, the ISA brings together the statutory requirements under one joined-up process. This offers the opportunity to iteratively assess each stage of the emerging RLDP in terms of EqIA, HIA, WFG Assessment (as well as the WLIA which legally must be incorporated into SA); and,
- **Post Adoption:** By the end of the LDP Review process, a RLDP will have been adopted for the extent of the NPTC area. In terms of SA, once a RLDP is adopted, NPTC must prepare a statement setting out, amongst other matters, how the SEA's environmental considerations have been taken into account in the adopted RLDP, and how the likely significant effects of the LDP on the environment (as predicted through the SA/SEA) will be monitored. Whilst there is no statutory requirement to prepare a SA (as opposed to SEA) Post Adoption Statement, in practice the incorporation of SEA within SA means this is necessary to ensure that all of the SEA findings and consultation responses from previous stages of the process are addressed. Following best SA practice, the Post Adoption process will be extended incorporating the SEA post adoption requirements alongside a demonstration of how the ISA (covering all assessment undertaken) has, as a plan-making tool, informed the preparation of the NPT RLDP.

## 2 Overview of the NPT LDP Review

2.1.1 NPTC is the local authority responsible for local government across a 442km<sup>2</sup> area of South Wales, as shown in **Figure 2.1**. NPTC is located within the South West Wales Region (as identified within Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 framework 'Future Wales'). This includes the LA areas of Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Swansea and NPT. The neighbouring authorities are Swansea, Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Powys and Carmarthenshire.

2.1.2 NPTC is also part of the Swansea Bay City Deal, a £1.3bn investment secured by the Swansea Bay City Region for 11 major projects across Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea and NPT.

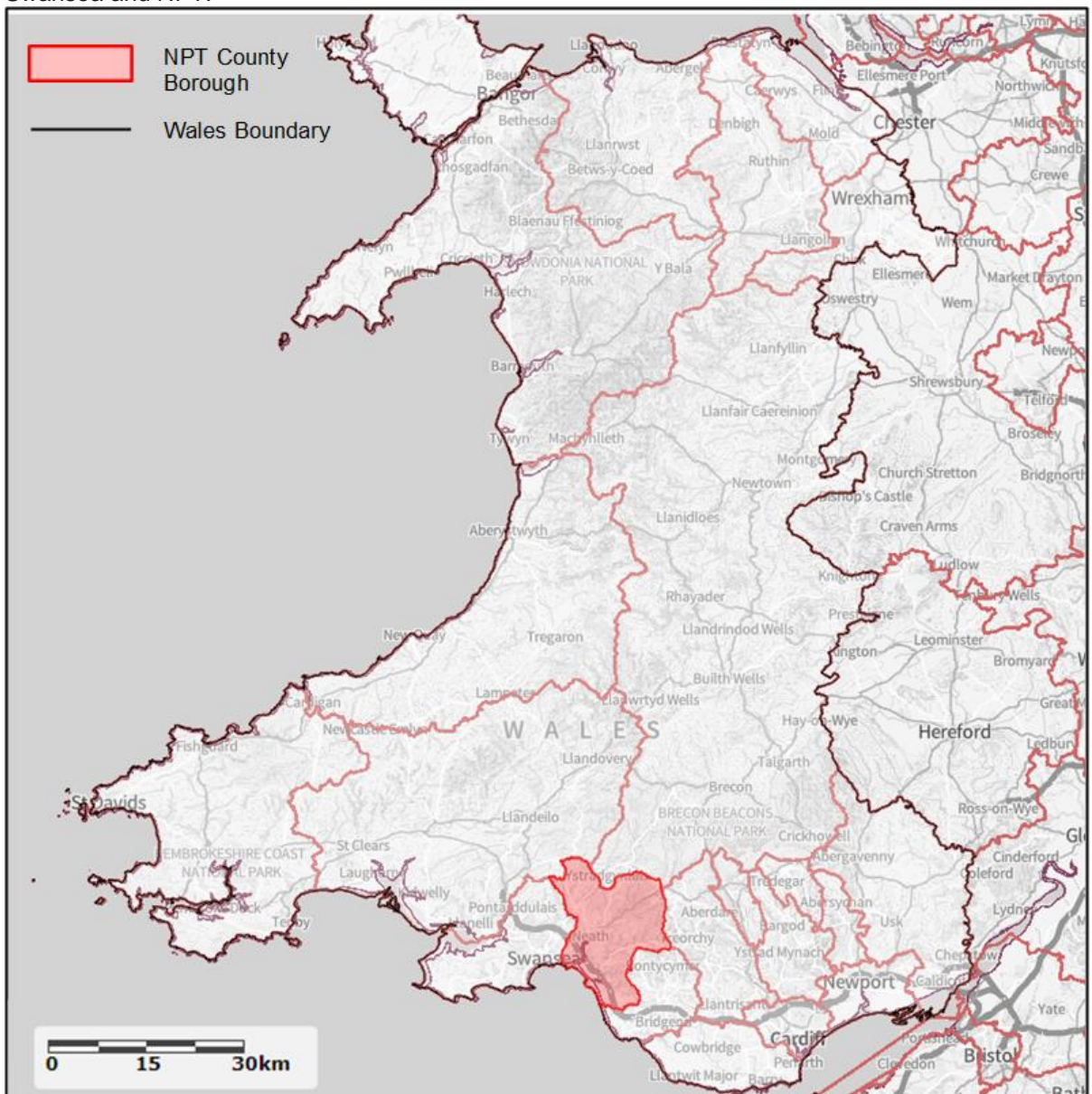


Figure 2.1 NPT Council Boundary

## 2.2 NPT Review Key Facts

- 2.2.1 Planning legislation requires all local planning authorities to commence a review of a LDP not later than 4 years from the date of adoption and to consider the need for a review following the publication of Future Wales.
- 2.2.2 This LDP Review is being undertaken to replace the NPTC LDP (2011-2026), adopted in January 2016. To undertake the LDP Review, Stantec UK is acting as the SEA Assessor on behalf of the Responsible Authority. The purpose of the Review is to inform the development of the new RLDP for NPTC and to update the SEA Consultation Bodies on the scope and progress of the new Plan as it progresses.
- 2.2.3 The NPT LDP Review will result in the preparation and adoption of a RLDP for NPT. This will set out new detailed planning policies and proposals for the future development and the use of all land. The RLDP will set a long-term strategic planning framework, helping to tackle the key sustainability and regeneration issues and realise the main development opportunities across NPT. It will cover a wide range of topics, including but not limited to housing land, economic development, regeneration, sustainable design, renewable energy, town centres, tourism, infrastructure provision and transport.
- 2.2.4 The expected date of adoption for the Replacement Plan is April 2027. The Plan will cover a time period of 15 years (2023 – 2038).

## 2.3 Call for Candidate Sites

- 2.3.1 The Call for Candidate Sites is the first formal stage in the preparatory stages of the RLDP following the agreement and publication of the DA. Through the Call for Candidate Sites, the Council has invited developers, landowners, site promoters, public bodies, service providers and others with an interest in land to submit sites which they wish to be considered as a potential allocation for either development or protection.
- 2.3.2 To be as effective as possible, the Detailed Candidate Sites Assessment has been incorporated in the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) for Candidate Sites to avoid assessment duplication. A refined set of sustainability indicators and a transparent scoring system has been adopted to allow prospective site promoters to consider the likely performance of their candidate site against the assessment criteria (See **Table C3** in **Appendix C**).
- 2.3.3 In addition to the sustainability indicators, a number of other site suitability criteria has also been taken into consideration such as impact on safeguarded freight facilities, site search sequence and Green Wedge etc.
- 2.3.4 An initial call for Candidate Sites was undertaken in 2022 and a further Call for Sites and a Call for Urban Capacity Sites were undertaken in 2023. All sites form part of the Candidate Site Register published alongside this ISA. All sites submitted have been considered as part of this process.

## 2.4 Proposed Form and Content of the NPT RLDP

- 2.4.1 The 2004 Act stipulates the process which must be undertaken for the LDP Review, in particular the preparation of LDP Pre-Deposit and Deposit Documents by the LPA, followed by an independent examination.
- 2.4.2 The 2004 Act and the 2015 Regulation prescribe the minimum content which must be included within any LDP, namely:
- The name of the area of the LPA for which the LDP is prepared;

- The date of adoption and period of the LDP;
  - The LPA's objectives in relation to the development and use of land in their area;
  - The LPA's general policies for the implementation of those objectives;
  - A proposals map of the LPA's area showing the proposals for the development and use of land; and,
  - A reasoned justification of the policies contained within the LDP.
- 2.4.3 In addition, LDPs typically include an overarching vision, suite of objectives and a spatial strategy, although none are specifically required under the 2004 Act or the 2015 Regulation.
- 2.4.4 In line with statutory requirements, two iterations of the emerging RLDP will be consulted on by NPTC, namely a Preferred Strategy – RLDP Pre-Deposit Document and then a full RLDP Deposit Plan (Deposit Document). This RLDP Deposit Plan will subsequently be subject to an independent examination, following which it will be considered for formal adoption as the RLDP for NPT. The ISA methodology is going to be applied, and the findings reported within iterative ISA Reports which will accompany the Preferred Strategy (RLDP Pre-Deposit) and Deposit Documents, with the ISA Report updated between these stages to reflect changes to the emerging RLDP:
- The ISA Report for the Preferred Strategy focuses on assessing LSE from the proposed RLDP options, spatial strategy and strategic policies; and,
  - The ISA Report for the RLDP Deposit Document is going to identify and assess all LSE from each substantive component of the RLDP Deposit Document, including all proposed site allocations and policies.
- 2.4.5 Following the completion of an independent examination of the RLDP Deposit Document, all binding recommendations made by the appointed Inspector will be subject to ISA (incorporating SEA) screening to determine whether they would give rise to any new or different LSE not previously reported within the ISA Report for the RLDP Deposit Document. This SEA Screening will be documented specifically within an ISA Addendum.
- 2.4.6 At this stage it is envisaged that the RLDP for NPT will comprise the following substantive components:
- Proposed RLDP vision and objectives;
  - A spatial strategy (and potential sub-area strategies) to implement the RLDP vision and objectives;
  - Strategic policies to implement the spatial strategy and RLDP objectives and to respond to key sustainability issues (Section 4.2 and Appendix A) and legislative requirements (Section 4.3 and Appendix B). In particular, strategic policies will need to implement specific requirements from the 2004 Act, the 2005 Regulation, PPW, The NPT Well-being Plan 2023 – 2028 and the WBFGA 2015;
  - Non-strategic policies to implement the spatial strategy and strategic policies through the development management process. This is likely to include areas based and thematic policies; and,
  - Site allocations.



- 2.4.7 The above list of intended RLDP components is not exhaustive and may change through the LDP Review. Each emerging substantive component of a NPT RLDP will need to be subject to ISA, incorporating SEA, in line with the approach set out within the Scoping Report (September 2023).
- 2.4.8 To comply with statutory and case law requirements, the RLDP will need to include a reasoned justification for the inclusion of each substantive component and be supported by a suite of evidence base documents. These will inform the ISA process as well as being required for plan preparation purposes.

## 3 Environmental and Policy Context

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Section 3.2 below provides a summary of baseline environmental and socio-economic conditions in order to identify a suite of key sustainability issues relevant to the LDP Review. **Section 3.3** then summarises the relationship between the NPT LDP and other relevant plans and programmes. Each section is supported by detailed baseline and policy reviews provided in **Appendices A** and **B** respectively.

### 3.2 Key Sustainability Issues

3.2.1 With reference to the topics prescribed within Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, a summary of the key sustainability issues identified in **Appendix A** which need to be addressed within the LDP Review (including objectives associated with the WBFGA 2015 and Equality Act 2010) is provided in **Table 3.1** below and taken account of in the associated ISA framework. This summary has also been informed by consideration of the likely evolution of baseline conditions in the absence of the LDP Review, as detailed in **Appendix A**. In short, this concludes that the absence of the LDP Review is likely to result in a planning policy vacuum within NPT which could lead to development coming forward in unsustainable locations and contrary to NPTC's preferred spatial strategy simply in order to meet identified needs, principally for new housing.

3.2.2 In most cases, it is recommended that the identified sustainability issues should be addressed within the ISA through the inclusion of relevant objectives within a framework ('the ISA Framework') which will be used to assess the likely sustainability and environmental effects of the RLDP. Full details regarding the proposed ISA Framework and constituent SA Objectives are set out in **Appendix C**.

3.2.3 The RLDP will need to take account of a range of new Acts, policy frameworks, initiatives, evidence and spatial issues at national, regional and local levels since the adoption of the current LDP. These can be summarised as follows:

- **Contextual Changes:** Changes deriving from economic and social fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic, the impacts of Brexit and renewed efforts to reduce societal inequalities. Evidence base changes associated with WG Population and Household projections; policy shifts introduced through Future Wales, the regional work associated with the formation of Strategic Development Plans (SDPs); the designation of the Port Talbot Waterfront Enterprise Zone, Celtic Freepoint designation to deliver an accelerated pathway for Wales' net zero economy, work of the Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys set up by the WG; and the significant economic restructuring taking place following the Tata transition.
- **Level and Spatial Distribution of Growth:** In a context of recent difficulty in achieving housing development targets, the level and spatial distribution of growth needs to be reconsidered to establish the most appropriate strategic approach to land use. This will entail developing a refreshed or new spatial strategy to underpin the RLDP;
- **Housing Land Supply.** The Review Report has identified a shortfall in housing delivery as one of the primary issues to be addressed in the RLDP; and,
- **Strategic Regeneration Areas:** Linked to issues around demand for land for housing and economic development, and a greater policy focus on viability within PPW, there will be a need to reconsider existing sites and allocate new effective sites. Future Wales identifies NPT, Swansea and Llanelli to be the main existing centre of population, employment and

services within the Swansea Bay and Llanelli National Growth Area (NGA), acknowledging the region's potential in decarbonisation and tourism-based diversification.

- 3.2.4 **New Policy Areas:** PPW – 12<sup>th</sup> gives more detailed information and guidance on the implementation of planning policy and achieving sustainable development in Wales. It integrates the well-being goals of the WBFGA provision into national planning policy. PPW sets out a presumption in favour of sustainable development, with an emphasis on placemaking, which is embodied as a fundamental principle to achieve sustainable places and cohesive communities. The document is structured into four main sections namely:
- i. **Strategic and Spatial Choices:** covering placemaking in action and strategic placemaking
  - ii. **Active and Social Places:** covering housing, travel and transport, retail / commercial activities and community uses;
  - iii. **Productive and Enterprising Places:** covering economic uses and infrastructure, energy and material resources; and
  - iv. **Distinctive and Natural Places:** covering the historic environment, green infrastructure, air quality, soundscape and de-risking.
- 3.2.5 Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets out the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty, which requires that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions, and in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems. The duty applies to water conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and amenity of inland and coastal waters and of land associated with such waters. The Section 6 duty is about taking steps to protect nature in our towns, cities, public places and wider landscape.
- 3.2.6 In addition, the WG has commenced the Socio-economic Duty (March 2021) under the Equality Act 2010 whilst NPTC has published their second Strategic Equality Plan (2020-2024) which focuses on enhancing health, well-being, community safety and quality of life for all. The plan also seeks to also improve staff training and implement the monitoring of data and information to identify and address disadvantages experienced by NPT residents. Overall, it seeks to improve access to services and information for all.

### **Sustainability Performance of the Adopted NPT LDP (2016)**

- 3.2.7 The LDP Review Report (NPTC, 2020) identifies a number of main issues which fall within the SA topics.
- **Population:** The Review Report notes that latest 2019 'Joint Housing Land Supply Availability Study' has identified a housing land supply of 4.5 years, below the required 5 years for the first time since the plan was adopted. In addition, falling residual values and increases in build costs over the Plan has impacted housing viability and associated delivery of affordable housing and other planning obligations. Following the revocation of TAN1 in March 2020, the Council no longer assesses its five-year housing supply position. Instead, in accordance with PPW and DPM, the Council publishes a housing trajectory as part of its AMR. The most recent AMR (2023) shows that the delivery of housing across NPT continues to fall behind the targets set out in the current LDP. Since the LDP base date (2011), the number of housing completions totals 2,559 dwellings compared to the annual cumulative target of 5,940. This shows that just 43% of the cumulative annual target has been delivered to date. With regard to employment, the current LDP monitoring framework sets a target to develop a minimum of 32ha of land on sites allocated for employment purposes up to 2026, aiming to deliver 2.5ha of land for

employment purposes over the remainder of the Plan period with a cumulative target of 5ha to be developed over any two-year period. The most recent AMR (2023) shows that the indicator was triggered in 2019 and that there had been no planning applications on allocated sites over the past monitoring year. Limited progress with regard to Strategic Regeneration Areas has also contributed to the shortfall. Indicators have also shown that there is a shortfall in the delivery of new small local retail development. With regard to the Workplace Employment, the current LDP monitoring framework sets a target to provide a net gain of 3,850 jobs up to 2026. An average gain of 442 jobs per annum from 2014 over the remainder of the Plan period with a cumulative target of 884 jobs over any 2-year period. The most recent AMR (2023) shows that this indicator has failed to meet its target in previous years, demonstrating generally mixed impacts in respect of this Objective;

- **Climate Change:** The indicators in respect of the SA climate change objectives suggest that the LDP is not fully meeting aspirations in respect of climate change adaptation or mitigation. In particular, since Plan adoption, there have been instances where proposals have been approved within flood risk and protected areas contrary to policy; the LDP density requirements are often not being met; and the number of renewable/low carbon energy schemes has been lower than expected;
- **Natural Resources:** In respect of the SA natural resources objectives, NPT have expressed concerns that low density development has an unnecessarily large impact per unit on natural resources generally;
- **Biodiversity and Geodiversity:** Targets of preventing net loss of biodiversity are not being met, partly due to developments having adverse effects on locally designated and protected areas and partly due to a lack of biodiversity enhancement within development sites or funded through developer contributions;
- **Landscape, Townscape and Historic Character:** A small number of developments have been permitted contrary to LDP policy on landscape and green wedges, giving rise to concerns about meeting the SA objective to protect and enhance the area's landscape and townscape;
- **Community Cohesion:** Indicators showing the loss of community facilities, approvals for new 'town centre uses' in out of-centre locations and shortfalls in delivery of new housing and affordable housing, open space, employment floorspace and small-scale local retail suggest some mixed impacts in respect of the SA social cohesion objective;
- **Health and Well-being:** Indicators showing loss of community facilities, shortfalls in open space provision and decreasing levels of workplace employment and economic activity suggest some mixed or negative impacts in respect of the SA objectives concerning health and poverty; and,
- **Material Assets:** Indicators showing difficulty in regenerating major brownfield sites with market conditions favouring, easier to develop, smaller scale land opportunities.

3.2.8 In summary, these issues give rise to a number of key Sustainability Issues which have been assessed alongside a review of the baseline environmental information identified in **Appendix A**. These are set out in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 ('the SEA Regulations') criteria.

**Table 3.1:** Key Sustainability Issues relating to the Neath Port Talbot LDP Review

SEA Topic	Key Sustainability Issues
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	<p>The need to conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity including important species and sites designated for reasons of biodiversity conservation or ecological importance. This relates to the protection of designated sites located within NPT as well as designated sites in neighbouring authorities, all of which have the potential to be affected by the LDP Review and development activity within NPT.</p> <p>The need to identify areas and/or opportunities to secure the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and deliver a net benefit while ensuring the avoidance of adverse effects on locally designated and protected areas.</p> <p>The need to safeguard and enhance the green infrastructure network and to maintain and enhance landscape and biodiversity connections between designated sites and habitats, both locally and at a landscape scale (i.e. within NPT and to those in neighbouring authorities).</p> <p>The need to protect and enhance ecosystem resilience and safeguard resilient ecological networks (RENS).</p> <p>The need to fully consider the implications of the nature emergency. In addressing the above key issues, there is also a specific need to satisfy the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty as prescribed within section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.</p>
Population (including relevant socio-economic issues)	<p>The need to maximise socio-economic benefits from the opportunities identified in the Swansea Bay and Llanelli NGA and in the implementation of the Swansea Bay City Region Deal, particularly for the advancement of energy and manufacturing technologies and related employment opportunities in NPT.</p> <p>The need to align with the preparation of a potential Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for South West Wales in accordance with the WG's expectations.</p> <p>The need to encourage co-operation between neighbouring authorities in Plan making to facilitate cross boundary growth and partnership working.</p> <p>The need to plan for meeting the needs of an ageing population.</p>

SEA Topic	Key Sustainability Issues
	<p>The need to support the achievement of the NPT Local Wellbeing Objectives as part of meeting the sustainable development requirements (as set out in Section 3 of the WBFGA 2015).</p> <p>The need to deliver a sufficient quantum of good quality and well-located new housing to meet a range of identified needs.</p> <p>The need to deliver economic growth and increase employment opportunities, including for local residents. The need to tackle inequality of access to educational, training and employment opportunities.</p> <p>The need to tackle deprivation, including areas with existing deprivation linked to poor accessibility to key services, facilities and economic opportunities.</p> <p>The need to ensure that community facilities and services are appropriate and accessible to users to meet the diverse needs of residents and workers.</p> <p>The need to improve the accessibility of key destinations within NPT and to other key locations through enhancing the transport network.</p>
Human Health	<p>The need to enhance all aspects of the health and wellbeing of the population, including physical health, mental health, social wellbeing, safety and security.</p> <p>The need to protect and enhance access to community facilities, healthcare facilities, high quality open space provision and active travel routes for all residents.</p> <p>The need to create safe, healthy and livable urban environments.</p> <p>The need to support the achievement of the NPT Local Wellbeing Objectives to improve the health of all NPT residents.</p> <p>The need to support the aims of the South West Wales Area Statement in relation to the 'Reducing Health Inequalities' theme.</p>

SEA Topic	Key Sustainability Issues
	<p>The need to address harassment and discrimination experienced by some residents with additional requirements.</p> <p>The need to monitor data and information with regard to the improvement in health for all residents.</p>
Soil	<p>The need to encourage and/or facilitate development on previously developed land. The need to safeguard the best and most versatile agricultural land from development.</p> <p>The need to maximise the efficient use of available land and prioritise the redevelopment of brownfield land.</p> <p>The need to safeguard geodiversity, important soil resources and to remediate areas of known contamination, particularly at post-industrial sites.</p> <p>The need to reduce emissions and nitrate pollution from agriculture.</p> <p>The need to minimise soil erosion and the loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces.</p> <p>The need to protect, enhance and restore important soil resources, including peatlands.</p> <p>The need to support the aims of the South West Wales Area Statement in protecting, enhancing and restoring important soil resources in relation to the 'Ensuring Sustainable Land Management theme'.</p>
Water	<p>The need to protect and enhance the quality of water resources and the water environment. This extends to the protection of cross-boundary watercourses which flow through NPT and to the River Neath and River Afan which flow into Swansea Bay. It also requires the protection, maintenance and enhancement of drainage infrastructure. This includes the consideration of opportunities for integrated water catchment management as set out in the Swansea Bay 'Opportunity Catchment Areas' described in the third cycle River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) (2021-2027)</p> <p>The need to address impacts on water quality across the borough caused by point source pollution as a result of NPT's industrial profile.</p> <p>The need to locate new development away from areas of flood risk, to fully mitigate potential flood risks from all</p>

SEA Topic	Key Sustainability Issues
	sources, and to future-proof flood defences.
Air	<p>The need to minimise the emissions of air pollutants.</p> <p>The need to safeguard and improve air quality, including through addressing areas with poor air quality.</p> <p>The need to address the poor air quality that resulted in the announcement of a public health crisis declared by Public Health Wales, particularly with regard to ammonia.</p>
Climatic Factors	<p>The need to ensure that the built environment and infrastructure is resilient and adaptable to the effects of climate change, taking account of the coastal location of NPT.</p> <p>The need to ensure that ecosystems and the natural environment are resilient and able to adapt to climate change.</p> <p>The need to mitigate climate change including through the decarbonisation of key economic sectors.</p> <p>The need to ensure that the RLDP meets aspiration in respect of climate change adaptation or mitigation. In particular, proposals contrary to policy within flood risk and protected areas and those failing to meet density requirements should not be approved.</p> <p>The need to encourage the development of renewable/low carbon energy schemes in NPT. The need to mitigate air and water quality impacts caused by industrial uses in the borough. The need to mitigate and address the climate emergency declared by the WG in April 2019.</p> <p>The need to support the aims of the South West Wales Area Statement in mitigating and adapting to climate change in relation to the aims of the 'Mitigating and Adapting to a Changing Climate' theme.</p> <p>The need to mitigate and address the nature emergency declared by the WG in June 2021.</p> <p>The need to support the aims of Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) in addressing coastal erosion.</p>



SEA Topic	Key Sustainability Issues
Material Assets	<p>The need to maximise the efficient use of land, natural resources and existing infrastructure. This includes the need to prioritise the redevelopment of brownfield land, the re-use and recycling of materials, and the minimization of waste sent to landfill.</p> <p>The need to address socio-economic impacts in areas experiencing post-industrial decline through new development.</p> <p>The need to understand the impacts on natural resources due to footprint of development.</p> <p>The need to identify opportunities for action to create healthy places for people as set out in the DISRUPT framework in the Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR 2020).</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>The need to preserve, protect and enhance historic assets and their settings within NPT. The need to safeguard and support growth in the use of the Welsh language.</p>
Landscape	<p>The need to protect and enhance landscape character, townscape character, key views, and visual amenity. This extends to the protection of landscapes in the parts of NPT within the Brecon Beacons National Park and in other neighbouring authorities, as well as seascape character including heritage coasts and marine character areas.</p> <p>The need to protect tranquility and address light pollution issues as set out in the Technical Advice Note (TAN) 11: Noise and TAN 12: Design</p>
Inter-related effects	<p>The need to deliver holistic improvements to wellbeing and to contribute to the delivery of sustainable development across NPT, particularly with regard to the promotion of social cohesion.</p> <p>The need to promote access to services and information for all to ensure equality of access for residents with additional needs.</p>

- 3.2.9 The key sustainability issues listed in **Table 3.1** are evidenced within relevant Background and Topic Papers prepared for the LDP Review and reflected in the substantive proposals set out within the RLDP Preferred Strategy. In overall terms, this helps to ensure that the direction of travel for the emerging RLDP responds to key sustainability issues as identified through the SA process. However, it is still necessary to examine each emerging substantive component of the emerging RLDP individually and in combination to determine their likely significant effects and to what extent they contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

### **3.3 Relationship between the LDP Review and Other Relevant Plans and Programmes**

- 3.3.1 The following types of plans and programmes were examined for their relevance to the LDP Review and this ISA:

- International conventions and treaties;
- European Directives and associated legislation;
- Legislation enacted by the UK Parliament and the WG; and,
- Policy documents and strategies published at the national, regional and local levels, including by the UK Government, the WG (and its agencies), NPTC and the NPT Public Service Board (NPTPSB).

#### **Implications of Recent Changes to Welsh National Planning Policy**

- 3.3.2 On 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021, Future Wales was published by the WG. In 2024, PPW 12<sup>th</sup> Edition was also updated by the WG. The publication of Future Wales, along with the LDP forms part of the statutory development plan for Wales. PPW 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, TAN1, TAN8 and the Wales Spatial Plan are now revoked. The main implications of the publication of these documents are outlined below:

- **Future Wales**
  - The implementation of a four-region approach, containing three NGA and 11 Regional Growth Areas (RGAs);
  - The introduction of specific climate change targets, namely that 70% of electricity consumption is to be generated from renewable energy by 2030, one gigawatt of renewable energy capacity is to be locally owned by 2030 and that new renewable energy projects to have at least an element of local ownership from 2020;
  - The removal of TAN8 and Strategic Search Areas (SSA), replaced by Pre- Assessed Areas for Wind Energy, covering c. 281,0000 hectares (from a previous 77,000 ha for SSAs) and the introduction of Priority Areas for District Heat Networks;
  - The need for preparation of SDPs in conformity with Future Wales (of which NPT forms part of the South West Wales SDP). The SDPs should consider strategic regional issues including future growth areas, housing demand, economic development, transport and green infrastructure, responding to the Future Wales Outcomes in Chapter 3 of Future Wales and,
  - NPT is identified as part of the Swansea Bay and Llanelli NGA (Policy 28) Strategic and LDP should recognise the NGA as the focus for strategic economic and housing growth; essential services and facilities; advanced manufacturing; transport and digital infrastructure.

■ **PPW 12<sup>th</sup> Edition**

- PPW gives more detailed information and guidance on the implementation of planning policy and achieving sustainable development in Wales. It integrates the well-being goals of the WBFGA provision into national planning policy. PPW sets out a presumption in favour of sustainable development, with an emphasis on placemaking, which is embodied as a fundamental principle to achieve sustainable places and cohesive communities. The document is structured into four main sections:
  - Strategic & Spatial Choices: covering placemaking in action and strategic placemaking;
  - Active & Social Places: covering housing, travel and transport, retail / commercial activities and community uses;
  - Productive & Enterprising Places: covering economic uses and infrastructure, energy and material resources; and
  - Distinctive & Natural Places: covering the historic environment, green infrastructure, air quality, soundscape and de-risking.

3.3.3 Strengthened commitment to renewable energies to address the Climate Emergency in support of the targets announced by Future Wales. A detailed review of the other plans and programmes identified as relevant to the LDP Review is provided in **Appendix B**. From this review, it is clear that the RLDP should:

- Align with relevant national planning policy requirements as set out within PPW – 12th Edition (2024).
- Seek to capitalise on the socio-economic opportunities presented by the Swansea Bay City Deal Project and the Swansea Bay and Llanelli NGA;
- Align with Future Wales and the requirement for the preparation of a SDP for South West Wales;
- Seek to enhance all aspects of health and wellbeing for the population of NPT, including through providing high quality health infrastructure, improving physical and mental health and providing opportunities to enhance social wellbeing. In accordance with Section 3 of the WBFGA, the LDP Review (resulting in the adoption of a RLDP) should contribute to sustainable development and support the achievement of locally defined wellbeing objectives as set out within the NPT Well-being Plan 2023 – 2028.
- Secure sustainable economic growth and inward investment across NPT through allocating suitable sites for development and by delivering the infrastructure required to increase connectivity, improve community and social infrastructure and increase access to high quality employment and economic opportunities. It will also be important for the RLDP to set out a spatial strategy which maximises the economic competitiveness of NPT and improves social wellbeing, taking account of its position on the hinterland of the Swansea City Region and its current socio-economic conditions;
- Identify and plan to meet the needs of all residents and workers within NPT, in particular with respect to the provision of adequate community infrastructure;
- Deliver well-designed and affordable homes to meet identified housing needs, including providing a range of sizes and tenures;
- Reduce car dependencies and improve active travel infrastructure;

- Deliver improved and expanded transport links, public transport and enhanced communications infrastructure, both to communities within NPT and to key destinations in neighbouring authorities;
- Protect and enhance access to high quality outdoor sports facilities, parks and open spaces;
- Conserve, preserve, protect and enhance sites designated at international, national and local levels for reasons of biodiversity conservation, ecological importance, geological importance or heritage significance, in ways appropriate to their status;
- Develop effective community engagement techniques to respond to the views of wider communities and facilitate effective community cohesion;
- Promote the efficient use of resources, including moving towards a low carbon economy, use of waste as a resource, energy efficient buildings, and appropriate renewable and low carbon energy;
- Take measures to protect air quality levels and aim to mitigate any activity which could affect air quality levels across NPT;
- Ensure there are no significant negative impacts on internationally and nationally designated nature sites (refer to separate HRA Initial Screening Report for further details);
- Give full consideration to the potential impacts on water, including water quality, ecosystems, sustainable use of water, capacity of sewerage, flood risk and the opportunities to improve flood risk management;
- Seek ways to maximise multi-functional green infrastructure coverage and ensure they provide a network of linked wildlife corridors (across a wide range of scales and increase ecosystems services including biodiversity);
- Seek ways to maximise the health benefits of green infrastructure;
- Use land efficiently by prioritising the use of previously developed land;
- Consider soil quality and agricultural land classification when assessing potential development sites;
- Recognise the different landscapes in the NPTC area and their capacity to accommodate change; and,
- Promote development that minimises landscape impacts and protects landscapes appropriate to their significance.

3.3.4 To ensure that the LDP Review addresses the key policy issues listed above, it will be necessary for them to be considered throughout the ISA. As with the identified key sustainability issues (**Section 3.2** above), this will be done through the application of a holistic ISA Framework, including constituent ISA Objectives, as a core element of the ISA process. The proposed ISA Framework to support the NPT LDP Review is detailed in **Section 4**.

## **4 The Sustainability Appraisal Process**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 This section provides an overview of the SA process, incorporating SEA, which has been undertaken to date for the emerging NPT RLDP. In doing so the section explains the approach which has been adopted for undertaking the SA of the Pre-Deposit Document

### **4.2 Review of the Existing NPT LDP SEA Framework**

- 4.2.1 In accordance with the SEA Regulations, the purpose of SEA is to identify, assess and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of a qualifying plan, programme or strategy. Under the 2004 Act, the purpose of SA is to assess the contribution of a LDP to delivering sustainable development. SA and SEA therefore share a common focus on assessing environmental and wider sustainability performance and can be undertaken and reported together, as in this report.
- 4.2.2 A common objective of SA, incorporating SEA, is to enhance the environmental and wider sustainability performance of emerging plans and programmes. This is achieved through identifying any likely significant effects from implementation of the emerging plan as drafted, proposing mitigation measures to address any identified significant adverse environmental effects, and identifying enhancement measures to improve the overall performance of the plan as it evolves. As such, SA incorporating SEA is an integral part of good development planning and should not be viewed as a separate or retrospective activity. This means that SA, incorporating SEA, should be undertaken in respect of each emerging substantive component or proposal for an emerging plan at the time when the relevant component or proposal is itself being consulted on.
- 4.2.3 A review of the existing NPT LDP SEA Framework has been conducted in the SEA Scoping Report (September 2023). The review considered the continuing validity of the current SA Objectives, including in the context of the LDP Review now being subject to a broader ISA process.

### **4.3 SA Project Team**

- 4.3.1 The SA of the emerging RLDP is being undertaken independently by Stantec UK on behalf of NPTC.
- 4.3.2 The independence of the consultant team involved in carrying out this SA helps to ensure the objectivity of the SA and to identify components requiring improvement throughout its development. This allows independent mitigation and enhancement recommendations to be developed and implemented as the emerging RLDP evolves in order to improve its effectiveness.

### **4.4 Previous ISA and SEA Reporting**

#### **ISA and SEA Screening and Scoping**

- 4.4.1 In September 2023 an ISA Scoping Report, incorporating SEA screening, was consulted on with the SEA Consultation Bodies.
- 4.4.2 The dual purpose of the ISA Scoping Report was to provide relevant information to enable the SEA Consultation Bodies to consider the need for SEA and to form a view on the consultation period and scope/level of detail appropriate for ISA Report(s) to accompany each substantive component of the emerging RLDP. A key objective of the ISA Scoping Report was to identify

an evidence-based SA Framework to assess, in a systematic way, the likely sustainability effects from substantive components of the emerging RLDP. The ISA Framework comprises:

- The proposed ISA Objectives (see **Table C1 of Appendix C**);
- A suite of relevant Guide Questions relating to each ISA Objective (**Table C2 of Appendix C2**). Subject to views expressed by the relevant Consultation Bodies, this will be used in a qualitative assessment of each emerging substantive component of the RLDP, and any identified reasonable alternatives, to proportionately identify their LSE; and
- A suite of sustainability indicators which are proposed to be considered in the assessment of candidate sites being carried out by NPTC. These indicators are designed to guide NPTC in the site assessment process. The indicators will support a legally compliant ISA that identifies statutory impacts assessment requirements. An integrated site selection and ISA site assessment process will be possible through the framework to avoid assessment duplication. These are detailed in **Table C2 and C3 of Appendix C**.

#### **4.5 Informal Consultation on Key Issues, Vision, Objectives, Growth and Spatial options**

- 4.5.1 As part of the evidence base for the RLDP, NPTC held an informal consultation on the Key issues, Vision, Objectives, Growth and Spatial Options from 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
- 4.5.2 Comments received during this informal consultation have helped to inform the RLDP's Preferred Strategy.

#### **4.6 Engagement with SEA Consultation Bodies**

- 4.6.1 Statutory consultees (Natural Resources Wales and Cadw) were consulted on the Draft (Amended) Integrated Sustainability Assessment Scoping Report (ISASR) for a five-week period between 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023. No responses were received from the statutory consultees during the consultation period.

#### **4.7 Preparation of this ISA Report**

##### **Overview**

- 4.7.1 Building upon previous ISA reporting, this ISA Report has been prepared to accompany the RLDP Pre-Deposit Documents, i.e. the Preferred Strategy and associated Background Papers. This ISA Report presents the findings of an appraisal carried out to identify, assess and evaluate the LSE of the substantive proposals contained within the Preferred Strategy. In doing so, each substantive component or proposal, together with any identified reasonable alternatives (see below), have been subject to assessment against the 13 ISA Objectives defined within the finalised NPT LDP Review ISA Framework (**Appendix C**). The findings of this ISA are documented in this report.

##### **Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives**

- 4.7.2 The SEA Regulations require the LSE of implementing a plan or programme (i.e. the emerging RLDP) and reasonable alternatives to it to be examined, as well as the rationale for identifying reasonable alternatives to be described. The SEA Regulations further state that to be considered as reasonable alternatives, options (e.g. alternative policy criteria or site allocations) must relate to the plan or programmes' corresponding objectives and geographical scope. To be eligible for consideration in this SA process (incorporating SEA), reasonable alternatives must therefore be:

- Realistic, in that they are plausible alternatives which could be implemented instead of proposals within the emerging RLDP and are consistent with relevant national and other policy frameworks.
- Related to the objectives of the emerging RLDP.
- Within the geographical scope of the emerging RLDP, i.e. any reasonable alternatives would need to relate to the distribution or characteristics of future development within the NPT area.

4.7.3 Reflecting the content of the Preferred Strategy, reasonable alternatives at this point could be in respect of strategic framework elements (Vision, Objectives or Growth and Spatial Strategy) or strategic implementation mechanisms (Key Sites and Strategic Policies):

- **Vision and Objectives:** as reasonable alternatives must relate to the objectives of the plan under consideration, no reasonable alternatives to the proposed LDP Vision or Objectives contained within the Preferred Strategy could be identified, as any alternatives would change the strategic direction of the emerging RLDP. However, recommendations to further improve the effectiveness of these components have been identified, as detailed in **Section 5**.
- **Growth and Spatial Strategy:** The options, which can be considered as reasonable alternatives, were subject to informal consultation as reported in the Growth and Spatial Options Background paper, accompanying the Preferred Strategy. In accordance with Regulations 12.3(d) of the SEA Regulations, these reasonable alternatives to the proposed strategic framework elements of the RLDP Preferred Strategy do not need to be re-assessed and no new reasonable alternatives have been identified.
- **Key Sites:** Three Call for Site exercises have been undertaken by NPTC: the first in Spring 2022 which elicited 229 candidate site responses, the second in Autumn/ Winter 2023 which elicited 77 Candidate Sites, and the third, a call for urban capacity sites in Autumn/ Winter 2023 which elicited 167 sites.

As reported in the Key Sites Paper, 9 sites have been identified by NPT as Key Sites. These are sites which provide either over 250 homes, or infrastructure, or employment of a certain scale. All Candidate Sites have been filtered according to whether they are able to deliver 10 dwellings and fundamental constraints. Sites successfully filtered, and urban capacity sites, have been considered as potentially being reasonable alternatives (subject to deliverability) and subject to an equal level of site assessment using criteria aligned with the NPT LDP Review ISA Framework (**Appendix C**).

- **Strategic Policies:** the rationale for the development of individual proposed strategic policies is explained fully within the Preferred Strategy. In all cases, the strategic policy is considered necessary either to implement higher level statutory and national policy requirements or otherwise to address identified key issues. The identified need for each policy combined with their high-level nature and the absence of detailed implementation criteria (which will follow at Deposit stage) means that at this stage it has not been possible to identify specific reasonable alternatives to the proposed strategic policies. However, as detailed in **Section 5**, a series of recommendations have been developed to improve the effectiveness and clarity of the proposed strategic policies at Deposit Document stage. By definition, the implementation of these recommendations would alter the strategic policies and improve their sustainability performance.

## ISA Reporting

- 4.7.4 All substantive components and proposals set out within the RLDP Pre-Deposit Documents, i.e. the RLDP Preferred Strategy, were appraised using matrices to identify their compatibility with the SA Objectives defined within the NPT LDP Review SA Framework (**Appendix C**).
- 4.7.5 The SA of the strategic framework elements of the RLDP Preferred Strategy is detailed in **Appendix D** and summarised in **Section 5.2**. Owing to the high-level nature of the proposed strategic framework elements of the RLDP Preferred Strategy (LDP Vision, Objectives and Growth and Spatial Strategy) it was not possible to identify with any certainty whether these components would themselves be likely to result in significant effects. Rather, the focus of the SA at this stage was on ensuring sufficient coverage of the identified key sustainability issues within the strategic framework when read as a whole to allow these issues to be addressed in more detail through other components of the RLDP which will ultimately seek to implement the strategic framework elements. The matrices and scoring system adopted also allowed for any incompatibilities, inconsistencies or uncertainties to be noted and for associated mitigation and enhancement recommendations to be developed.
- 4.7.6 As reported in Key Sites Paper, 9 sites have been identified by NPT as Key Sites. These are sites which provide either over 250 homes, or infrastructure, or employment of a certain scale. All Candidate Sites have been filtered according to whether they are able to deliver 10 dwellings and fundamental constraints. Sites successfully filtered, and urban capacity sites, have been considered as potentially being reasonable alternatives and subject to an equal level of site assessment using criteria aligned with the NPT LDP Review ISA Framework (**Appendix C**).
- 4.7.7 The SA of the suite of proposed strategic policies within the RLDP Preferred Strategy is detailed in **Appendix E** and summarised in **Section 5.4**. For reasons of proportionality, each thematic group of strategic policies was assessed together in a single matrix. Whilst the policies are necessarily high level, the inclusion of specific commitments, requirements and policy tests within them allowed a relatively detailed level of SA (incorporating SEA) to be undertaken. The policy appraisal matrices therefore focus on identifying likely significant effects where possible, rather than simply considering the compatibility of proposed strategic policies with the NPT RLDP SA Framework (**Appendix C**).
- 4.7.8 Where the SA identified uncertainties, inconsistencies or the potential incompatibility of an assessed component with a SA Objectives (or, more widely, with the NPT LDP Review SA Framework), corresponding mitigation and enhancement recommendations to address these issues would be developed by the SA project team for NPTC's consideration.



## 5 SA Findings

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section provides the results of the SA, incorporating SEA, undertaken for each constituent part of the NPT RLDP Pre-Deposit Documents, i.e. the RLDP Preferred Strategy. The following plan components have been subject to SEA and are considered below in turn:

- Strategic Framework:
  - LDP Vision;
  - Objectives; and,
  - Growth and Spatial Strategy
- Implementation:
  - Key Sites; and,
  - Strategic Policies

5.1.2 This section of the ISA Report summarises the findings from the SA, whereas the detailed SA matrices for each plan component are provided separately in the following appendices:

- **Appendix D – SA of LDP Strategic Framework;** and,
- **Appendix E – SA of Strategic Policies**

5.1.3 The detailed methodology for SA shall refer to ISA Scoping Report (September, 2023). **Sections 5.2 – 5.4** below identify (pre-mitigation) likely environmental and sustainability effects from these substantive components.

### 5.2 SA of Proposed LDP Strategic Framework

5.2.1 The RLDP Vision, Strategic Objectives and Growth and Spatial Strategy components of the RLDP Preferred Strategy seek to provide an overarching strategic framework to underpin all other components of the emerging RLDP including policies and site allocations. As such it is vital that the LDP Vision and Objectives include sufficient and unambiguous coverage of all key sustainability issues to allow them to be addressed in more detail through other, non-strategic components of the RLDP.

#### Vision

5.2.2 The RLDP Preferred Strategy sets out a Vision for the growth of NPT over the RLDP period to 2038. The vision set out the aspirations for the county borough and expectations for how change and development should be accommodated over the plan period. The plan vision should be influenced by and be aligned with other similar visions set out in other relevant plans and strategies. Visions taken into account as part of this process include the first NPT LDP Vision, the Future Wales Outcomes, and the NPT Well-being Objectives.

5.2.3 Future Wales and the NPT Corporate Plan and Well-being Plan all express their visions as a series of desired outcomes, and a similar approach is proposed for the RLDP, identifying a desired outcome for each of the Key Issues /topic areas, as set out below.

- 5.2.4 Full details of the process of developing the Vision, including stakeholder input, are set out in the Key Issues, Vision and Objectives Background Paper. In total, 14 RLDP draft outcomes have been identified.
- 5.2.5 During the preparation of the RLDP, a SA was undertaken of a draft LDP Vision. It was considered that the RLDP Vision provided a good coverage and compatibility across the sustainability topics. Some further suggestions were proposed to include placemaking issues and the support of resilient ecological networks. The RLDP Vision was then amended and therefore devised through the SA process. This amended Vision was informally consulted on May 2024. Building upon this previous work, the LDP Preferred Strategy now sets out a fuller version of the RLDP Vision previously consulted on. The SA of the RLDP is given in **Table D1** of **Appendix D**.

## Objectives

- 5.2.6 The RLDP Objectives are intended to set out what the plan is aiming to achieve in respect of each of the topics, in order to meet the outcomes contained in the vision. The objectives are therefore aligned to both the key issues and the outcomes.
- 5.2.7 During the preparation of the RLDP, the following suggestions in **Table 5.1** were made to the draft RLDP objectives:

**Table 5.1:** Suggestions to draft RLDP Objectives

Draft RLDP Objectives	Recommendation
NO1	Wording could be clearer that this objective covers adaptation to climate change. Suggested edit: NO1. Minimise the causes and <u>adapt to the</u> current and predicted impacts of climate change through: Minimising greenhouse gas emissions; Requiring appropriate location and design of development; and the protection and enhancement of all environmental assets <u>which support</u> climate adaptation.
NO2	As with clause 2 of the Draft Vision, NO2 is limited to the statutory provision of biodiversity net gain in new developments. Suggest enhancing in line with amendments proposed for the Vision.
NO3	support for a healthy local environment for active and healthier lifestyles is limited to new developments. Suggest broadening to consider the existing developments as well.
NO4	Suggest green economic growth being encouraged whilst conserving the environment as a whole (rather than limiting it to landscape countryside and undeveloped coast).
NO7	Wording suggestions to strengthen the objective: Deliver sufficient <u>good quality</u> new homes of <u>the required types</u> in the <u>most suitable</u> locations to meet the identified need'. Suggest also expanding this objective to protect the existing housing stock.
NO8	There is a need to extend this objective to support retention of existing community, retail, employment and recreational facilities. Suggest amending the wordings into 'Encourage and support the <u>retention and</u> provision of a mix of.'
NO12	Suggest ' <u>undeveloped coast</u> ' is added in (particularly if this is deleted from NO4 as per above comment).
NO13	Wording suggestion to strengthen the objective 'Ensure that flood risk, coastal change and pollution issues are appropriately <u>avoided</u> , addressed and adverse

Draft RLDP Objectives	Recommendation
	impacts minimised.’
Others	The objectives don’t offer any support in terms of sustainable land use (redevelopment of PDL, avoiding loss of greenfield sites, directing development to more sustainable locations). It is appreciated that this is covered in the Vision and Spatial Strategy, should it also be within the Objectives.

5.2.8 The proposed RLDP Vision is supported by a set of 14 Objectives which indicate how the vision will be achieved, as listed in **Table 5.2** below. As with the Key Issues and Vision, these have taken into account stakeholder engagement and full details of the development process are set out in the Key Issues, Vision and Objectives Background Paper.

5.2.9 A detailed assessment of the compatibility and coverage of the proposed LDP Objectives against the SA Objectives from the NPT LDP Review SA Framework (**Appendix C**) is provided in **Table D1** of **Appendix D**. **Table 5.3** summarises this appraisal and indicates the coverage of key sustainability objectives across the suite of proposed LDP Objectives.

**Table 5.2:** Proposed RLDP Objectives

Objective Title	Objective Wordings
NO1	Minimise the causes and adapt to the current and predicted impacts of climate change through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimising greenhouse gas emissions;</li> <li>• Requiring appropriate location and design of development; and</li> <li>• The protection and enhancement of all environmental assets required for climate adaptation and resilience.</li> </ul>
NO2	Achieve a net biodiversity benefit and enhanced ecosystems resilience from new developments across the county borough.
NO3	Ensure all new developments provide a healthy local environment that encourages more active and healthier lifestyles for all age groups.
NO4	Realise the full benefits of green economic growth across the county borough to provide fully sustainable communities in all localities while conserving NPT's environment.
NO5	Support, enhance and enrich the distinctiveness of NPT's communities, including use of the Welsh language, through positive placemaking actions at a local level.
NO6	Reduce spatial inequalities in travel and transport across the county borough by improvements to Active Travel and public transport links and services, especially in valleys areas.
NO7	Deliver sufficient good quality new homes of the required types in the most suitable locations to meet the identified need.
NO8	Encourage and support the retention and provision of a mix of community, retail, employment and recreational facilities in appropriate locations across the county borough.
NO9	Encourage and enable the establishment and growth of new clean green technologies and industries to promote and maintain a leading role for NPT in the national and international renewables and industrial economies.
NO10	Ensure that all areas of NPT are able to benefit from economic growth and from modern economic infrastructure, including visitor attractions, appropriate to meet their economic, social, environmental and cultural needs and aspirations.
NO11	Enable NPT to make an appropriate contribution to renewable and low carbon energy generation while encouraging all appropriate steps to be taken to reduce energy demand and improve efficiency across all sectors.
NO12	Conserve and safeguard mineral resources, reserves and infrastructure while making an appropriate and a proportionate contribution to the supply of minerals to meet local, regional and national need while ensuring adverse impacts are minimised and the provision of appropriate waste treatment, recycling and disposal facilities and processes are facilitated.
NO13	Ensure the conservation, protection and enhancement of NPT's natural and historic assets and environments, Green Infrastructure, landscapes, undeveloped coast and coastal areas.

Objective Title	Objective Wordings
NO14	Ensure that environmental issues and future changes including flood risk, coastal and fluvial change and pollution issues are appropriately avoided, addressed and adverse impacts minimised.

**Table 5.3:** Relationship between RLDP Objectives and SA Objectives

SA Objectives	RLDP Objectives Demonstrating Compatibility	Incompatibilities or Gaps in Coverage?
1. Health and Wellbeing: Improve the health and wellbeing of the population, including with respect to physical and mental health, social wellbeing and community safety, including through context appropriate soundscapes and reductions in addressing light pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NO1, NO2, NO3, NO4, NO5, NO6, NO7, NO8, NO10, NO11, NO13, NO14</li> </ul>	None identified
2. Equality and Social Inclusion: Reduce poverty and inequalities, advance equality of opportunity, reduce socio-economic disadvantage, tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NO1, NO2, NO3, NO4, NO5, NO6, NO7, NO8, NO9, NO10, NO11, NO13, NO14</li> </ul>	None identified
3. Transport and Communications: Enhance the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets through improving infrastructure and creating a sustainable transport network, whilst also ensuring access to high quality communications and utilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NO1, NO3, NO4, NO5, NO6, NO7, NO8, NO9, NO10, NO11</li> </ul>	None identified
4. Inclusive Economic Growth: Increase the number and quality of employment opportunities and improve educational and skill levels while maximising the economic contribution of NPT to the Swansea Bay City Region, including through diversifying and strengthening the local economic base.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NO3, NO4, NO5, NO6, NO7, NO8, NO9, NO10</li> </ul>	None identified

SA Objectives	RLDP Objectives Demonstrating Compatibility	Incompatibilities or Gaps in Coverage?
5. Housing: Provide a sufficient quantum and range of good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NO2, NO3, NO4, NO5, NO6, NO7, NO8, NO10</li> </ul>	None identified
6. Air Quality: Prevent and reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and minimise exposure to poor air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NO1, NO2, NO3, NO4, NO5, NO6, NO7, NO8, NO11, NO13, NO14</li> </ul>	None identified
7. Climate Change: Adopt appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NO1, NO2, NO3, NO4, NO5, NO6, NO7, NO8, NO11, NO13, NO14</li> </ul>	None identified
8. Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil: Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests, including through safeguarding important sites and species, improving green infrastructure provision and safeguarding important soil resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NO1, NO2, NO3, NO4, NO5, NO7, NO8, NO13, NO14</li> </ul>	None identified
9. Water and Flood Risk: Conserve, protect and enhance water and coastal environments, water quality and water resources, whilst reducing the risk of flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NO1, NO2, NO3, NO4, NO5, NO7, NO8, NO13, NO14</li> </ul>	None identified
10. Materials Assets and Waste: Contribute to the implementation of the circular economy, manage waste with minimal environmental impacts and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including for energy generation and providing an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NO1, NO7, NO11, NO12, NO14</li> </ul>	None identified
11. Sustainable Placemaking: Maximise the efficient use of land and enhance design quality to create great places for people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NO1, NO2, NO3, NO4, NO5, NO6, NO7, NO8, NO10, NO11, NO12, NO13, NO14</li> </ul>	None identified

SA Objectives	RLDP Objectives Demonstrating Compatibility	Incompatibilities or Gaps in Coverage?
12. Cultural Heritage and Welsh Language: Conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets, including the use of the Welsh language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NO1, NO2, NO3, NO5, NO7, NO8, NO10, NO13, NO14</li> </ul>	None identified
13. Landscape: Protect and enhance the landscape character, visual amenity and legibility of settlements in NPT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NO1, NO2, NO4, NO5, NO7, NO8, NO13, NO14</li> </ul>	None identified

5.2.10 As with the proposed RLDP Vision, the proposed Objectives are aspirational and generally compatible with achieving beneficial sustainability outcomes. Additionally, the appraisal provided in **Table D1** of **Appendix D** demonstrates that, read as a whole, the suite of proposed Objectives has good coverage of most of the SA Objectives within the NPT LDP SA Framework

### Growth and Spatial Strategy

5.2.11 In accordance with statutory requirements, the RLDP Preferred Strategy sets out a new growth and spatial strategy for NPT ('the new strategy') over the RLDP period to 2038. This new strategy presented in the RLDP Preferred Strategy builds upon the previous development of a series of contrasting growth and spatial options (growth level options, spatial distribution options and a settlement hierarchy). Details of different growth and spatial strategies are detailed within the Growth and Spatial Options Background Paper. These options, which for the purposes of this SA (incorporating SEA) can be considered as reasonable alternatives, were all subject to informal consultation and detailed SA during plan preparation.

#### Growth Level

5.2.12 NPTC has developed a number of growth options which explore the level of housing and economic need which could arise in NPT over the 15-year plan period 2023-2038.

5.2.13 An Economic and Housing Growth Assessment (EHGA) has been prepared which developed options considering demographics, past trends and policy-based factors as well as the inter-relationship between housing and the local economy. The evidence uses the WG's official population and household projections along with other demographic data from the Census and Mid-year estimates as well as an economic forecast from a leading forecast house and takes into consideration a number of contextual changes including the successful Celtic Freeport bid, and the significant economic restructuring currently taking place associated with the TATA steelworks transition. Further detail on all of the growth options considered is provided within the Growth and Spatial Options background paper.

5.2.14 All the growth options considered were streamlined to those considered to be realistic and deliverable options, following which, the 7 growth options set out below were subject to informal public consultation during 14<sup>th</sup> May- 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024. **Table 5.4** summarizes the growth scenarios.

**Table 5.4:** Growth Scenarios

Growth Scenario	Homes (Per Annum)	Homes Plan Period	Home Plan Period (including 10% Flexibility)	Jobs (Per Annum)
1. Adjusted Core	130	1,950	2,145	121
2. Baseline Employment	161	2,415	2,657	130
3. Adjusted Supplementary	232	3,480	3,828	237
4. Average 15-year Past Delivery Rate	238	3,570	3,927	Not Available
5. PG- Long Term	261	3,915	4,307	181
6. WG 2018 Principal Projection	285	4,275	4,703	152



Growth Scenario	Homes (Per Annum)	Homes Plan Period	Home Plan Period (including 10% Flexibility)	Jobs (Per Annum)
7. Housing Need (LHMA)	296	4,445	4,890	Not Available

5.2.15 Analysis of the growth options considered is provided in the Growth and Spatial Options background paper. The ISA of the growth options is presented in **Table D2** of **Appendix D**.

5.2.16 Following the analysis, along with the ISA, informal public consultation and stakeholder engagement, **Option 3** the Adjusted Supplementary scenario is considered to be the most appropriate growth option to take forward as the preferred level of growth for the RLDP for the following reasons:

- It will promote an achievable but ambitious housing build rate considering past trends
- Younger, hidden households as a result of low levels of house building in recent years are taken into account by the application of a Household Membership Rate (HMR) adjustment.
- It is reflective of the economic context given the Tata Steelworks transition, yet supports the ambition for economic recovery supported by the Celtic Freeport and other planned investments

5.2.17 Alongside the preferred level of housing and jobs growth, the amount of employment land required has also been explored and considered. This involved the conversion of jobs to floorspace and floorspace to land requirements. Factors including employment densities, past take up, allowing for improved availability, choice and flexibility, as well as plot assumption ratios were all taken into consideration.

### Spatial Distribution

5.2.18 Deciding on where development should be distributed across NPTC is a key consideration for the Preferred Strategy. This is an important task as it will have a major influence on the future of communities. It is necessary that land is released not only to meet the preferred level of growth but to also address the key issues identified above. Within the D P M, the spatial strategy is deemed to underpin all elements of the plan.

5.2.19 Each spatial option considered will need to have regard to legislation, national planning policy, local and regional strategies. Furthermore, each spatial option must take account of the specific characteristics, assets and issues within NPTC and seek to guide development in the way that respond to this.

5.2.20 In order to ensure that the spatial strategy is deliverable, it has to meet the needs of the local communities and also be viable so that public and private sectors are able and willing to invest in the identified areas. There are some key planning policy issues that need to be considered in the formation of the spatial strategy, as they are an integral part of any strategy. These include:

- Utilising previously developed land before greenfield sites in the first instance;
- Addressing climate change through mitigation and adaptation;
- Promoting placemaking principles;

- Promoting sustainable transport;
- Promoting the Welsh Language;
- Maximising opportunities for green infrastructure enhancement; and
- Responding to the nature emergency through biodiversity net benefit.

5.2.21 Additionally, this spatial strategy must assist in the delivery of the Vision and Objectives.

5.2.22 In determining how growth should be distributed spatially across the authority, a number of options were considered and consulted upon. These options were informed by a number of key pieces of evidence, such as settlement assessments, Ecological and Landscape designations, the LHMA, renewable energy, Flooding, Best and Most Versatile land, Welsh language sensitivity areas, and Brownfield land. As NPTC already has an adopted LDP, the existing LDP Strategy has been assessed alongside five other alternative strategies to determine whether it remains appropriate within the current policy context. The six strategy options that have been considered are as follows:

- **Option A-** Continue with the Adopted LDP Strategy. The strategy aim here was to facilitate growth within NPT with a main focus on the coastal corridor, whilst reinvigorating the Valleys. However, given the lack of delivery of strategic brownfield sites and low housing completions, this option was not deemed suitable.
- **Option B-** Dispersed growth across the authority. This option aimed at distributing development across the authority in accordance with the settlement strategy tiers. This would be through a series of small to medium sites with no reliance on individual large scale strategic sites.
- **Option C-** National Growth Area and Sustainable Transport Infrastructure. This option was aimed at building upon FW as parts of NPTC are within a NGA, coupled with the transport improvements that are projected.
- **Option D-** Building on key opportunities in the Valleys. This option sought to bring about improved benefits to the Valley's communities, through utilising key tourism and employment opportunities that are proposed for the area.
- **Option E-** Town Centre First approach. This option takes forward the approach set out in Future Wales and Planning Policy Wales that all development should be in town centres first, with a sequential approach taken moving outwards.
- **Option F-** Hybrid of Option C and Option D. This option brings forward the key elements of Option C- with NPTC being in a NGA, coupled with the transport improvements that are projected, whilst also building on key opportunities in the Valleys.

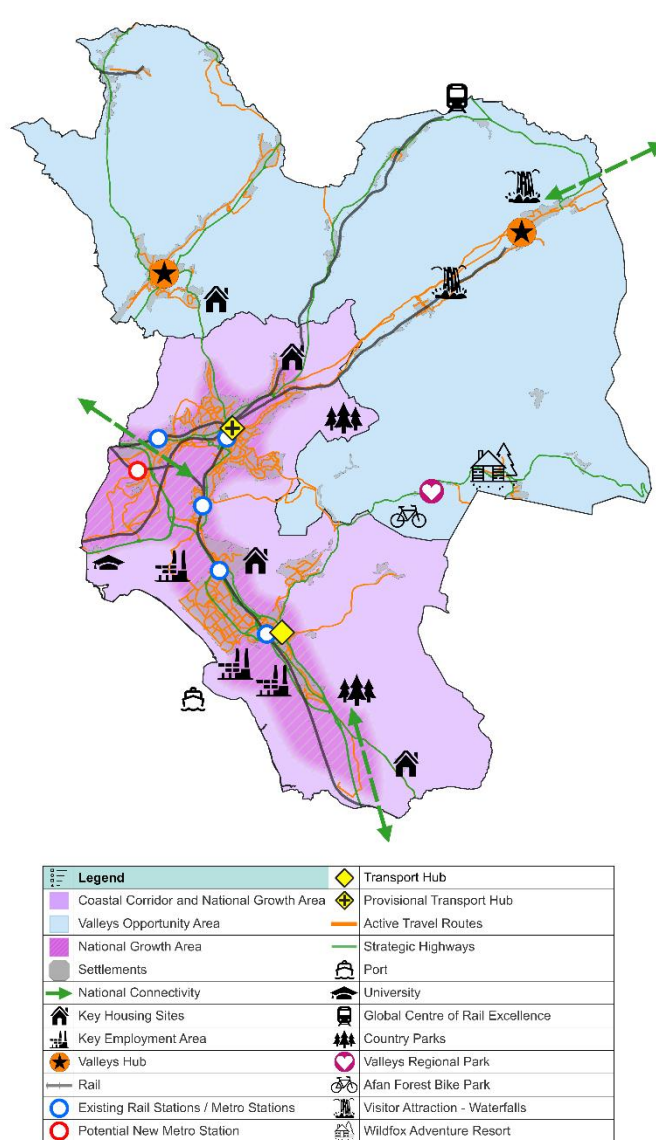
5.2.23 A complete analysis of the six spatial options is contained in the Growth and Spatial Options Background Paper, where the key advantages and disadvantages of each spatial option is considered. Each of the strategy options have also been considered as part of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (**Table D3** of **Appendix D**).

5.2.24 Following an analysis of the options, coupled with the informal consultation the hybrid approach, Option F (**Figure 5.1**) was deemed the most appropriate as it best aligns with the policy requirements of Future Wales, PPW and Llwybr Newydd- the Wales Transport Strategy.

5.2.25 Option F will provide the majority of growth in the Coastal Corridor and National Growth Area where there will be a co-location of jobs and homes, which will reduce commuting. The majority of development and investment will continue to follow market forces with housing,

employment and commercial development focused across the NGA. This will enable development to be located close to the main centres of population (ensuring affordable housing is targeted in the areas of greatest need) and support the facilities and services in the town centres.

- 5.2.26 Neath and Port Talbot are identified within Transport for Wales' Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro. By promoting these areas, this will be bringing forward key benefits of the Metro, the existing transport network as well as Active Travel routes and will assist in allowing residents of the NGA with different forms of travel other than the private car. In the Valleys Opportunity Area, new and existing Active Travel routes will be implemented. The use of existing infrastructure will be maximised.
- 5.2.27 This option also maximises the benefits that the Port, Freeport and Swansea Bay City Deal aspirations will bring on both a national and local scale. It will also bring forward proposed regeneration in the Valley's communities by maximising the key heritage, tourism and employment opportunities that are coming forward. Significant economic restructuring is currently taking place following the announcement by Tata Steel in September 2023 to replace the existing two blast furnaces at Port Talbot with an electric arc furnace. These opportunities will act as a catalyst for long term improvements. In order to supplement this, modest growth that is proportionate to the role, function and tier of the settlement, will be required in the Valley's communities. The employment strategy will encourage tourism and smaller scale enterprises to maximise the potential from tourism opportunities and to meet the needs of local communities.
- 5.2.28 Additionally, as part of the Valleys Opportunity Area, Pontardawe and its surrounding area and Glynneath will be identified as valley hubs.



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**Figure 5.1 Preferred Spatial Strategy (i.e Option F)**

### 5.3 SA of Strategic Sites

- 5.3.1 An integrated site assessment process has been carried out by NPTC to satisfy ISA requirements (including SEA) and to select site allocations for inclusion in the RLDP. This has identified the strategic sites needed to deliver the RLDP Preferred Strategy. The methodology is summarised in Candidate Sites Assessment Methodology (Nov 2023).
- 5.3.2 The Call for Candidate Sites is the first formal stage in the preparatory stages of the RLDP following the agreement and publication of the DA. Through the Call for Candidate Sites, the Council has invited developers, landowners, site promoters, public bodies, service providers and others with an interest in land to submit sites which they wish to be considered as a potential allocation for either development or protection. The call for sites exercise was undertaken three times. A first call for sites was undertaken in Spring 2022 and elicited 229 candidate site responses; a second call for sites was undertaken in Autumn/ Winter 2023 and

elicited 77 candidate sites, and a third call for urban capacity sites was undertaken in Autumn/ Winter 2023 and elicited 167 sites.

- 5.3.3 The Council has then undertaken a Stage 1 Initial Candidate Sites Assessment with the following three stage desk-based assessment of all submitted sites: (1) Site Size Filter; (2) Fundamental Constraints Filter and (3) Deliverability Filter. GIS software has been used to filter sites according to whether they have any of the fundamental constraints. If the constraint forms part of the site boundary, further consideration has been given as to whether the impact of the development could be mitigated. A summary of the findings has been reported in the Candidate Sites Register published as part of the Preferred Strategy consultation.
- 5.3.4 A Stage 2 Candidate Sites Assessment has been undertaken of all filtered sites. The Stage 2 Candidate Sites Assessment involves (1) Viability appraisal; (2) ISA assessment (qualitative and quantitative) and Candidate Site Suitability assessment; and (3) Engagement with infrastructure providers. A summary of the findings is reported in the Candidate Sites Register published as part of the Preferred Strategy consultation.
- 5.3.5 Based on above assessment, 9 key sites have been identified as housing and employment sites which are likely to be able to make a very good contribution towards placemaking objectives, are in line with the RLDP's vision, and help to achieve the spatial strategy detailed in the previous Chapters. The details of the 9 sites are summarized in **Table 5.5**.

**Table 5.5:** Key sites identified in Preferred Strategy

Site	Description	Site Area (ha)	Existing/ Previous Use	Proposed Development
1	Coed Hirwaun, Margam	128.1	Residential, school, community facilities and agricultural land	Indicative 900 dwellings (400 within the RLDP Plan period) and new Welsh medium primary school.
2	Land east of Rhos, Rhos	15.7	Agricultural land	Indicative Residential (400 homes) and school
3	Land adjacent to Blaenbaglan, Baglan	14.5	Agricultural land	Indicative Residential- 341 dwellings including 141 existing allocations.
4	Fforest Farm, Aberdulais	26.4	Agricultural land	Indicative residential (250- 300 homes) and land for special school
5	Port Talbot Port	389.6	Employment and transportation	Proposed that the site is allocated for 30ha of employment use and the remainder for transportation infrastructure and renewable energy
6	Port Talbot Steelworks	671.9	Employment	Employment and renewable energy
7	Baglan Energy Park	187.8	Former employment	Proposed that the site is allocated for 20ha of employment land in the Plan Period

Site	Description	Site Area (ha)	Existing/ Previous Use	Proposed Development
8	GCRE, Onllwyn	107.8	Former employment, minerals, other	Transport infrastructure
9	Wildfox Adventure Resort, Afan Valley	128.4	Greenfield	Tourism and recreation

## 5.4 SA of Strategic Policies

5.4.1 This section provides a summary assessment of proposed strategic policies against the ISA Objectives. The detailed appraisal of predicted effects from the strategic policies is provided in **Appendix E**. The assessment has been undertaken by policy grouping, corresponding with each chapter of strategic policies contained within the RLDP Preferred Strategy. This enabled a proportionate assessment to be undertaken of each policy and of the cumulative effects of each policy grouping, focusing on the sustainability issues most relevant to the policy or policies being assessed.

5.4.2 This section presents key findings from the ISA of the proposed strategic policies within the RLDP Preferred Strategy. The summary assessment provided below uses each of the SA Objectives from the NPT LDP Review SA Framework (**Appendix C**) as headings, whilst detailed appraisal matrices identifying all likely effects from the policies is provided in **Appendix E**.

### SA Objective 1 - Health and Wellbeing

5.4.3 As detailed in **Appendix E**, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP1 Strategic Placemaking
- SP2 Climate Change
- SP3 Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment
- SP4 Health
- SP5 Placemaking in Action
- SP6 Strategy Areas
- SP7 Sustainable Transport
- SP12 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation
- SP16 Green infrastructure
- SP17 Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast
- SP18 Environmental Protection

- 5.4.4 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:
- Improve health outcomes by ensuring adequate provision of social and community infrastructure;
  - Direct development to the most sustainable locations;
  - Promote and support the uptake of active travel;
  - Support the co-location of housing and employment growth;
  - Recognise the importance of landscape protection for physical and mental health and wellbeing;
  - Reduce pollution, address environmental risks and improve ecosystem resilience; and,
  - Prioritise on previous developed land.
- 5.4.5 At this stage, none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, several other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

## **SA Objective 2 – Equality and Social Inclusion**

- 5.4.6 As detailed in **Appendix E**, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:
- SP1 Strategic Placemaking
  - SP2 Climate Change
  - SP4 Health
  - SP5 Placemaking in Action
  - SP6 Strategy Areas
  - SP7 Sustainable Transport
  - SP8 Housing
  - SP11 Economic Recovery
  - SP16 Green infrastructure
- 5.4.7 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:
- Provide adequate social and community infrastructure to meet the needs of existing and future communities;
  - Ensure an appropriate mix of uses to support the creation of vibrant and sustainable communities;
  - Support economic development and rural regeneration;

- Direct development to the most sustainable locations;
- Promote and support the uptake of active travel;
- Improving accessibility within and between communities; and,
- Support the co-location of housing and employment growth.

5.4.8 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, several other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

### **SA Objective 3 – Transport and Communications:**

5.4.9 As detailed in **Appendix E**, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP1 Strategic Placemaking
- SP2 Climate Change
- SP4 Health
- SP5 Placemaking in Action
- SP6 Strategy Areas
- SP7 Sustainable Transport
- SP9 Retail and Commercial Centres
- SP16 Green infrastructure

5.4.10 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Provide adequate transport infrastructure to meet identified community needs and support housing and economic growth;
- Promote sustainable modal shift, including through applying a sustainable transport hierarchy;
- Enhance accessibility for all to key services, amenities, recreation and employment;
- Promote active travel through green infrastructure improvements;
- Making efficient use of existing infrastructure (include digital) and where required, make provision for new and improved infrastructure; and,
- Supports the provision of good quality broadband infrastructure.

5.4.11 At this stage, none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, several uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. Several other strategic policies have no clear relationship or neutral effect with this SA Objective.



## SA Objective 4 – Inclusive Economic Growth

5.4.12 As detailed in **Appendix E**, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP6 Strategy Areas
- SP8 Housing
- SP9 Retail and Commercial Centres
- SP10 Tourism
- SP11 Economic Recovery
- SP12 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation
- SP13 Minerals
- SP14 Sustainable Waste Management

5.4.13 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Support new and enhanced infrastructure provision to unlock economic growth and investment;
- Promote economic development and rural regeneration;
- Set out an employment land strategy to underpin economic growth;
- Support rural economic diversification and circular economy;
- Support the growth of locally and regionally important sectors (e.g. renewable energy);
- Support employment opportunities and complementary facilities including training and working hubs;
- Encouraging high quality sustainable tourism development; and
- Support the vitality, viability and attractiveness of retail and commercial centres.

5.4.14 At this stage, none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, several other strategic policies have neutral effect with this SA Objective.

## SA Objective 5 – Housing

5.4.15 As detailed in **Appendix E**, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP1 Strategic Placemaking
- SP2 Climate Change
- SP4 Health

- SP5 Placemaking in Action
- SP6 Strategy Areas
- SP7 Sustainable Transport
- SP8 Housing
- SP9 Retail and Commercial Centres

5.4.16 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Define and deliver a housing land strategy to meet identified housing needs and support economic growth;
- Provide good quality, and energy efficient housing
- Provide adequate infrastructure to support housing growth;
- Direct housing development to sustainable and accessible locations;
- Support the retention and provision of a mix of community, retail, employment and recreational facilities in appropriate locations across the county borough; and
- Manage long-term settlement growth to avoid urban sprawl.

5.4.17 At this stage, none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, several uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. Some strategic policies have no clear relationship or neutral effect with this SA Objective.

### **SA Objective 6 – Air Quality**

5.4.18 As detailed in **Appendix E**, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP1 Strategic Placemaking
- SP2 Climate Change
- SP4 Health
- SP6 Strategy Areas
- SP7 Sustainable Transport
- SP12 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation
- SP13 Minerals
- SP16 Green infrastructure
- SP18 Environmental Protection

5.4.19 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Promote sustainable modal shifts and reduce car dependency;
- Focus on environmental sustainability;
- Reduce exposure to poor air quality;
- Protect and improve air quality; and,
- Safeguard residential and community amenity.

5.4.20 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, some uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. Several other strategic policies have no clear relationship or neutral effect with this SA Objective.

### **SA Objective 7 – Climate Change**

5.4.21 As detailed in **Appendix E**, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP1 Strategic Placemaking
- SP2 Climate Change
- SP3 Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment
- SP4 Health
- SP5 Placemaking in Action
- SP6 Strategy Areas
- SP7 Sustainable Transport
- SP12 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation
- SP16 Green infrastructure
- SP18 Environmental Protection

5.4.22 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Promote sustainable modal shifts and reduce car dependency;
- Improve ecosystem resilience and increase resilience to climate change impacts;
- Prevent pollution and protect environmental quality;
- Address and manage the flood risk implications of climate change; and,
- Support the deployment of renewable and low carbon energy generation technologies in appropriate locations.

5.4.23 At this stage, none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, some other strategic policies have neutral effect with this SA Objective.

### **SA Objective 8 – Biodiversity**

5.4.24 As detailed in **Appendix E**, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP2 Climate Change
- SP3 Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment
- SP15 Historic Environment
- SP16 Green infrastructure
- SP17 Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast
- SP18 Environmental Protection

5.4.25 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Reduce biodiversity loss and increase ecosystem resilience;
- Reduce pollution from all sources;
- Conserve, protect and enhance sites designated at national and local levels for reasons of ecological importance or biodiversity conservation;
- Protect areas of landscape value, thereby indirectly protecting their ecological features; and,
- Protect and enhance the green infrastructure network.

5.4.26 At this stage, none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, one other strategic policy has no clear relationship with this SA Objective due to the absence of coverage of relevant issues. Some other strategic policies have neutral effect with this SA Objective.

### **SA Objective 9 – Water and Flood Risk**

5.4.27 As detailed in **Appendix E**, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP1 Strategic Placemaking
- SP2 Climate Change
- SP3 Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment
- SP4 Health
- SP16 Green infrastructure

- SP17 Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast
- SP18 Environmental Protection

5.4.28 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Direct development to the most sustainable locations;
- Adopt appropriate design, adaptation and mitigation measures to help address climate change;
- Protect and enhance the green infrastructure network;
- Increase ecosystem resilience;
- Protect and enhance surface and groundwater quantity and quality; and,
- Support sustainable flood risk management and increased protection against flood risk.

5.4.29 At this stage, none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, some other strategic policies have no clear relationship or neutral effect with this SA Objective.

### **SA Objective 10 – Materials and Waste**

5.4.30 As detailed in **Appendix E**, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP6 Strategy Areas
- SP12 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation
- SP13 Minerals
- SP14 Sustainable Waste Management

5.4.31 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Promote energy efficiency, energy storage and renewable energy whilst ensuring a mix of energy sources to meet identified needs.
- Recognise the need to manage mineral resources in a sustainable manner to meet economic needs; and,
- Apply the waste hierarchy and support the growth of the circular economy.

5.4.32 At this stage, none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, some other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

### **SA Objective 11 – Sustainable Placemaking**

5.4.33 As detailed in **Appendix E**, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP1 Strategic Placemaking
- SP2 Climate Change
- SP4 Health
- SP5 Placemaking in Action
- SP6 Strategy Areas

5.4.34 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Adopt a placemaking approach to the siting and design of all development proposals;
- Recognise the health benefits of good placemaking;
- Bring forward high quality development in the Coastal Corridor and National Growth Area and the Valleys Opportunity Area to meet their unique opportunities;
- Make efficient use of existing infrastructure and where required, make provision for new and improved infrastructure;
- Support the co-location of housing and employment growth;
- Respond to the unique features and opportunities of its local context by ensuring high quality inclusive design; and,
- Promoting and protecting our built and natural heritage, distinctive qualities and character of existing places, culture, and the Welsh language.

5.4.35 At this stage, none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, several other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

### **SA Objective 12 – Cultural Heritage**

5.4.36 As detailed in **Appendix E**, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP1 Strategic Placemaking
- SP2 Climate Change
- SP5 Placemaking in Action
- SP15 Historic Environment
- SP17 Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast

5.4.37 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Protect, manage and enhance designated heritage assets; and,
- Protect valued landscapes, of which the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting form a key part.

5.4.38 At this stage, none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, some other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

### SA Objective 13 – Landscape

5.4.39 As detailed in **Appendix E**, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP1 Strategic Placemaking
- SP5 Placemaking in Action
- SP15 Historic Environment
- SP17 Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast

5.4.40 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Protect valued landscapes and the special qualities of landscape character; and,
- Manage long-term settlement growth to prevent coalescence and urban sprawl.

5.4.41 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, some uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. Two other strategic policies have neutral effect with this SA Objective.

## 5.5 Assessment of Cumulative Effects and Synergistic Effects

5.5.1 Following from the appraisal of all individual substantive components. ISA has been conducted to identify any likely cumulative or synergistic effects as a result of interactions between the emerging RLDP components. **Table 5.6** and **Table 5.7** summarize findings for the appraisal of the RLDP.

5.5.2 **Appendix F, G and H** summarize the proportionate Equality, Health and Welsh Language impact appraisal on the RLDP respectively.

### Construction Phase

**Table 5.6:** ISA Summary of the Preferred Strategy for Construction Phase

ISA Topic	Likely Significant Effect	Residual Effect
1 <b>Health and Wellbeing:</b> Improve the health and wellbeing of the population, including with respect to physical and mental health, social wellbeing and community safety, including through context appropriate soundscapes and reductions in addressing light pollution.		0
2. <b>Equality and Social Inclusion:</b> Reduce poverty and inequalities, advance equality of opportunity, reduce socio-economic		+

ISA Topic	Likely Residual Significant Effect
disadvantage, tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.	
3. <b>Transport and Communications:</b> Enhance the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets through improving infrastructure and creating a sustainable transport network, whilst also ensuring access to high quality communications and utilities.	~
4. <b>Inclusive Economic Growth:</b> Increase the number and quality of employment opportunities and improve educational and skill levels while maximising the economic contribution of the NPTC area to the Swansea Bay City Region, including through diversifying and strengthening the local economic base	+
5. <b>Housing:</b> Provide a sufficient quantum and range of good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.	~
6. <b>Air Quality:</b> Prevent and reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and minimise exposure to poor air quality	0
7. <b>Climate Change:</b> Adopt appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climate change.	-
8. <b>Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil:</b> Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests, including through safeguarding important sites and species, improving green infrastructure provision and safeguarding important soil resources.	0
9. <b>Water and Flood Risk:</b> Conserve, protect and enhance water and coastal environments, water quality and water resources, whilst reducing the risk of flooding.	0
10. <b>Material assets and Waste:</b> Contribute to the implementation of the circular economy, manage waste with minimal environmental impacts and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including for energy generation and providing an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.	-
11. <b>Sustainable Placemaking:</b> Maximise the efficient use of land and infrastructure and enhance design quality to create great places for people.	~
12. <b>Cultural Heritage:</b> Conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets, including the use of the Welsh language.	0
13. <b>Landscape:</b> Protect and enhance the landscape character, visual amenity and legibility of settlements in the NPTC area.	?



Key to Scoring:

Score	Symbol
Significant (Major) Positive Effect	++
Minor Positive Effect	+
Neutral Effect	0
Minor Negative Effect	-
Significant (Major) Negative Effect	--
Uncertain Effect	?
No Clear Relationship	~

- 5.5.3 It is anticipated that environmental pollution control and traffic mitigation measures will be implemented during construction phase. For large scale projects, environmental impact assessment and traffic impact assessment will be conducted. Adverse residual environmental and traffic impacts are not anticipated. Hence, it is considered neutral for the Health and Wellbeing objective, Air Quality objective, Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil Objective, Water and Flood Risk and Cultural Heritage Objective.
- 5.5.4 Construction will boost the local economy and engage construction workers. Given the transient effect of construction, minor positive benefits are considered for Inclusive Economic Growth Objective and Equality and Social Inclusion Objective.
- 5.5.5 During construction, materials will be transported to site, there will be residual waste arisings to be reused or recycled elsewhere, fuel will also be used for the operation of the construction equipment and there will be carbon embodied also in the building materials. Given the transient nature of construction, minor negative impacts are considered for Climate Change Objective and Material Asset and Waste Objective.
- 5.5.6 Depending on location, construction sites and activities will cause landscape and visual impact. Nevertheless, the impact is transient and can be reduced with mitigation measures. Hence, uncertain / not known is considered for Landscape Objective.

## Operational Phase

**Table 5.7:** ISA Summary of the Preferred Strategy for Operational Phase

ISA Topic	Likely Residual Significant Effect
1. <b>Health and Wellbeing:</b> Improve the health and wellbeing of the population, including with respect to physical and mental health, social wellbeing and community safety, including through context appropriate soundscapes and reductions in addressing light pollution.	++
2. <b>Equality and Social Inclusion:</b> Reduce poverty and inequalities, advance equality of opportunity, reduce socio-economic disadvantage, tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.	++
3. <b>Transport and Communications:</b> Enhance the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets through improving infrastructure and creating a sustainable transport network, whilst also ensuring access to high quality communications and utilities.	++
4. <b>Inclusive Economic Growth:</b> Increase the number and quality of employment opportunities and improve educational and skill levels while maximising the economic contribution of the NPTC area to the Swansea Bay City Region, including through diversifying and strengthening the local economic base	++
5. <b>Housing:</b> Provide a sufficient quantum and range of good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.	++
6. <b>Air Quality:</b> Prevent and reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and minimise exposure to poor air quality.	+
7. <b>Climate Change:</b> Adopt appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climate change.	+
8. <b>Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil:</b> Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests, including through safeguarding important sites and species, improving green infrastructure provision and safeguarding important soil resources.	+
9. <b>Water and Flood Risk:</b> Conserve, protect and enhance water and coastal environments, water quality and water resources, whilst reducing the risk of flooding.	+
10. <b>Material assets and Waste:</b> Contribute to the implementation of the circular economy, manage waste with minimal environmental impacts and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including for energy generation and providing an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.	+

ISA Topic	Likely Significant Effect	Residual Effect
<b>11. Sustainable Placemaking:</b> Maximise the efficient use of land and infrastructure and enhance design quality to create great places for people.		++
<b>12. Cultural Heritage:</b> Conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets, including the use of the Welsh language.		+
<b>13. Landscape:</b> Protect and enhance the landscape character, visual amenity and legibility of settlements in the NPTC area.		?

Key to Scoring:

Score	Symbol
Significant (Major) Positive Effect	++
Minor Positive Effect	+
Neutral Effect	0
Minor Negative Effect	-
Significant (Major) Negative Effect	--
Uncertain Effect	?
No Clear Relationship	~

5.5.7 The Preferred Strategy performs positively against most ISA objectives, including Health and Well-being, Equality and Social Inclusion, Transport and Communications, Inclusive Economic Growth, Housing and Sustainable Placemaking objectives with significant long-term positive effects, through:

- supporting sustainable development that embeds placemaking principles;
- supporting sustainable transport options;
- encouraging healthier and more active lifestyles;
- supporting future economic development;
- providing a planning framework that balances the delivery of new homes and jobs;
- fostering new investment, employment opportunities;
- providing and associated community infrastructure to meet the needs of communities.

- 5.5.8 These bring along with focusing growth at the Coastal Corridor and National Growth Area and the Valleys Opportunity Area with greater accessibility to services/ facilities and the use of sustainable transport modes (including active travel), which will have a minor positive effect in terms of Climate Change and Air Quality objectives.
- 5.5.9 The Strategy would conserve and safeguard mineral resources, reserves and infrastructure while making an appropriate and a proportionate contribution to the supply of minerals to meet local, regional and national need. In addition, the strategy enables NPT to make an appropriate contribution to renewable and low carbon energy generation while encouraging all appropriate steps to be taken to reduce energy demand and improve efficiency across all sectors. Since the extent and local of the developments are unknown, minor positive benefit is considered for the Material Asset and Waste objectives.
- 5.5.10 The Strategy requires that the quality of the environment will be safeguarded and enhanced and potential adverse impacts of existing or anticipated environmental problems will be addressed de-risking approaches.
- 5.5.11 The Strategy also requires development to adopt the green infrastructure led approach and to achieve biodiversity net benefit. Given the extent and location of the green infrastructure are unknown, minor positive benefits were considered for Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil objective and Water and Flood Risk objective.
- 5.5.12 The strategy will also seek to promote and protect the heritage, including Welsh language. Given the extent and location of the heritage are unknown, minor positive benefit is considered for the Cultural Heritage objective.
- 5.5.13 Please note that there is an element of uncertainty for some ISA objectives given the strategic nature of the Preferred Strategy and that the precise location of development is not known at this stage. This is particularly the case for the ISA objectives relating to Landscape, as the nature and scale of effects will be dependent on the precise location, scale and design of development.

## 6 Next Steps

### 6.1 Overview

6.1.1 This Initial ISA Report presents the findings of the ISA of the Preferred Strategy (including Vision, Objectives and Strategic Policies) and reasonable alternatives (Growth and Spatial Options). The findings have informed the development of the Preferred Strategy Document.

### 6.2 Next Step

6.2.1 This Sustainability Appraisal Report ('the ISA Report') has documented the findings of the SA carried out in respect of the NPT RLDP Pre-Deposit Documents, i.e. the RLDP Preferred Strategy and associated Background Papers. At this stage, the following proposed components of the emerging RLDP have been subject to SA:

- Strategic Framework:
  - LDP Vision;
  - Objectives; and,
  - Growth and Spatial Strategy.
- Implementation:
  - Key Sites; and,
  - Strategic Policies.

6.2.2 Following consultation on the RLDP Pre-Deposit Documents and associated ISA Report, all consultation responses received will be reviewed and used to inform the NPTC RLDP Deposit Document, i.e. the full proposed NPTC RLDP. This will build upon the RLDP Preferred Strategy to set out all strategic framework elements, policies and site allocations proposed for inclusion in the NPTC RLDP. The NPTC RLDP Deposit Document will be accompanied by an updated an expanded ISA Report, with both documents expected to be consulted on in tandem in December 2025. Following a subsequent Examination in Public, NPTC then intends to adopt the finalised RLDP.

## Appendix A Baseline Review

### A.1 Introduction

A.1.1 This Appendix supports Section 3 of the NPT RLDP Review ISA Report. It provides a review of current environmental and socio-economic conditions within the area likely to be affected by the LDP Review, in particular (but not exclusively) the NPTC administrative area.

A.1.2 In doing so, this review:

- Identifies relevant baseline characteristics, including those likely to be significantly affected by the outcome of the LDP Review (i.e. the NPT RLDP). This includes the identification of sites designated at international or national levels for reasons of ecological/geological importance or heritage/landscape value which have the potential to be affected by the RLDP;
- Identifies relevant socio-economic trends and baseline conditions, again focusing on matters likely to be significantly affected by the outcome of the LDP Review (i.e. the NPT RLDP); and,
- Outlines how the identified environmental and socio-economic characteristics and baseline conditions should be addressed within the NPT RLDP and considered within this ISA.

A.1.3 This evidence is then used to:

- Outline the expected evolution of baseline sustainability (including environmental) conditions in the absence of the LDP Review; and,
- Define a suite of key sustainability issues which will need to be addressed within the LDP Review and which should be considered throughout this ISA (incorporating SEA) process.

A.1.4 The purpose of this baseline review is therefore to inform both the LDP Review and the content of an ISA Framework that will be used to assess all substantive components of the LDP Review (i.e. all emerging policy and site options, including reasonable alternatives to those preferred by NPTC).

### A.2 Overview of Designated Sites

A.2.1 **Table A.1** identifies sites designated at international, national or local level for reasons of biodiversity conservation, geological importance, heritage or landscape value which are considered to have the potential to be affected by the LDP Review. The site-specific context of these designated sites needs to be considered when characterising the sustainability baseline position and identifying the relevance of existing issues and problems to the LDP Review, as detailed in Section A.3.

**Table A.1 Designated Sites of Relevance to the NPT LDP Review**

**Biodiversity Designations:**

Scale	Designation Type	Within/ Outwith NPT	Name	Qualifying Features/ Interests	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
International / European	SAC	Within NPT	Kenfig / Cynffig	Coastal sand dunes, sand beaches, machair, Tidal rivers, estuaries.	Any RLDP resulting from the LDP Review must support the management of all internationally designated sites (including possible or proposed new European Sites) in pursuit of their defined conservation objectives.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford adequate protection to international designations, taking account of their site-specific characteristics and qualifying features.
International / European	SAC	Within NPT	Crymlyn Bog / Cors Crymlyn	Bogs, marshes, fens, broad leaved deciduous woodland.	Any RLDP resulting from the LDP Review must support the management of all internationally designated sites (including possible or proposed new European Sites) in pursuit of their defined conservation objectives.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford adequate protection to international designations, taking account of their site-specific characteristics and qualifying features.
International / European	SAC	Within NPT	Coedydd Nedd a Mellte	Broad leaved deciduous woodland, heath and scrub.	Any RLDP resulting from the LDP Review must support the management of all internationally designated sites (including possible or proposed new European Sites) in pursuit of their defined conservation objectives.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford adequate protection to international designations, taking account of their site-specific characteristics and qualifying features.
International / European	SAC	Outwith NPT (within 15km of NPT)	Cefn Cribwr	Grasslands: Bogs, marshes, humid grassland, heath, scrub, broad leaved deciduous woodland.	Any RLDP resulting from the LDP Review must support the management of all internationally designated sites with the potential to be affected by development in the NPT area (including those in proximity to the NPT boundary in neighbouring authorities, and including possible or proposed new European Sites) in pursuit of their defined conservation objectives.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford adequate protection to international designations, taking account of their site-specific characteristics and qualifying features.
International / European	SAC	Outwith NPT (within 15km of NPT)	Blaen Cynon	Humid grassland, bogs, marshes, water-fringed vegetation, heath, scrub, improved grassland, dry grassland, steppes.	Any RLDP resulting from the LDP Review must support the management of all internationally designated sites with the potential to be affected by development in NPT (including those in proximity to the NPT boundary in neighbouring authorities, and including possible or proposed new European Sites) in pursuit of their defined conservation objectives.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford adequate protection to international designations, taking account of their site-specific characteristics and qualifying features.
International / European	SAC	Outwith NPT (within 15km of NPT)	Cwm Cadlan	Humid grassland, bogs, marshes, water-fringed vegetation, Improved grassland, broad leaved deciduous woodland.	Any RLDP resulting from the LDP Review must support the management of all internationally designated sites with the potential to be affected by development in NPT (including those in proximity to the NPT boundary in neighbouring authorities, and including	Relevant ISA objectives must afford adequate protection to international designations, taking account of their site-specific characteristics and qualifying features.

Scale	Designation Type	Within/ Outwith NPT	Name	Qualifying Features/ Interests	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
					possible or proposed new European Sites) in pursuit of their defined conservation objectives.	
International / European	Ramsar	Within NPT	Crymlyn Bog	Comprises a floodplain-valley mire located within a lowland coastal context and is the most extensive wetland of its type in Wales. It is also a SAC, SSSI and NNR.	Any RLDP resulting from the LDP Review must support the management of all internationally designated sites with the potential to be affected by development in NPT (including those in close proximity to the NPT boundary in neighbouring authorities and including possible or proposed new European Sites) in pursuit of their defined conservation objectives.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford adequate protection to international designations, taking account of their site-specific characteristics and qualifying features.
National	SSSI	Within NPT	Caeau Ton-Y-Fildre Cefn Gwrhyd Rhydyfro Cilybebyll Coed Cwm Du, Cilmaengwyn Cors Crymlyn / Crymlyn bog Craig-Y-Llyn Crymlyn Burrows Cynffig/Kenfig Dyffrynoedd Nedd a Mellte a Moel Penderyn Earlswood Road Cutting and Ferryboat Inn Quarries Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir Fforest Goch Bog Frondeg Gorsllwyn, Onllwyn Gwrhyd Meadows Hafod Wennol Grasslands Margam Moors Mynydd Ty-Isaf, Rhondda Pant-Y-Sais Tairgwaith	The identified SSSIs have been designated owing to the presence of nationally important or rare habitat types within each.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review must support the management of all nationally designated sites in pursuit of their defined conservation objectives.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford adequate protection to national designations, taking account of their site-specific characteristics and qualifying interests.
National	NNR	Within NPT	Kenfig Pool and Dunes Crymlyn Bog and Pant Y Sais	Kenfig Pool NNR hosts Glamorgan's largest lake whilst Crymlyn Bog and Pant Y Sais consists in part of the largest lowland fen in Wales.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review must support the management of all nationally designated sites in pursuit of their defined conservation objectives.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford adequate protection to national designations, taking account of their site-specific characteristics and qualifying interests.
Local	SINCS	Within NPT	Catwg Wetland, Hawthorn Close, Hafodheulog Wood East Meadow, Tennant Canal, Gorsllwyn Meadows, Rolling Mill Cwmavan, Cwm Blaenpelenna , Harbourside Law Courts, Khartoum Tip, Baglan Bay, St	The identified SINCS host a wide range of locally important habitat types and either the observed presence of or potential to support a	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should provide an appropriate level of protection and enhancement opportunities for biodiversity sites designated at the local level.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford an appropriate level of protection for all designated sites, commensurate with their status and purpose.



Scale	Designation Type	Within/ Outwith NPT	Name	Qualifying Features/ Interests	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
			<p>David's Graveyard, Briton Ferry Waste Ground, Earlswood Area, Lower River Afan Estuary, The Quays Car Park Bunds, Jersey Marine Woods, Margam Country Park, Square Pond, Earlswood Grasslands, Tyle'r Waun, GCG Common, Pandy Farm, Swansea Canal, Neath Canal, Eglwys Nunydd, Caroline Street, Junction 38 Wetland Complex, Ynysdawle, Cwm du Glen &amp; Glanrhyd Plantation, Land behind Marigold Place, Dyffryn Woods, Tiroedd Comin Cwm Amman Uchaf, Amazon Woodlands, Baglan Brownfield Slack, Lamb &amp; Flag, Nant Y Cafn, Heol Heddwch, Baglan Panhandle, Sarn Helen, Bwlch Road Hedges, Derwydd Avenue, White Lady's Farm Orchard, Ffynnon Dawel Selar, Aberbaiden Farm Meadows, Giant's Grave, Brunel Dock Grassland, Cilfrew Meadow, Mynydd y Garth, Mynydd Gellionnen, Abernant Road Playing Field, Jaffa Land Baglan, Gelli Dochlithe, Dyffryn Cellwen, Rhos Common, Intervalley Road, Banwen, Blaendulais Marshy Grassland, Rheola Borrow Pits Grassland, Ynys Corrwg Farm, Bryn Goytre Cycleway, Cymer Tip, Treforgan, Resolven Minewater Treatment Units, Gwynfi Street, Rheola Lowland Grassland, Riverside Industrial Estate, Hafodheulog Wood North Meadow, Ynysmeudwy Molinia Meadow, Coed Hirwaun Wetland, Rhyslyn, Neath Estuary, St John's Graveyard, Nant Y Wern, Upper Melincourt Valley, Banwen Pond, Rhos Bends Bog, Glan-Yr- Afon, Gnoll Country Park, Brunel Dock Reedbed, Shelone Woods, Pen Yr Alltwen School Road, Crynant, Dan-Y-Coed, Little Warren, Preswylfa Dingle, Aberbaiden Farm Small Meadow, Fields Behind Heol Y Coedcau, Scotch Street, Meadow Row, Bryn, Parc Croeserw, Bryn Tip, Cwmavon Coal Tips, Pentreffynnon, Pant- Y-Brwyn, Garth Mor, Fabian Way Wildflower Verge, The Waun, Cimla, Bryncoch Farm, Coed Bach A'r Cwm, Floristically Diverse Forestry Verge, Betony Field, Triangular Pond,</p>	<p>wide range of floral and faunal species, including indicator species. A number of the SINCS overlap with higher level statutory designations.</p>		

Scale	Designation Type	Within/ Outwith NPT	Name	Qualifying Features/ Interests	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
			<p>Crymlyn Burrows, Caeau Ynysgeinon, Carn Llechart, Coed Darcy Gcn Area, Bryn Gwyn, Red Jacket Fen, Adjacent to Gors Llwyn, Marden Park Baglan, Llandarcy Village Green, Cwmafan Green Corridor, Gwlyptir Mynachlog Need, Resolven Alluvial Meadows, Panasonic, Land behind Pen Y Bryn, Maerdy Playing Fields, Parc Rhiwfawr, Abernant Colliery, Onllwyn Coal Washery, Waun Sterw, Morfa Glas, Tonmawr Minewater Treatment &amp; Surrounding Habitats, Afan Mineral Railway, Fferm Alltwenganol, Roman Way Reedbed, Aberhenwaun Uchaf, Penrhys Fawr, Resolven Minewater Treatment area OMH.</p>			
Local	LNR	Within NPT	<p>Pant-Y-Sais Fen Eaglesbush Valley Cwm Du Glen &amp; Glanrhyd Plantation Bryn Tip Swansea Canal</p>	<p>LNR are sites which have interesting wildlife or geology but are also important for local residents, schools and are places where people who may have no specific interest in natural history can enjoy access to nature. NPT CBC's countryside team aim to make the LNRs exemplars in the management of designated sites and green space, with the goals of conserving nature, providing opportunities for study or research and allowing access and recreation.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should provide an appropriate level of protection and enhancement opportunities for nature reserves designated at the local level.</p>	<p>Relevant ISA objectives must afford an appropriate level of protection for all designated sites, consummate with their status and purpose.</p>

**Geological Designations:**

Scale	Designation Type	Within/ Outwith NPT	Name	Qualifying Features/ Interests	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
National	SSSI	Within NPT	Cwmgwrelych Nant Llyn Fach Streams	Geological SSSIs are designated owing to the presence of nationally important or rare geological features.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review must support the management of all nationally designated sites to maintain or improve their current condition.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford adequate protection to national designations, taking account of their site-specific characteristics and qualifying interests.
Local	Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS)	Within NPT	Aberdulais Falls Melincourt Brook		Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should provide an appropriate level of protection for locally designated regionally important geodiversity sites.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford an appropriate level of protection for all designated sites, commensurate with their status and purpose. There is also a need to assess likely effects on important geological features under the 'soil' environmental topic as prescribed within Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations.

**Cultural Heritage Designations:**

Scale	Designation Type	Within/ Outwith NPT	Name	Qualifying Features/ Interests	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
National	SM	Within NPT	97 Scheduled Monuments across the NPTC area	Of the 97 identified Scheduled Monuments (SM, 5 date from the Early Medieval period, 14 from the Medieval period, 27 Post Medieval/Modern, 45 Prehistoric and 6 Roman.  The majority are sited within Margam (15). A wide range of historic structures have been designated, including hill forts, chapels, standing stones, ironworks, castles and cairns, each of which is of historical significance and forms an important landscape feature.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review must support the protection and enhancement of all nationally designated historic assets, including their setting. The identified historic assets benefit from statutory protection which must be taken account of within policies, proposals and guidance within the RLDP.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford adequate protection to nationally designated historic assets, taking account of site-specific characteristics and the relevance of historic assets to the NPTC area.

Scale	Designation Type	Within/ Outwith NPT	Name	Qualifying Features/ Interests	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
National	Listed Buildings	Within NPT	395 Listed Buildings across the NPTC area	A wide range of structures and buildings have been listed owing to their features of architectural importance. Listed Buildings are largely clustered within older population centres, and they typically reflect the social and economic history of the area.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review must support the protection and enhancement of all nationally designated historic assets, including their setting. The identified historic assets benefit from statutory protection which must be taken account of within policies, proposals and guidance within the RLDP.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford adequate protection to nationally designated historic assets, taking account of site- specific characteristics and the relevance of historic assets to the NPTC area.
National	Conservation Areas	Within NPT	There are 6 Conservation Areas within the NPTC area: Cilybebyll Neath Town Centre Llandarcy Village Tonna Canal Depot Glynneath Woolen Mill Margam Park	The designated Conservation Areas are centred upon clusters of Listed Buildings or other structures of architectural importance.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review must support the protection and enhancement of all nationally designated historic assets, including their setting. The identified historic assets benefit from statutory protection which must be taken account of within policies, proposals and guidance within the RLDP.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford adequate protection to nationally designated historic assets, taking account of site- specific characteristics and the relevance of historic assets to the NPTC area.

### Landscape Designations

Scale	Designation Type	Within/ Outwith NPT	Name	Qualifying Features/ Interests	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
National	AONB		There are no AONBs (also known as National Landscapes) designated within the NPT Area. However, the Gower AONB is approx. 7.5km west of the NPTC boundary, covering much of the peninsula. This AONB is renowned for its scenic quality, particularly the coastline, much of which is Heritage Coast.	N/A	N/A	N/A
National	National Park	Within NPT	One National Park which falls within the boundary of the NPTC area: Brecon Beacons National Park.	National Parks are areas of exceptional natural beauty designated to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the parks, protect the social and economic wellbeing of its communities and promote public enjoyment and	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should provide an appropriate level of protection and enhancement opportunities for the Brecon Beacons National Park.  The duty relating to the purposes of the National Park also applies outside the park and in its setting.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford adequate protection to national designations, taking account of their site-specific characteristics and qualifying interests.

Scale	Designation Type	Within/ Outwith NPT	Name	Qualifying Features/ Interests	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
				understanding of their special qualities.		
Local	Special Landscape Area (SLA)	Within NPT	The following SLAs are currently designated at the local level within the NPTC area: Mynydd y Garth Dulais Valley Vale of Neath Margam Mynydd y Gelli Foel Trawsant	Policy ENV2 within the existing NPT LDP identifies these 6 SLAs as being unique, exceptional or distinctive to NPT.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should provide an appropriate level of protection and enhancement opportunities for landscapes designated at the local level.	Relevant ISA objectives must afford an appropriate level of protection for all designated sites, commensurate with their status and purpose.

### **A.3 Environmental and Socio-economic Baseline Conditions**

- A.3.1 Informed by **Table A.1**, **Table A.2** below outlines the current environmental and socio-economic conditions within the area likely to be affected by the LDP Review, in particular (but not exclusively) the NPTC administrative area. This review also identifies associated existing environmental and socio-economic problems and issues which the LDP Review should address, and which should be considered throughout this ISA process.

**Table A. 2: Review of Relevant Environmental Aspects, Issues and Problems**

SEA Topic	Baseline Key Characteristics	Existing Objectives, Issues and Problems	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
<p>(1) Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora</p>	<p><b>Designated Sites:</b> As detailed in <b>Table A.1</b>, NPT hosts many designated sites at European, national and local levels for reasons of biodiversity conservation and value, whilst other designated sites outwith the NPTC area could also be affected by the LDP Review. At the European level, the NPTC area hosts 3 SACs and 1 Ramsar site. At the national level, the NPTC area hosts 21 SSSI's and 2 NNRs. At the local level, NPTC has designated 129 SINCS, 2 RIGS and 5 LNRs.</p>	<p>All identified sites are designated for specific reasons of ecological important or biodiversity conservation and have conservation objectives related to these, e.g. the protection of relevant qualifying features. <b>Table A.1</b> above identifies the qualifying features of relevant European sites (SACs and Ramsar sites). There is a need to safeguard these qualifying features from adverse effects, protect the integrity of designated sites and work towards the achievement of defined conservation objectives.</p>	<p>Any proposals for development within the NPTC area could adversely impact designated sites and biodiversity through a range of direct and indirect effects, potentially including loss of roosting, foraging and other habitats, physical or noise disturbance, abstraction of river water, discharge of effluent, contamination and air pollution. As such, all proposals and policies within the emerging RLDP arising from the LDP Review must take account of relevant ecological sensitivities. This includes the need to support the management of all designated sites in relation to their status and in pursuit of their defined conservation objectives. Any RLDP must also provide an appropriate level of protection for protected species and non- designated ecological interests.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework must include objectives relating to the appropriate conservation, protection and enhancement of statutory and non- statutory designated sites.</p>
<p>(1) Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora</p>	<p><b>Priority and other notable habitats:</b> NPTC's habitats include ancient woodlands, unimproved wet grasslands, chalk grassland, river valleys and rocky gorges, coastal sand dunes and saltmarsh. These habitats support varied flora and fauna, including many protected, rare or declining species.</p>	<p>All identified sites are designated for specific reasons of ecological importance or biodiversity conservation and have conservation objectives related to these, e.g. the protection of relevant qualifying features. <b>Table A.1</b> above identifies the qualifying features of relevant European sites (SACs and Ramsar sites). There is a need to safeguard these qualifying features from adverse effects, protect the integrity of designated sites and work towards the achievement of defined conservation objectives.</p>	<p>Any proposals for development within the NPTC area could adversely impact designated sites and biodiversity through a range of direct and indirect effects, potentially including loss of roosting, foraging and other habitats, physical or noise disturbance, abstraction of river water, discharge of effluent, contamination and air pollution. As such, all proposals and policies within the emerging RLDP arising from the LDP Review must take account of relevant ecological sensitivities. This includes the need to support the management of all designated sites in relation to their status and in pursuit of their defined conservation objectives. Any RLDP must also</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include appropriate objectives to assess potential effects on habitats and species from proposals (including cumulative development) and policies within the emerging RLDP. This should include consideration of impacts such as habitat loss, recreational impacts, water abstraction, pollution and disturbance effects.</p>

SEA Topic	Baseline Key Characteristics	Existing Objectives, Issues and Problems	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
			provide an appropriate level of protection for protected species and non- designated ecological interests.	
(2) Population (including relevant socio-economic conditions)	<p><b>Governance and Statistical Geographical Units:</b> NPTC is the unitary authority responsible for local government across a 442km<sup>2</sup> area of South Wales. The authority hosts five lower-level Town Councils and 14 Community Councils. The unitary authority contains two whole constituencies: Aberavon and Neath.</p> <p>The principal towns in NPT are Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe. NPT stretches from the coast to the borders of the Brecon Beacons National Park. A large proportion of NPT is characterised by uplands / semi-uplands and forestry. The upland areas are characterised by five valleys: Vale of Neath, Dulais Valley, Afan Valley, Swansea Valley and Upper Amman Valley.</p> <p>As a unitary authority, NPTC is also the single LPA for the area. The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 provides a legal framework for the preparation of SDPs at the regional level (refer to <b>Appendix B</b> for further details). An SDP is expected be prepared in due course for the South West Wales Region incorporating the NPTC area.</p> <p>NPTC is also part of the Swansea Bay City Deal<sup>1</sup>, a £1.3bn investment secured by the Swansea Bay City Region for 9 programmes and projects across Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea and NPT. In NPT, this will result in the creation of the Centre for Excellence in Next Generation</p>	N/A	The preparation of any RLDP will need to be closely aligned with the preparation of the SDP to ensure that once adopted, both documents provide a coherent framework for effectively and efficiently addressing relevant planning issues.	<p>The ISA Framework should include appropriate objectives to assess the ability of the emerging RLDP to meet existing and predicted future population needs, particularly with regard to the accessibility and provision of public services.</p> <p>The ISA Framework proposed for use in the ISA of the LDP Review (<b>Section 5</b>) should be kept under review and tested for compatibility against the SA Framework for the SDP once this has been produced.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Swansea Bay City Deal: <https://www.swanseabaycitydeal.wales/>



SEA Topic	Baseline Key Characteristics	Existing Objectives, Issues and Problems	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	<p>Services (CENGS) for start-up businesses, the ASTUTE Factory of the Future for smart technologies and a new National Steel Innovation Centre (NSIC) for research, testing and knowledge sharing, amongst other projects.</p>			
(2) Population (including relevant socio-economic conditions)	<p><b>Demographics:</b> NPTC has an estimated population of 141,900 (2021), around 4.6% of the total population of Wales (3,105,400)<sup>2</sup>. Projections from 2018<sup>3</sup>, which are the latest projections available at the time of writing, suggest that the population will increase from 142,906 in 2018 to 143,621 by 2021, increasing to 144,238 by 2028, which equates to an increase of 1% over the ten-year period.</p> <p>Additionally, between 2018 and 2028, those aged 15 and under are expected to decline by 4.46%, while those aged 16-64 are projected to decline by 1.7%. Conversely, the proportion aged 65+ is projected to increase by 13.3% between 2018 and 2028.</p> <p>In terms of statistical units, there are 91 Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) within the NPTC area, representing 4.8% of the 1909 total LSOAs in Wales.</p>	<p>Projected population ageing is likely to create issues for long-term workforce replacement and increase pressures on public services.</p>	<p>The LDP Review must account for the characteristics of the resident and working populations of the NPTC area, particularly with regard to current and future predicted labour supplies, employment needs, skill levels and socio-economic factors (as detailed below). It will be important for the RLDP to set out coherent strategies in respect of housing land and community infrastructure provision to meet current and expected future needs. Robust evidence to identify these needs should also therefore be collated and kept up to date throughout the LDP Review.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include appropriate objectives to assess the ability of the emerging RLDP to meet existing and predicted future population needs, particularly with regard to the accessibility and provision of public services.</p>
(2) Population (including relevant socio-economic conditions)	<p><b>Housing:</b> The 2022 AMR assesses housing delivery to date over the LDP Plan period (2011-2026). The AMR shows that the delivery of housing has fallen below the targets set. Specifically, since the LDP base date (2011), the number of housing completions totals 2,457 dwellings compared with the annual cumulative target of 5,603 in the monitoring framework (44% of the cumulative annual target to date has been delivered). NPT is split into multiple housing wards. The 5 largest number of households are in the following wards: Margam and Tai-bach (7,790), Baglan (6,724), Sandfields West (6,679), Sandfields East (6,654), and Bryn and Cwmavon (6,571)<sup>4</sup>.</p>	<p>The identification of a current housing land shortfall means that insufficient housing is likely to be delivered through the planning system to meet identified needs. However, a RLDP must be underpinned by up-to-date calculations of housing need, which may differ from the housing land requirements set under different economic conditions for the existing LDP.</p> <p>Alongside the ageing population, housing demand is anticipated to increase with projected increases in the number of one-</p>	<p>The LDP Review will assess the housing need for NPT over the intended period of the RLDP and set a new housing land requirement accordingly. Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review will then need to be underpinned by a clear housing land strategy and will need to allocate a sufficient quantum and appropriate range of housing sites to satisfy the identified housing land requirement.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to housing provision to meet identified needs, both in terms of the availability and quality of the housing stock.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Nomis, 'Labour Market Profile – Neath Port Talbot': <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157394/report.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> StatsWales, 'Population Projections by Local Authority and Year': <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Projections/Local-Authority/2018-based/populationprojections-by-localauthority-year>

<sup>4</sup> NOMIS: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

SEA Topic	Baseline Key Characteristics	Existing Objectives, Issues and Problems	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	<p>In total, there are an estimated 66,402 dwellings across NPT, of which approximately 67% are owner occupied and 33% are rented<sup>4</sup>.</p> <p>Average house prices within NPT increased by 12% from March 2022 (£150,516) to March 2023 (£168,305), which is £46,455 below the average property prices for Wales at £214,760 (March 2023)<sup>5</sup>.</p> <p>Over the current LDP Plan period, there is an identified need for approximately 8,000 dwellings over to the year 2026. The sub-area of Neath requires approximately 4,100 of these, in contrast to Amman Valley which requires approximately 1% (or 100 homes).</p> <p>With regards to affordable housing, since the LDP base date (2011), the number of affordable housing completions delivered via s.106 totals 72 dwellings. This is significantly below the cumulative target of 833 dwellings. The delivery of affordable housing is directly linked to broader housing delivery and the position reflects the fact that LDP allocated sites are not coming through the planning system as originally anticipated. A number of allocated sites have been delivered by RSLs, whereby it is only with Social Housing Grant support that the sites become viable.</p>	<p>bed dwellings required.</p> <p>At present the overall level of demand for affordable housing is not being met across NPT.</p>		
<p>(2) Population (including relevant socio-economic conditions)</p>	<p><b>Educational Attainment/Qualifications:</b></p> <p>In 2021, approximately 10.7% of the working age population (16 to 64 years) in the NPTC area held no qualifications, which is higher than the percentage of the population with no qualifications across Wales (8.6%)<sup>6</sup>.</p> <p>This trend was also observed each year between 2011 – 2017, although the proportion of the NPT population with no qualifications is shrinking.</p>	<p>The latest available statistics highlight that, as a whole, the working age population within the NPTC area holds fewer and less advanced qualifications than the Welsh average, although current educational attainment amongst school aged people is similar across both geographies.</p> <p>There is a high proportion of the working</p>	<p>The LDP Review should identify adequate provision of community infrastructure to meet existing and projected future population needs, including with respect to education infrastructure capacity and choice.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include appropriate objectives to assess the ability of the emerging RLDP to meet existing and predicted future population needs, including with regards to the adequacy, quality and</p>

<sup>5</sup> HM Land Registry, 'UK House Price Index Wales: March 2023': [www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-house-price-index-for-march-2023/uk-house-price-index-wales-march-2023](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-house-price-index-for-march-2023/uk-house-price-index-wales-march-2023)

<sup>6</sup> Nomis, 'Labour Market Profile': <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157394/report.aspx>

SEA Topic	Baseline Key Characteristics	Existing Objectives, Issues and Problems	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	<p>The level of attainment achieved by the working age population with qualifications is lower in NPT than across Wales. 61.1% of people within NPT are qualified to RQF3 and above, whereas 64.6% of people in Wales generally are qualified to RQF3 and above.</p>	<p>age population with no qualifications. This is of concern as it limits the ability of a sizeable demographic group to be economically active and restricts local access by employers to highly skilled labour.</p>		<p>spatial distribution of education infrastructure provision.</p>
<p>(2) Population (including relevant socio-economic conditions)</p>	<p><b>Community Infrastructure:</b> NPT is split into multiple wards: Aberavon, Aberdulais, Alltwen, Baglan, Blaengwrach and Glynneath West, Briton Ferry East, Briton Ferry West, Bryn and Cwmavon, Bryn-coc North, Bryn-coch South, Cadoxton, Cimla and Pelenna, Coedffranc Central, Coedffranc North, Coedffranc West, Crynant Onllwyn and Seven Sisters, Cwmllynfell and Ystalyfera, Cymer and Glynccorwg, Dyffryn, Glynneath Central and East, Godre'r Graig, Gwaun-Cae- Gurwen and Lower Brynamman, Gwynfi and Croeserw, Margam and Taibach, Neath East, Neath North, Neath South, Pontardawe, Port Talbot, Resolven and Tonna, Rhos, Sandfields East, Sandfields West, and Trebanos.</p> <p><u>Educational facilities</u></p> <p>NPTC act as the education authority in the area and operate the primary and secondary schools within the County. It operates 51 primary schools<sup>7</sup>, of which 9 offer Welsh language provision and the remainder offer English<sup>8</sup>. NPTC also operates 5 secondary schools, all of which use English as the language medium. There are also 2 Special schools.</p> <p>Further education institutions include St Joseph's Catholic School &amp; Sixth Form Centre and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera who provide sixth form opportunities. NPTC Group of Colleges, formerly Neath Port Talbot College and Coleg Powys, is one of the largest Further Education providers in Wales.</p>	<p>The NPT Wellbeing Assessment (2017) indicates that the NPTC area is presently served by a range of good quality community infrastructure and open spaces. However, funding shortfalls for cultural facilities may affect their availability. It is important that these are protected and where possible enhanced and that the infrastructure is capable of meeting the changing needs of the population. In addition, further community infrastructure and open space provision will be required to support projected population growth within NPT.</p>	<p>The LDP Review should identify adequate provision of community infrastructure to meet existing and projected future population needs, including with respect to outdoor sport provision, children's playing space, community halls, accessible natural open space and allotment provision.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include appropriate objectives to assess the ability of the emerging RLDP to meet existing and predicted future population needs, including with regards to the provision and quality of community infrastructure.</p>

<sup>7</sup> Neath Port Talbot Council, 'Find a School': <https://beta.npt.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/find-a-school/>

<sup>8</sup> Level the Playing Field, 'Welsh Language Provision in Neath Port Talbot': <https://www.leveltheplayingfield.wales/local-authorities/neath-port-talbot/welsh-language-provision-neath-port-talbot>

SEA Topic	Baseline Key Characteristics	Existing Objectives, Issues and Problems	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	<p>Higher education institutions in the area include Swansea University, which has a science and innovation campus in Crymlyn Burrows, and the University of South Wales, which has a campus located at Baglan Energy Park in Port Talbot. The University of South Wales also has a presence also on the Baglan Energy Park.</p> <p><u>Community facilities</u></p> <p>There are 8 libraries managed by NPT Libraries and 7 community managed libraries in the NPTC area<sup>9</sup>.</p> <p>Four areas of NPT were awarded Green Flag status in 2023: Gnoll Estate Country Park, Margam Country Park, Talbot Memorial Park and Neath's Victoria Gardens.</p> <p>Margam Country Park is one of only twelve places in Wales to be accredited as a Green Heritage Site.</p>			
<p>(2) Population (including relevant socio-economic conditions)</p>	<p><b>Employment<sup>6</sup>:</b></p> <p>Between April 2023 and March 2024, the employment rate within NPT was 70.9%, which is slightly lower than across Wales (73.5%).</p> <p>The percentage of the working age population that is economically active is also lower in NPT (73.2%) than across Wales (76.2%).</p> <p>The official unemployment rate in NPT stood at 4.3% in 2019, which was higher than the unemployment rate across Wales (3.0%).</p> <p>Related to this, the most recent data shows that, in 2022, NPT had a jobs density of 0.64 (ratio of jobs to resident working age population), compared with 0.78 across Wales.</p> <p>NPT has several manufacturing facilities, including steel, petrochemicals, automotive engineering, and apparel. Port Talbot Steelworks was capable of producing almost 5 million tonnes of steel slab per annum and was a key employer in NPT;</p>	<p>In recent years, NPT has consistently experienced a higher unemployment rate than the national averages for Wales and Great Britain. This indicates either that insufficient or unsuitable employment opportunities are provided for residents of NPT, taking account of education and skill levels (which, as detailed below, are also below national averages).</p>	<p>The LDP Review should develop an appropriate employment land and economic development strategy for the RLDP. It will be important for emerging policies, proposals and guidance to support the creation of a broad range of new employment opportunities which match the skill levels of the existing labour market, whilst also seeking to attract high value sectors such as energy, advanced manufacturing, logistics and ports.</p>	<p>The ISA should assess whether the RLDP will be effective in providing increased employment opportunities in appropriate locations and appropriate sectoral diversification into high value industries. The ISA Framework should therefore include objectives relating to high quality employment, economic growth, sectoral diversification and inward investment.</p>

<sup>9</sup> Neath Port Talbot Council, 'Find Your Local Library': <https://beta.npt.gov.uk/libraries/find-your-local-library/>

SEA Topic	Baseline Key Characteristics	Existing Objectives, Issues and Problems	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	<p>however, the first of its two blast furnaces shut in July 2024, and the second is due to close at the end of September 2024. This will end primary steel production at the site, and will cost approximately 2,500 jobs. An electric arc furnace is due to be constructed at the site in its place, with the government providing £500 million towards its construction, and the plant's owners paying £750 million. Whilst the electric arc furnace is greener, it is far less labour-intensive, and only 500 jobs will be created during its construction. It is anticipated that this will be operational in late 2027.</p> <p>The largest employment sectors in NPT are manufacturing (18%), human health and social work activities (12%), wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (12%), and public administration and defence; compulsory social security (10%). This is comparable to that of Wales overall, where human health and social work activities are undertaken by 15.4% of the population and wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles is undertaken by 13.2%.</p> <p>The range of occupations within NPTC demonstrates that those employed as managers, directors, and senior officials, plus those employed as professionals or associate professionals, falls below the Welsh average, whilst the process plant and machine operatives' proportion is higher than the Wales average.</p> <p>ONS Annual Population Survey data indicates that over the period since 2015 there has been a small shift in the industry of employment of residents of NPT, as the proportion of those who work in retail and education has decreased while the proportion who worked in health, hotels, transport and communications has increased.</p> <p>In 2023, full-time workers gross weekly pay in NPT averaged at £645.20, which was above the Welsh average of £636.10. Female full-time workers in NPT received, on average, £137.30</p>			

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	less than their male counterparts.			
(2) Population (including relevant socio-economic conditions)	<p><b>Inequality, Social Exclusion and Deprivation:</b> The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) (2019) identifies deprivation pockets throughout Wales<sup>10</sup>.</p> <p>In 2019, of the 91 LSOAs in the NPTC are, 14 were in the most deprived 10% of Wales; 30 were in the most deprived 20%; 41 were in the most deprived 30% and 63 were in the most deprived 50% LSOAs<sup>11</sup>.</p> <p>The percentage of households that are workless in NPT is at 20%, which is above the national average for Wales (17%). The rate of worklessness has fallen considerably from 29% in 2011. This 31% fall compares to a 24% fall over the same period for Wales.</p> <p>The percentage of the working age population who are claiming universal credit in NPT is 3.1%, which is below the average for Wales (3.3%). The percentage of working age population has fallen from 3.7% for both NPT and Wales since 2011.</p> <p>The level of worklessness is reflected through gross disposable household income (GDHI) per head, which is lower (£14,971) than the Welsh average (£15,754). In 2014, GDHI in NPTC was £14,746.00.</p>	Some parts of NPT, especially in the Valley communities, are among the most deprived areas of Wales, with low levels of economic activity and access to facilities and services, particularly for children, young people and elderly populations.	A holistic strategy is needed to address multiple deprivation within parts of NPT, including but not limited to the creation of new, high quality employment opportunities. Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should set out a clear employment land strategy to support the provision of new employment opportunities in appropriate and accessible locations. The RLDP should also include a regeneration strategy and associated policies and proposals to catalyse a range of physical, environmental, health and socio-economic improvements within identified deprived communities.	The ISA Framework should include appropriate objectives relating to equality, social inclusion, access to public services, employment opportunities, access to healthcare, access to open spaces and exposure to pollution (air, water, soil, etc).
(3) Human Health	<p><b>Life expectancy:</b></p> <p>Based on the latest figures for Wales (2020-2022)<sup>12</sup>, life expectancy at birth is 77.9 for males and 81.8 for females. For NPT, life expectancy is 76.7 for males and 80.5 for females, which is slightly lower than the national average.</p>	It is clear to see that there are notable gaps in life expectancy between males and females in the NPTC area compared to the Welsh average. Measures need to be put in place to firstly tackle deprivation which should then have a positive impact on life expectancy of both males and females.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should take into consideration the lower life expectancy and notable health inequalities of NPT resident population compared with regional and national averages. It should set out proposals, policies and guidance to safeguard and improve amenity, quality of life, and health outcomes (physical and mental) for all within NPT, i.e. for both the	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to amenity, quality of life, health outcomes, physical health, mental health, wellbeing, safety and security. These issues should be considered

<sup>10</sup> At the time of writing, this is the latest index available.

<sup>11</sup> StatsWales, 'Local Authority Analysis': <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2019/localauthorityanalysis>

<sup>12</sup> ONS, 'National Life Tables – Life Expectancy in the UK: 2020-2022': <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies/bulletins/nationallifetablesunitedkingdom/2020to2022#national-life-tables-life-expectancy-in-the-uk-2020-to-2022-data>

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			workforce and residents.	holistically when assessing the proposed components of the emerging RLDP.
(3) Human Health	<p><b>Physical Health/Lifestyle Choices:</b> According to the most recent National Survey for Wales<sup>13</sup>, approx. 31% of adults in NPT undertook less than 30 minutes of physical activity in the previous week, 14% were active 30-149 minutes per week, and 56% active at least 150 minutes in previous week. This is in line with the average for Wales. The percentage of adults who reported to have eaten five or more portions of fruit and vegetables the previous day in NPT was 29% which is above the average for Wales (22%).</p> <p>Childhood obesity is a significant issue in NPT, with the most recent data (2022-23) captured by the Swansea Bay University Health Board identifying that 11.8% of children in the region had obesity. Within the NPT region specifically, it was noted that the proportion of children categorized as having 'overweight not obesity' (15.8%) was higher than the previous year<sup>14</sup>.</p> <p>In the National Survey for Wales 2023, 12.8% of adults in NPT identify as a smoker. This is below the average for Wales, 16.9%<sup>15</sup>.</p>	<p>Physical health and lifestyle choices within NPT are in line with the averages for Wales.</p> <p>Increased education and awareness would be beneficial to the population of the County Borough.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should take into consideration the lower life expectancy and notable health inequalities of NPT resident population compared with regional and national averages. It should set out proposals, policies and guidance to safeguard and improve amenity, quality of life and health outcomes (physical and mental) for all within NPT, i.e. for both the workforce and residents.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to amenity, quality of life, health outcomes, physical health, mental health, wellbeing, safety and security. These issues should be considered holistically when assessing the proposed components of the emerging RLDP.</p>
(3) Human Health	<p><b>Mental Health and Wellbeing:</b> NPT's health board (Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board) recorded that 136.1 deaths per 100,000 residents were due to mental health and behavioural issues in 2016.</p> <p>Projected numbers of residents in NPT who have at least one mental disorder is expected to decrease from 26,864 (2015) to 25,758 (2035)<sup>16</sup>.</p>	<p>In line with the NPT Public Services Board 'The NPT Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028', there is a need to improve all aspects of the health and wellbeing of the resident population of the NPTC area, including physical health, mental health, and social wellbeing.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should take into consideration the lower life expectancy and notable health inequalities of NPT resident population compared with regional and national averages. It should set out proposals, policies and guidance to safeguard and improve amenity, quality of life and health outcomes (physical and mental) for all within NPT, i.e. for both the workforce and residents.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to amenity, quality of life, health outcomes, physical health, mental health, wellbeing, safety and security. These issues should be considered</p>

<sup>13</sup> Welsh Government, 'National Survey for Wales: April 2022 to March 2023': <https://www.gov.wales/national-survey-wales-april-2022-march-2023>

<sup>14</sup> Public Health Wales, 'Child Measurement Programme 2022-2023': <https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/child-measurement-programme/cmp-2022-23/1-cmp-report-2022-2023/>

<sup>15</sup> Welsh Government, 'National Survey for Wales': <https://www.gov.wales/national-survey-wales>

<sup>16</sup> Western Bay Population Assessment Report: <http://www.westernbaypopulationassessment.org/en/mental-health/>

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				holistically when assessing the proposed components of the emerging RLDP.
(3) Human Health	<p><b>Health Infrastructure:</b> Healthcare facilities in NPT are managed by the Swansea Bay University Health Board. The Health Board has a total of eight hospitals<sup>17</sup>. There are over 300 General Practitioners, around 275 dentists, 125 Community Pharmacies, and 60 Optometry premises across the Health Board. The Board also provides General Medical Services within His Majesty's Prison Swansea<sup>18</sup>.</p>	<p>Adequate health infrastructure needs to be located in accessible locations to meet the needs of existing and future populations. A range of high quality physical and mental health facilities are required to address the changing health needs of the population, in particular given projected population ageing.</p>	<p>The LDP Review should identify adequate provision of community infrastructure to meet existing and projected future population needs, including with respect to healthcare facilities and services.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include appropriate objectives to assess the ability of the emerging RLDP to meet existing and predicted future population needs, including with regards to the adequacy, quality and spatial distribution of healthcare facilities and services.</p>
(4) Soil	<p><b>Geological and Ground Conditions:</b></p> <p>NPT has varied geological and soil characteristics. Historically, NPT has been an area of heavy industry, particularly metal, chemical and oil-based industries.</p> <p>NPTC last published their Contaminated Land Strategy in 2015<sup>19</sup>, setting out how they will remediate contaminated land across the County Borough. A total of 34 sites have been investigated, with two of these confirmed as being contaminated: Pinetree Car Sales and the Former Briton Ferry Gas Works.</p>	<p>New development must be appropriately sited and designed to reflect the geological and soil characteristics of NPT.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should set out appropriate proposals and policies to safeguard important geological characteristics and soil resources within NPT, as well as a framework for remediating contaminated land.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to contaminated land remediation, soil quality and pollution to ground receptors.</p> <p>Consequential human health and ecological risks and impacts should also be considered in a holistic manner.</p>
(5) Water	<p><b>Waterbodies:</b> The NPTC area has one groundwater body classified poor under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), Pelenna.</p> <p>Several waterbodies within NPT are at risk of having poor water quality owing to 'point source pollution'. Water quality issues</p>	<p>Waterbodies across NPT vary in quality, ecological value and present condition.</p> <p>Management of water quality is essential for improving the long-term health of</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals and guidance to protect and enhance the water environment and water resources, including surface and groundwater quantity and quality. This should include measures to eliminate contamination sources</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the quality of the water environment and water resources, as well as to manage flood risks.</p>

<sup>17</sup> Swansea Bay University Health Board, 'Our Hospitals': <https://sbuhb.nhs.wales/hospitals/our-hospitals/>

<sup>18</sup> Optometry Wales, 'Swansea Bay University Health Board': <https://www.optometrywales.org.uk/health-boards/swansea-bay/>

<sup>19</sup> Neath Port Talbot Council, 'Contaminated Land Strategy 2015': <https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/documents/s14150/Contaminated%20Land%20Strategy%202015%20%20Review%20and%20Updated%20from%20Consultation.pdf>



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	<p>within the County Borough have been attributed to abandoned mine workings and the associated discharges of acidified iron rich water. This is identified as an issue across Wales and in parts of NPT.</p>	<p>populations and the environment.</p>	<p>which harm the water environment and to regulate pollution discharges from new developments into receiving watercourses.</p>	
(5) Water	<p><b>Flood risks:</b> The four main watercourses in NPT are the Afan, Dulais, Neath and Tawe which all flow NE-SW towards Swansea Bay.</p> <p>There are three canals running through the County Borough: Neath Canal, Swansea Canal and Tennant Canal.</p> <p>Significant areas along all the main rivers, watercourses and coast of the County Borough are identified as being at risk of flooding.</p>	<p>Flood risk is an ongoing issue within NPTC due to the setting of the local authority.</p> <p>Housing developments should be restricted, where possible, from development on flood plains.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should seek to manage flood risks in a sustainable manner, including by directing development away from known flood risk areas.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the quality of the water environment and water resources, as well as to manage flood risks.</p>
(6) Air	<p><b>Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and Poor Air Quality:</b> There is one identified AQMA (Taibach/Margam) within NPT, covering the majority of land and properties between Tata Steel Works and the M4 Motorway.</p>	<p>Continued monitoring of air quality within NPT is required with particular attention along the M4 corridor as development and industry grows within the County Borough.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals and guidance to tackle known areas of poor air quality and the likely impacts of new development on air quality, including from traffic.</p> <p>Any RLDP should seek to reduce local air pollution through setting out policies and proposals to promote sustainable and active travel modes.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to local air quality and associated health impacts. The ISA should also recognise that changes to air quality can have an impact on ecosystem services which affect biodiversity and other environmental assets.</p>
(7) Climatic Factors	<p><b>Greenhouse Gas Emissions:</b> 2020 statistics from InfoBase Cymru<sup>20</sup> reveal that total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from within NPT (46.1) show CO2 levels per resident (tonnes) to be significantly above the Welsh average (6.6). When measuring kilotonnes of industry and commercial CO2, NPT is considerably higher than all other authorities in Wales, emitting 6228.3 kilotonnes. This accounts for 58% of the total industry and commercial CO2 emissions for Wales.</p>	<p>Continued monitoring of GHG emissions within NPT is required to meet climate change targets, while also avoiding or mitigating GHG emissions as a result of development in the County Borough where possible.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals and guidance to support the transition to a low carbon economy. This should include the provision of a supportive policy framework for renewable and low carbon energy generation in appropriate locations. The RLDP should also include policies to encourage low carbon design and should set out a sustainable transport strategy which capitalises</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to energy use, resource efficiency, sustainable transport, GHG emissions and climate change mitigation.</p>

<sup>20</sup> InfoBaseCymru, 'Carbon Emissions': [www.infobasecymru.net/IAS/themes/environmentandsustainability/environment/tabular?viewId=518&geold=1&subsetId](http://www.infobasecymru.net/IAS/themes/environmentandsustainability/environment/tabular?viewId=518&geold=1&subsetId)

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	<p>In 2021, the Welsh Government published a report entitled <i>Energy Generation in Wales</i><sup>21</sup>, which identified that NPT is the area that generates the most renewable electricity of all local authority areas in Wales. However, it also identifies NPT as the second highest consumer of electricity</p> <p>in Wales, therefore only generating the equivalent of 75% of the electricity it consumes. NPT is identified as the authority with the greatest share of electricity capacity (330MW), followed by Carmarthenshire (264MW), and Powys (255MW). In each case, onshore wind makes up the majority of this capacity, with 70%, 55%, and 83% respectively.</p>		<p>on existing rail and port infrastructure within the NPTC area to contribute to the decarbonisation of the transport sector.</p>	
(7) Climatic Factors	<p><b>Climate Change Impacts:</b> Climate change research predicts an increase in the severity and frequency of rainfall events. Flooding from rivers, sewers and surface water is therefore likely to increase throughout NPT in the future. NPT is also expected to become increasingly vulnerable to tidal flooding as sea levels rise. Coastal erosion will increase and is likely to affect coastal infrastructure. Extreme weather events will occur more frequently and with greater intensity. This will impact on human health directly, as well as upon biodiversity and food production systems.</p>	<p>Predicted impacts from climate change (up to 2050) will place significant strain on infrastructure and available resources across the UK, including within NPT. In particular, heightened flood risk is expected to be a challenge for the area in future years.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals and guidance which responds to predicted climate change impacts and allows communities and businesses in the NPT to adapt to the changing climate.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to climate change adaptation and the resilience of environmental assets within NPT.</p>
(8) Material Assets	<p><b>Land Use: Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe</b> act as key hubs for services, employment, housing and retail developments for the surrounding communities. These towns are positioned at the top of the retail and commercial hierarchy of the County Borough. Briton Ferry, Skewen, Taibach and Glynneath play a strategic role within the County Borough as focus points for services, transport and community activity.</p> <p>NPT has many historical, archaeological and architectural assets, particularly Margam Country Park, that play an important role as leisure and tourism destinations.</p> <p>The existing LDP spatial strategy has sought to preserve material</p>	<p>There is an ongoing need to regenerate communities within NPT that have experienced post-industrial decline and have high levels of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>There is also a need to provide suitable land uses to meet identified needs, including increased housing and employment provision, whilst protecting sensitive land uses such as agriculture.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should help support and promote the efficient and appropriate use of material assets. It should set out a spatial strategy, proposals and guidance to optimise the use of land, natural resources and infrastructure. In particular, the RLDP should set out a spatial strategy, proposals and policies which optimise the use of and safeguard existing infrastructure within NPT.</p> <p>Any requirements for upgraded or new infrastructure to address constraints, decarbonise</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to resource efficiency, land use, waste management, energy, natural resources, climate change mitigation, connectivity and accessibility.</p>

<sup>21</sup> Welsh Government, 'Energy Generation in Wales': [www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-12/energy-generation-in-wales-2021.pdf](http://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-12/energy-generation-in-wales-2021.pdf)

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	<p>assets associated with land use, broadly by focusing development along the coastal corridor and in the urban areas of NPT while providing a flexible approach to development in the valleys.</p>		<p>key economic sectors or to support population, employment and economic growth, should be planned through the LDP Review and must take account of relevant environmental issues. This means that the RLDP should include a policy framework to support the deployment of renewable energy technologies and heat networks in appropriate locations.</p> <p>existing capacity</p>	
(8) Material Assets	<p><b>Transport infrastructure:</b></p> <p><u>Road Network</u></p> <p>The Core Roads Network connects NPT to adjacent regions. The M4 and A465 constitute the Core Roads Network in NPT.</p> <p>The Strategic Roads Network in NPT connects the major settlements and population centres in the County Borough and comprises mainly the A- roads (including the Core Roads Network).</p> <p>The local highway network connects local areas of population to the major settlements and comprises mainly the B road networks and all classified unnumbered routes within NPT.</p> <p><u>Public Transport</u></p> <p>Neath Station and Port Talbot Parkway are mainline stations served by both the Great Western rail services from London (Paddington) to Swansea (with connections to West Wales) and Transport for Wales regional services.</p> <p>Additional passenger rail services are provided from Baglan Railway Station, Briton Ferry Railway Station and Skewen Railway Station.</p> <p>There are also freight only lines: Vale of Neath to Cwmgwrach; Dulais Valley to Onllwyn; and Amman Valley -Ammanford to Tairgwaith.</p>	<p>At present, parts of the highway network experience congestion, especially at peak times.</p> <p>The Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro is at the early stages of development<sup>23</sup>; it is aimed at better connecting communities across the Swansea Bay City Region, while also developing improved rail and bus links with other parts of the UK.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should help support and promote the efficient and appropriate use of material assets. It should set out a spatial strategy, proposals and guidance to optimise the use of land, natural resources and infrastructure. In particular, the RLDP should set out a spatial strategy, proposals and policies which optimise the use of and safeguard existing infrastructure within NPT. Any requirements for upgraded or new infrastructure to address existing capacity constraints, decarbonise key economic sectors or to support population, employment and economic growth should be planned for through the LDP Review and must take account of relevant environmental issues. This means that the RLDP should include a policy framework to support the deployment of renewable energy technologies and heat networks in appropriate locations.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to resource efficiency, land use, waste management, energy, natural resources, climate change mitigation, connectivity and accessibility.</p>

<sup>23</sup> Transport for Wales, 'Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro': <https://tfw.wales/projects/metro/swansea-bay-metro>

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	<p>Both Neath and Port Talbot bus stations provide comprehensive local, short and medium distance bus services, including direct services to Cardiff and Swansea.</p> <p><u>Aviation and Maritime</u> Cardiff International Airport is located within a 40-minute journey of Port Talbot and allows access to both National and International destinations for passengers and freight.</p> <p>Port Talbot Harbour is one of the only harbours in the UK capable of handling capesize vessels of up to 170,000 DWT (deadweight tonnage).</p> <p><u>Active Travel</u> There are various active travel routes within the NPT area<sup>22</sup>. The Council's Active Travel Map was approved by the WG in December 2022. There are approximately 55 pedestrian routes totalling 47.140km in length, and 25 existing cycling routes totalling 36.400km in length. NPTC's active travel routes include the All Wales Coastal Path that provides a continuous walking route around the whole of Wales, totalling 870 miles.</p>			
(8) Material Assets	<p><b>Utilities infrastructure: Biomass</b></p> <p>The Margam Green Energy Plant installed in NPT entered commercial operation in 2019, generating renewable electricity via the grid for homes and businesses. At a cost of £160m it converts energy generated from burning waste wood before exporting to the grid.</p> <p><u>Solar Energy</u></p> <p>In 2021/22 there were two permissions for solar arrays: P2022/0643 and P2022/0934.</p> <p>NPTC also received a screening opinion for P2022/1050, a Development of National Significance (DNS) consultation request for P2023/0003, and DNS Scoping Opinion RFI P2023/0181.</p>	<p>There is a need for continued decarbonisation of the energy generation sector across Wales to support the transition to a low carbon economy and to help mitigate climate change. At the same time, a mix of energy generation sources is required to ensure continued security of supply and to overcome intermittency issues associated with wind and solar technologies.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should help support and promote the efficient and appropriate use of material assets. It should set out a spatial strategy, proposals and guidance to optimise the use of land, natural resources and infrastructure. In particular, the RLDP should set out a spatial strategy, proposals and policies which optimise the use of and safeguard existing infrastructure within NPT. Any requirements for upgraded or new infrastructure to address existing capacity constraints, decarbonise key economic sectors or to support population, employment and economic growth</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to resource efficiency, land use, waste management, energy, natural resources, climate change mitigation, connectivity and accessibility.</p>

<sup>22</sup> Neath Port Talbot Council, 'Active Travel': <https://beta.npt.gov.uk/activetravel>

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	<p><u>Wind Farms</u></p> <p>NPT has the highest onshore wind capacity of all local authorities in Wales, generating approximately 330MW. Several windfarms are operational in the NPT area, including the Pen y Cymoedd windfarm, which opened in 2017 and is the largest in Wales. This windfarm comprises 76 turbines with a capacity of 228 MW.</p>		<p>should be planned for through the LDP Review and must take account of relevant environmental issues. This means that the RLDP should include a policy framework to support the deployment of renewable energy technologies and heat networks in appropriate locations.</p>	
(8) Material Assets	<p><b>Waste management:</b></p> <p>In NPT between 2018 and 2019, of the total 69,990 tonnes of municipal waste generated, 42,560 tonnes were re-used, recycled or composted, 17,881 tonnes were incinerated, and 3,312 tonnes were sent for other recovery. This left only 5,883 tonnes sent to landfill. Overall, 60.8% of waste was reused/recycled or composted.</p> <p>NPTC has a partnership agreement with nearby local authorities to process waste at the Materials Recovery and Energy Centre (MREC) located at Crymlyn Burrows within NPT.</p> <p>In 2020/21, NPT exceeded the municipal waste reuse/recycling/composting rate, which it had not exceeded in the previous monitoring period (2019/20)<sup>24</sup>.</p>	<p>There is a need to continue to meet statutory targets for sustainable waste disposal in NPT.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should help support and promote the efficient and appropriate use of material assets. It should set out a spatial strategy, proposals and guidance to optimise the use of land, natural resources and infrastructure. In particular, the RLDP should set out a spatial strategy, proposals and policies which optimise the use of and safeguard existing infrastructure within NPT. Any requirements for upgraded or new infrastructure to address existing capacity constraints, decarbonise key economic sectors or to support population, employment and economic growth should be planned for through the LDP Review and must take account of relevant environmental issues. This means that the RLDP should include a policy framework to support the deployment of renewable energy technologies and heat networks in appropriate locations.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to resource efficiency, land use, waste management, energy, natural resources, climate change mitigation, connectivity and accessibility.</p>
(8) Material Assets	<p><b>Natural resources:</b> NPT contains significant amounts of mineral resources; both coal and aggregate. The existing LDP described the 'whole' of the County Borough as underlain by coal resources. The coal is at its highest quality with anthracite in the north, with pockets of steam coals in the south east. Coal has been mined extensively in NPT for hundreds of years and is recognised for its positive economic contribution to the creation and sustenance of</p>	<p>There is a need to protect and restore landscapes with the potential to be affected by minerals extraction.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should help support and promote the efficient and appropriate use of material assets. It should set out a spatial strategy, proposals and guidance to optimise the use of land, natural resources and infrastructure. In particular, the RLDP should set out a spatial strategy, proposals and policies</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to resource efficiency, land use, waste management, energy, natural resources, climate change mitigation, connectivity and accessibility.</p>

<sup>24</sup> Welsh Government, 'Local Authority Municipal Waste Management, 2020-21': <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2021-11/local-authority-municipal-waste-management-april-2020-to-march-2021-620.pdf>

SEA Topic	Baseline Key Characteristics	Existing Objectives, Issues and Problems	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	<p>several valley communities.</p> <p>Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 12th Edition states that proposals for new coal extraction will not be supported. Any such proposals must clearly demonstrate why they are needed in the context of climate change emissions reduction targets and for reasons of national energy security.</p> <p>There are two major hard rock quarries in NPT at Gilfach (Neath) and Cwm Nant Lleici (Pontardawe) that supply aggregates to both the regional and UK markets.</p>		<p>which optimise the use of and safeguard existing infrastructure within NPT. Any requirements for upgraded or new infrastructure to address existing capacity constraints, decarbonise key economic sectors or to support population, employment and economic growth should be planned for through the LDP Review and must take account of relevant environmental issues. This means that the RLDP should include a policy framework to support the deployment of renewable energy technologies and heat networks in appropriate locations.</p>	
(9) Cultural Heritage	<p><b>Historic assets:</b> As detailed in <b>Table A.1</b> above, there are 97 identified Scheduled Monuments within NPT. Of these, 5 date from the Early Medieval period, 14 from the Medieval period, 27 Post Medieval/Modern, 45 Prehistoric, and 6 Roman. The majority are sited within Margam (15). There are also 395 listed buildings across the NPTC area, ranging from bridges to castles (e.g. Neath Castle). There are currently 260 Buildings of Local Importance' (BLIs) and Designated Canal Structures in NPT.</p>	<p>NPT hosts a range of designated historic assets, each of which need to be appropriately protected from effects on their integrity and setting.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies and proposals to protect, conserve and enhance historic assets across NPT, including in terms of impacts on the setting of such assets and upon unknown archaeological resources.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the preservation, conservation, protection and enhancement of the historic environment.</p>
(9) Cultural Heritage	<p><b>Welsh language:</b> NPTC launched a revised Welsh Language Promotion Strategy in July 2023. This is to ensure that, by 2028, Welsh is much more audible and visible in local communities and used by more people in their daily lives.</p> <p>Actions include promoting the benefits of bilingualism/language awareness to young families and all newcomers into NPT; providing homework support to pupils of non-Welsh speaking families attending Welsh medium schools; exploring reasons for limited take up/access to Welsh language courses/education amongst specific communities; providing language awareness and training courses for teaching and non-teaching staff supporting and promoting the use of Welsh in social settings and in workplaces; and working with partners to increase the visibility of Welsh across leisure, business and cultural locations, activities and events<sup>25</sup>.</p>	<p>There is a need to safeguard and support the increased use of the Welsh language amongst the resident population of NPT.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should include policy provisions to support growth in the use of the Welsh language.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the protection of the Welsh language.</p>

<sup>25</sup> Neath Port Talbot Council, 'Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2023-2028': <https://www.npt.gov.uk/media/18989/welsh-language-promotion-strategy-2023-2028.pdf?v=20230925142608>

SEA Topic	Baseline Key Characteristics	Existing Objectives, Issues and Problems	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	<p>According to the 2021 Census, around 13.5% of people over the age of three in NPT can speak Welsh - a decrease from the 2011 Census when the percentage was 15.3% (a picture reflected across most of Wales).</p>			
(10) Landscape	<p><b>Designated areas:</b> As detailed within <b>Table A.1</b>, there no AONBs within NPT, but 2 NNRs are present and 6 SLAs have also been designated at a local level.</p>	<p>There is a need to provide appropriate protection for designated landscapes, important landscape features and sensitive landscape character areas. There is also a need to protect key views and safeguard visual amenity.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out a spatial strategy, policies and proposals which protect and enhance key landscape features, improve the quality of the local landscape character, are sensitive to relevant visual receptors and encourage local distinctiveness. The RLDP should also ensure that new developments are well integrated with existing communities to create a strong sense of place</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to landscape features, landscape character and visual impacts. The SEA should assess the impacts of emerging spatial strategies, proposals, policies and guidance on these aspects to ensure that the LDP Review safeguards and where appropriate enhances the level of protection afforded to the landscape.</p>
(10) Landscape	<p><b>Landscape fabric, character and capacity:</b> NPT covers an area of some 442 square kilometres.</p> <p>NPT has a varying landscape, ranging from sand dunes and coastal salt marsh through to upland areas of purple moor grass and ancient woodlands. There are several conifer plantations and important geological features, including glaciated valleys and rock formations.</p> <p>The Valleys are comprised of river valleys separated by upland plateaus and mountains. The settlement pattern and land use reflect the typical ribbon type associated with this area.</p> <p>NPT is traversed by the M4 motorway, A465 trunk road and the Swansea - Paddington railway line, all of which influence the surrounding landscape.</p>	<p>There is a need to provide appropriate protection for designated landscapes, important landscape features and sensitive landscape character areas. There is also a need to protect key views and safeguard visual amenity.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out a spatial strategy, policies and proposals which protect and enhance key landscape features, improve the quality of the local landscape character, are sensitive to relevant visual receptors and encourage local distinctiveness. The RLDP should also ensure that new developments are well integrated with existing communities to create a strong sense of place</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to landscape features, landscape character and visual impacts. The SEA should assess the impacts of emerging spatial strategies, proposals, policies and guidance on these aspects to ensure that the LDP Review safeguards and where appropriate enhances the level of protection afforded to the landscape.</p>

SEA Topic	Baseline Key Characteristics	Existing Objectives, Issues and Problems	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
(10) Landscape	<p><b>Visual amenity:</b> Visual amenity is adversely impacted in places by high levels of deprivation, resulting in buildings and infrastructure not being well maintained. Several windfarms are operational in NPT, which have potential to cause visual impacts.</p>	<p>There is a need to provide appropriate protection for designated landscapes, important landscape features and sensitive landscape character areas. There is also a need to protect key views and safeguard visual amenity.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out a spatial strategy, policies and proposals which protect and enhance key landscape features, improve the quality of the local landscape character, are sensitive to relevant visual receptors and encourage local distinctiveness. The RLDP should also ensure that new developments are well integrated with existing communities to create a strong sense of place</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to landscape features, landscape character and visual impacts. The SEA should assess the impacts of emerging spatial strategies, proposals, policies and guidance on these aspects to ensure that the LDP Review safeguards and where appropriate enhances the level of protection afforded to the landscape.</p>



#### A.4 Evolution of Baseline Conditions in the Absence of the LDP Review

A.4.1 This section responds to the requirement within the SEA Regulations to consider the likely evolution of the current state of the environment in the absence of the plan or programme under consideration, namely LDP Review.

##### The Need for the LDP Review

A.4.2 NPTC has determined that a review of the existing LDP (2011-2026, adopted January 2016) is needed to allow NPTC to prepare and adopt a RLDP prior to the end of the current LDP period. The NPT LDP Review Report (NPTC, 2020) concludes that the 'Full Review' procedure is needed to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing LDP and prepare a RLDP, as opposed to the 'Short Form' procedure which would only result in minor revisions (e.g. changes to the wording of individual policies or the addition of individual allocated sites) to the existing LDP. It is considered that a RLDP is needed to take account of a range of new Acts, policy frameworks, initiatives, evidence and spatial issues at national, regional and local levels since the adopted of the current LDP.

A.4.3 In the absence of any LDP Review taking place, NPTC would be unable to either prepare a RLDP (as proposed) or propose minor revisions to the existing LDP before the end of the current LDP period in December 2026. The timetable in the draft DA (October 2023) has adoption of the RLDP scheduled for April 2027, which would leave a period of several months where there would be no adopted LDP in place. The NPT LDP Review Report (NPTC, 2020) references, in the absence of an up-to-date Development Plan, the potential for there to be pressure from the development industry to try and bring sites forward that are not in accordance with the existing LDP's economic regeneration-led strategy. At present, there is limited demand for house building in NPT, with housing targets not being achieved, therefore, it is not anticipated that in the short period that the Council would be without an adopted Development Plan there would be significant pressure for development, however, there is a potential risk that there could be pressure to release greenfield sites in unsustainable locations. Whilst this demand could be limited, if it did occur, it could result in a range of unacceptable adverse effects on the environmental topics prescribed within Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, including:

- **Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna:** Increased development pressure in unsustainable locations or contrary to the LDP strategy could put pressure on biodiversity, including the loss and fragmentation of habitats, whilst increases in traffic and noise could disturb sensitive species;
- **Population:** Increased development pressure in unsustainable locations or contrary to the LDP strategy could result in a spatial mismatch between housing supply and demand for public service provision, economic opportunities and transport infrastructure. It could also result in the inability of public services and community infrastructure to meet identified population needs, including in relation to the demands of an ageing population;
- **Health:** The absence of a competent and up to date LDP would restrict NPTC's ability to improve the physical and mental health of the population through spatial planning policies and interventions. If significant increases in physical activity and active travel are not achieved, health issues including obesity, inactivity and poor air quality will continue to affect the population of the NPTC area, causing increases in ill-health, exacerbating health inequalities and restricting life expectancy. The absence of the LDP Review would also prevent NPTC from fully implementing the WBFGA 2015 and, in particular, from discharging the public sector duty under Section 3 of the Act, as there would be no mechanism available to align NPTC's planning policy framework with the objectives specified within the NPT Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028. Additionally, increased development pressure in unsustainable locations or contrary to the LDP strategy could lead to the loss of areas of open space, reducing opportunities for physical activity, with associated adverse health outcomes;

- **Soil:** Increased development pressure in unsustainable locations or contrary to the LDP strategy could prevent contaminated land from being remediated and result in the irreversible loss of important soil resources (e.g. high quality peatland). In the absence of an up-to-date LDP spatial strategy, increased pressure for the development of new facilities, housing and employment generating uses could also lead to the loss of the best quality and locally important agricultural land;
- **Water:** Increased development pressure in unsustainable locations or contrary to the LDP strategy could put pressure on water resources and adversely affect the quality of the water environment;
- **Air Quality & Climatic Factors:** Dependency on private cars to access employment and services could increase if development takes places in unsustainable locations or contrary to the LDP strategy. Additionally, opportunities to pro-actively encourage transport modal shift to walking, cycling and public transport would be lost. In the absence of a major short- term shift towards the use of electric vehicles, the resulting increase in traffic would increase fossil fuel combustion, carbon emissions and local atmospheric pollution, in particular greater release of particulate matter. This would act against wider policy efforts to decarbonise key economic sectors including transport mitigate climate change. It could also lead to worsening air quality and result in NPTC requiring designating additional AQMAs to address areas of poor air quality;
- **Material Assets:** Increased development pressure in unsustainable locations or contrary to the LDP strategy would be likely to increase pressure and capacity constraints on a range of essential infrastructure. This could itself result in a range of environmental effects as well as restricting long term housing, economic and employment growth across NPT. In short, without the LDP Review it is likely that a range of infrastructure required to meet identified needs across NPT would not be delivered;
- **Cultural Heritage:** Increased development pressure in unsustainable locations or contrary to the LDP strategy could add pressure to sensitive areas of historic and/or archaeological interest, as well as undermining the character of conservation areas; and,
- **Landscape:** Increased development pressure in unsustainable locations or contrary to the LDP strategy could have significant negative impact on the landscape character of NPT, especially if additional new development were to be concentrated within areas of high landscape value (e.g. within the existing 6 SLAs across NPT).

A.4.4 In addition, in the absence of having a competent and up to date statutory Development Plan, NPTC's planning resources may need to be diverted away from development planning activities in pursuit of preparing a new LDP towards resisting undesirable 'planning by appeal' cases. It is therefore expedient for NPTC to undertake the LDP Review.

#### **Use of the Full or Short Form LDP Review Procedure**

- A.4.5 In the event that the Short Form procedure was used instead of the Full Review procedure for this LDP Review, any resulting changes to the existing LDP would be limited in scope. This would prevent the LDP from fully taking account of the range of new Acts, policy frameworks, initiatives, evidence and spatial issues at national, regional and local levels which have emerged since January 2016. The resulting adverse environmental effects are likely to be similar to, albeit not as severe as, those listed above in relation to the potential absence of a competent statutory Development Plan for NPT.
- A.4.6 The LDP Review is therefore being undertaken in accordance with the 'Full Review' procedure to allow NPTC to prepare a comprehensive and up to date RLDP.

## Appendix B Review of Plans and Programmes

### B.1 Introduction

B.1.1 This Appendix supports Section 3 of the NPT LDP Review ISA Report by providing a review of relevant qualifying plans, programmes and strategies of relevance to the LDP Review. The main purpose of this review is to identify relevant environmental protection objectives and wider policy requirements within relevant policy documents which should be taken account of within (or otherwise inform) the LDP Review and this associated ISA process.

### B.2 Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes

B.2.1 **Table B.1** below sets out a review of other plans and programmes of relevance to the LDP Review and the associated ISA process. This review will be updated as required throughout the LDP Review process to take account of emerging policy developments and it will be appended to each iteration of the NPT LDP Review ISA Report. Of note, **Table B.1** does not consider the implications of Welsh national planning policy documents for the LDP Review; rather, these are addressed separately within **Table B.2** given their central importance in determining the soundness of the replacement LDP which will result from the LDP Review.

B.2.2 In terms of the **possible impacts of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**, **Table B.1** includes all relevant international plans and programmes of relevance to the LDP Review. At this time all European legislation of indirect relevance to the NPT LDP Review has been retained within **Table B.1**. While this is subject to change over the course of the preparation of the RLDP, some idea of the direction of future change can be gathered from the National Assembly for Wales Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee, which has set out 'Environmental Principles and Governance post-Brexit<sup>26</sup>'. This, the Committee's second report to consider the effect of the UK's departure from the European Union on environmental principles and governance structures in Wales, set out a series of recommendations for the WG's future Bill to address environmental principles and governance gaps. In summary, the Committee has recommended 'non-regression' or 'progression' as a principle of a future Bill and for the inclusion of the EU's four core environmental principles: precautionary; preventative; rectification at source; and polluter-pays while assessing the benefits of including other EU and international principles.

B.2.3 As of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, the UK Government committed to the maintaining of environmental standards and international obligations, stating that the following will remain in place:

- The UK's legal framework for enforcing domestic environmental legislation by UK regulatory bodies or court systems; and
- environmental targets currently covered by EU legislation – they are already covered in UK legislation.

B.2.4 In addition, Wales's Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) (Natura 2000 sites) have been confirmed to have the same protections they had when the UK was part of the European Union.

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<sup>26</sup> Welsh Parliament, 'Environmental Principles and Governance Post-Brexit':  
<https://business.senedd.wales/mgIssueHistoryChronology.aspx?IId=25682&Opt=2>

**Table B.1 Review of Other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies**

**International:**

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
Population (including relevant socio- economic issues)	United Nations (2016) Habitat III (Quinto), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (1998) The Aarhus Convention.	These documents provide an international framework for promoting sustainable development within all decision making. National and local developments should take sustainability into account and openly share relevant information to the public.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance which furthers the delivery of sustainable development and safeguards transparency in decision making. The LDP Review process itself must also be objective, transparent, evidence based and conducted fairly.	Applied as a whole, the ISA Framework should provide a holistic suite of assessment criteria to determine the contribution of any RLDP to the delivery of sustainable development.
Human Health	United Nations (1989) UN convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, United Nations (2016) Committee on the Rights of the Child Recommendations Report, World Health Organization (1999) Guidelines for Community Noise 1999, World Health Organisation (2004) Children’s Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe.	These documents provide an international framework which recognises the importance of the preservation and protection of human health when undertaking development activities.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the prevention of negative effects to human health from local developments in line with international legislations.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the protection of human health.
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971), EU Biodiversity Strategy - Our Life Insurance, Our Nature Capital: An EU Biodiversity Strategy (2011), AEWA (1995)  Convention on the Agreement on the Conservation of African – Eurasian Migratory Water birds (The Bonn Convention), UNESCO (1973) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, United Nations (1992) The Rio Convention on Biodiversity.	These documents provide an international framework to protect sites designated at the international level for reasons of biodiversity conservation and important species from harm.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the avoidance of effects on biodiversity when allocating sites for redevelopment activities.	The ISA Framework must include objectives relating to the appropriate conservation, protection and enhancement of designated sites.

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
Soil & Land	United Nations (2001) Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.	This convention aims to reduce the production and use of persistent organic pollutants.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the objective of ensuring that all development activities restrict the use of these pollutants.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the restriction of Persistent Organic Pollutants.
Water	United Nations (1982) Convention on Law of the Sea.	This convention demonstrates the rights and responsibilities of nations for fair use of the world's oceans.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the objective of ensuring that all development activities adhere with the conventions guidelines.	The ISA Framework should include objectives pertaining to the protection of coastal areas and the avoidance of negative effects on the sea caused by development.
Air	WHO Air Quality Guidelines, United Nations (1979) Geneva Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution.	These guidelines provide a scientific assessment of the health impacts of Air Pollution and provides guidelines applicable worldwide for various pollutants.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for acceptable levels of Air Quality and proximity of communities to developments which may cause unacceptable levels of air quality.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to local air quality and associated health impacts.
Climatic Factors	Kyoto Protocol to the UN Convention on Climate Change, The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations (2009) The Copenhagen Accord, United Nations (2010) Cancun Adaptation Framework, United Nations (2016) Paris Agreement.	These documents provide an international framework which identifies the need for climate change mitigation and adaptation action.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the mitigation of climate change effects caused by development and meet the key requirements as outlined by the policies.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to energy use, resource efficiency, sustainable transport, GHG emissions and climate change mitigation within the NPTC area.
Material Assets	United Nations (1989) Basel Convention.	This convention seeks to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations and the amounts/toxicity of waste generated.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the reduction in toxic waste generated.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to resource efficiency, land use, waste management, energy, connectivity and accessibility.
Cultural Heritage	World Cities Culture Report 2015 – measures and cultural assets, UNESCO (1972) Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, UNESCO (2001) Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage.	These documents provide an international framework to identify and protect historic assets.  They aim to ensure the historic assets have a function in the community and are integrated into various planning programmes.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the protection, preservation and presentation of historic assets as set out in international policy.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the preservation, conservation, protection and enhancement of the historic environment.
Landscape	N/A			

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
Interrelated Effects	Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, Communication COM (2005) 666: Taking Sustainable use of resources forward, United Nations (1992) The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, United Nations (2002) The World Summit on Sustainable Development.	Commits the sustainable use of resources and promotes sustainable development.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the promotion of sustainable development.	The ISA Framework should include guidance for achieving sustainable development goals.

**European:**

As a result of Brexit on 31/12/20 all relevant European law has now been incorporated into domestic UK law. Limited European legislation which remains of indirect relevance is outlined below.

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Council of Europe (1981) Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats – The Bern Convention, EU Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC/ on the conservation of wild birds), EU Habitats Directive (EU Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (As amended by 97/62/EC)).	These documents provide a European framework to protect sites designated at the European level for reasons of biodiversity conservation and important species from harm.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the protection of biodiversity in accordance with European legislation & policy.	The ISA Framework should include appropriate objectives to assess potential habitat loss, recreational impacts, water abstraction, pollution and disturbance effects from policies, proposals, advice and guidance contained within any replacement LDP resulting from the LDP Review.
Water	EU Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC), EU Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC), European Commission (2006) Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC, European Commission (1991) The Urban Waste Water Directive 91/271/EEC, European Commission (1998) The Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC, European Commission (2006) The Bathing Waters Directive 2006/7/EC, European Commission (2008) Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC.	These documents provide a European framework which seek to protect the quality of the water environment, including through ensuring safe levels for bathing and drinking water and by promoting sustainable urban drainage.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for mitigating flood risk, protecting the drinking water supply and the protection of the community from unsafe water levels.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the quality of the water environment and water resources, as well as to manage flood risks.
Climatic Factors	EU (2009) Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), A Resource Efficient Europe, United Nations (1994), European Commission (2001) National Emissions Ceiling Directive 2001/81/EC, European Commission (2007) The Integrated Climate and Energy Package, European Commission (2012) Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU), European Commission (2014) 2030 Policy Framework for Climate and Energy.	These documents provide a European framework to respond to the global challenge of climate change. Primarily, the minimisation of future climate change through mitigation and the implementation of adaptation measures are key themes.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the avoidance of contributing factors of climate change.	The ISA Framework should include objectives for the reduction of negative environmental effects from local development.
Landscape	The European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)	The European Landscape Convention promotes landscape protection, management, and planning	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the protection of

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>and organizing European cooperation on landscape issues. This Convention covers everyday landscape, as well as those that might be considered outstanding.</p>	<p>landscape protection and management.</p>	<p>landscape quality within the region.</p>



## National (UK)

All legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher level European and international frameworks

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
Population (including relevant socio- economic issues)	The Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, The Plan for Growth (BIS, 2011), Equality Act 2010, Local Growth: Realising every Place's potential (BIS, 2010), HM Government (2013) Aviation Policy Framework.	These documents provide a framework at the UK level to promote strong, sustainable and balanced growth across all economies. They aim to encourage investment and create an equal opportunity environment.	Any replacement RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the promotion of sustainable growth within the NPTC area for the benefit of its resident population.	The ISA Framework should include guidelines pertaining to achieving economic growth as designated by national policy.
Human Health	The Marmot Review, The Health and Social Care Act (2012), Child Obesity Plan (2016), Health Protection Agency (2007) Children's Environment and Health Action Plan, Health Protection Agency (2008) Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK 2008 - An update of the department of Health report 2001/2002, Health Protection Agency (2009) Health Strategy for the United Kingdom 2, Health and Safety Executive (2009) The Health and Safety of Great Britain: Be Part of the Solution, Sustainable Development Commission (2010) Sustainable Development: The Key to Tackling Health Inequalities.	These documents provide a framework at the UK level to reduce health inequalities and make improvements to public health while promoting active lifestyles.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for access to good quality health services as set out in International and European legislation.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to tackling health issues and creating adequate health and safety guidelines.
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	The UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework (JNCC, 2012), The Protection of Badgers Act 1992, The Natural Environment White Paper (DEFRA, 2012), Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006), The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) and amendments (2012), 25 Year Environment Plan (UK Government, 2018), Defra (2007) Conserving Biodiversity the UK Approach 2007, Defra, Scottish Government, WG (2008) The Invasive and Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain,	These documents provide a framework at the UK level to provide protection for protected species and habitats.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for protection of protected habitats and species, including any special protection areas.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to national policy on the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna.

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	<p>HM Government (1981) Wildlife and Countryside Act, HM Government (1990) Environmental Protection Act, HM Government (2010) Conservation of Habitats &amp; Species Regulations 2010 (as amended 2011), HM Government (2010) Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations, Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Defra (2012) UK Post- 2010 Biodiversity Framework, Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (2010), UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011) UK National Ecosystem Assessment: Understanding Nature's Value to Society.</p>			
Soil & Land	<p>Guiding Principles for Land Contamination, HM Government (1986) Agriculture Act (with numerous revisions) 1986.</p>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the UK level to identify and remediate contaminated land, as well as regarding the management of agricultural land.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the protection of agricultural assets and land contamination policies.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to contaminated land remediation, soil quality and pollution to ground receptors. Consequential human health and ecological risks and impacts should also be considered in a holistic manner.</p>
Water	<p>The Pitt Review: Learning Lessons from the 2007 Floods (2008), Flood and Water Management Act (2010), Defra (2005) Safeguarding Sea Life, Defra (2007) Fisheries 2027: A long-term vision for sustainable fisheries, Defra (2009) Our Seas – a Shared Resource: High Level Marine Objectives, Defra (2010) Adapting to Coastal Change: Developing a Policy Framework, Defra (2012) Marine Strategy Part 1: UK Initial Assessment and Good Environmental Status, DECC (2010) Marine Energy Action Plan, Department for Transport (2007) Ports Policy Review Interim Report, Department for Transport (2011) National Policy Statement for Ports,</p>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding flood risk management and the protection of water and coastal environments.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to coastal preservation and management and flood risk within the NPTC area.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to marine guidelines for cleaner oceans and provide flood risk mitigation.</p>

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	<p>Environment Agency (2005) Cleaner Coasts, Healthier Seas: EA Marine Strategy, Environment Agency (2013) Groundwater Protection Policy and Practice (GP3), HM Government (1973) The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973, HM Government (2003) The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017, HM Government (2007) Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &amp;c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended 2010), HM Government (2009) Flood Risk Regulations, HM Government (2009) The Marine and Coastal Access Act, HM Government (2010) Marine Strategy Framework Directive - putting in place the legal framework for implementation, HMG, NI Executive, Scottish Government, WG (2011) UK Marine Policy Statement, Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities Bylaws (various), Natural England and JNCC (2011) Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Project, NERC (2010) Marine Environmental Mapping Programme (MAREMAP), UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (2010) Charting Progress 2: The State of UK Seas.</p>			
Air	<p>The Air Quality Standards Regulations (2010) as amended, Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, UK's Air Quality Action Plan (Defra, revised January 2016), The Environment Act (1995), Defra (2010) Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate, Defra (2011) Air Quality Plans for the Achievement of EU Air Quality Limit Values for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in the UK: List of UK and National Measures.</p>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the UK level to implement objectives for the reduction of air pollution.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to the preservation of acceptable levels of air quality during local development in the NPTC area.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives pertaining to the protection and enhancement of local air quality and the minimisation of air pollution.</p>

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
Climatic Factors	<p>The Carbon Plan (DECC, 2011), Committee on Climate Change (2008) Building a Low-Carbon Economy – the UK's Contribution to Tackling Climate, DECC (2009) UK Ports for the Offshore Wind Industry: Time to Act, DECC (2011) Carbon Plan: Delivering our Low Carbon Future, DECC (2009) Framework for the Development of Clean Coal, DECC (2011) National Policy Statements for Energy Infrastructure, DECC (2011) UK Renewable Energy Roadmap, DECC (2014) UK National Energy Efficiency Action Plan, Environment Agency (2010) Managing the Environment in a Changing Climate, HM Government (1998) Petroleum Act, HM Government (2006) The Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change, HM Government (2008) Climate Change Act 2008, HM Government (2008) The Energy Act, HM Government (2015) Ozone-Depleting Substances Regulations 2015, HM Government (2017) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment.</p>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change. In particular, the Climate Change Act 2008 sets a legally binding target of reducing the UK's GHG emissions by 80% by 2050 compared with 1990 and requires a programme of rolling carbon budgets to be set to achieve this.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the prevention of environmental effects caused by local redevelopment and the pursuit of renewable energies where possible.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to renewable energy use, resource efficiency, sustainable transport, GHG emissions and climate change mitigation.</p>
Material Assets	<p>The National Infrastructure Plan (2011), HM Treasury (2014) National Infrastructure Plan, Reducing and Managing Waste Policy (DEFRA, 2013, Waste Incineration (England and Wales) Regulations 2002, The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016, The Waste Electronic Equipment (Amendment) Regulations SI 2010/1155 amending The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) (Waste Management Licensing) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006, The Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 (England and Wales), The</p>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding infrastructure development, environmental permitting, waste management and energy generation.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the efficient use of material assets, the deployment of renewable and low carbon energy generation sources and sustainable waste management within the NPTC area.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to resource efficiency, land use, waste management, energy, connectivity and accessibility.</p>

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	Waste Regulations 2011 (England and Wales), Landfill Regulations 2002 (England and Wales, amended 2005), Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 (Amended), National Planning Policy for Waste (DCLG, 2014), Meeting the Energy Challenge: A White Paper on Energy (DECC, 2007), The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (HM Government, 2009), Defra (2012) National Policy Statement for Waste Water, HM Government (1995) Environment Act 1995.			
Cultural Heritage	Heritage Protection for the 21st Century: White Paper (DCMS, 2007), The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, HM Government (1979) Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, HM Government (1996) The Treasure Act 1996.	These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding the protection and conservation of cultural and historic assets, including listed buildings, ancient monuments and archaeological resources.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the protection and promotion of cultural and historic assets in the NPTC area.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the protection, enhancement, conservation and preservation of assets.
Landscape	Hedgerow Regulations 1997, Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006), HM Government (1949) National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, HM Government (1967) Forestry Act 1967, HM Government (2000) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, HM Government (2006) Commons Act 2006.	These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding the protection of national parks, countryside and rural communities including rights of way and protection of forests.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the protection of landscapes and hedgerows, including protected areas within the NPTC area.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to landscape features, landscape character and visual impacts.
Interrelated Effects	The UK Sustainable Development Strategy (HM Government, 2005), National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012), Planning Practice Guidance, Defra (2011) Mainstreaming Sustainable Development, Department for Transport (2008) Delivering a Sustainable Transport System, HM Government (1990) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, HM Government (2000) Transport Act 2000, HM Government (2006) Government of Wales Act 2006, HM Government (2017) The Wales Act,	These documents provide a framework at the UK level to promote sustainable development and sustainable transport initiatives.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the promotion of sustainable development in the NPTC area.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to sustainable development targets.

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	Royal Town Planning Institute (2017) Digital Economy and Town Planning, Sustainable Development Commission (2005) One Future – Different Paths. Shared Framework for Sustainable Development.			

## National (Wales)

All legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher-level UK, European and international frameworks

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
<p>Population (including relevant socio- economic issues)</p>	<p>Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Housing (Wales) Act, 2014 Growth and Competitiveness Commission (2016) Our Valleys, Our Future (July 2017), WG Future Trends Report (2017), The Strategy for Older People in Wales: Living Longer, Ageing Well (2013-2023) (WG), Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, WGWG (2007) One Wales – A Progressive Agenda for the Government of Wales, WG (2009) Getting On Together - a Community Cohesion Strategy for Wales, WG (2009) Improving Lives and Communities – Homes in Wales, WG (2006) Play Policy Implementation Plan, WG (2009) Farming, Food and Countryside: Building a Secure future – A New Strategy for Farming, WG (2009) Living Well Living Independent Lives, WG (2010) Economic Renewal: A New Direction, WG (2010) Food for Wales, Food from Wales 2010:2020, WG (2010) Fulfilled Lives, Supportive Communities, WG (2010) Welsh Medium Education Strategy 2010, WG (2011) Sustainable Social Services for Wales: A Framework for Action, WG (2011) Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011, WG (2013) Partnership for Growth: The WG Strategy for Tourism 2013 – 2020, WG (2013) Vibrant and Viable Places New Regeneration Framework, WG (2013) The Strategy for Older People in Wales 2013-2023, WG (2013) Framework for Action on Independent Living, WG (2014) Declaration of Rights for Older People, WG (2014) Housing (Wales) Act 2014, WG (2015) Green Growth Wales: Investing in the Future, WG (2015) Child Poverty Strategy for Wales, WG (2015) Volunteering Policy, Supporting Communities, Changing Lives, WG (2016) Strategic Equalities Plan, WG (2016) Social Services: The national outcomes framework for people who need care and support and carers who need support, WG (2016) Early Years Outcomes Framework, WG (2017) Prosperity for All: The National Strategy, WG 2015/16 Review of evidence of inequalities in Wales, WG Future Trends Report (2017), WG Population Projections (2018), Innovation Strategy for Wales (February 2023), Building Better Places</p>	<p>These policies are informed by International, European and UK policies and broadly focus on progressive agendas for increasing economic growth and enhancing social wellbeing in Wales.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to relevant socio-economic and population issues within the NPTC area.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the creation of acceptable policies for the benefit of the population. The quality of social services, job provision, equality legislation and economic growth targets should be considered in a holistic manner.</p>

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	(July 2020), Smarter working: a remote working strategy for Wales (March 2022), Children and Young People's Plan (March 2022).			
Human Health	The Active Travel (Wales) Act (2015), Children's Commissioners for Wales (2016) Annual Report 15-16, (2017) Public Health (Wales) Act 2017, NHS Wales (2011) Together for Health, Public Health Wales (2015) A Healthier, Happier and Fairer Wales, WG (2008) Designed to Add Value - a third dimension for One Wales, WG (2009) Rural Health Plan, WG (2010) Setting the Direction: Primary & Community Services Strategic Delivery Programme, WG (2006) Climbing Higher – A Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity, WG (2012) Working Differently – Working Together, WG (2012) Together for Mental Health: A Strategy for Mental Health and Wellbeing in Wales, WG (2013) A Noise Action Plan for Wales 2013-2018, WG/ NHS (2016) Measuring the health and well-being of a nation: Public Health Outcomes Framework for Wales; Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill (March 2023).	These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level to improve the physical and mental health of the population.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for key health provisions and targets within the NPTC area.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to adequate health provisions for all communities regardless of location.
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Environment (Wales) Act, 2016, Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009, Wales Biodiversity Partnership (2010) Wales Biodiversity Framework, WG (2009) Woodlands for Wales Strategy, WG (2015) The Nature Recovery Plan for Wales – Setting the course for 2020 and beyond.	These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level to protect biodiversity interests, including designated sites and important species.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna within the NPTC area.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the preservation, protection and conservation efforts of biodiversity levels.
Soil & Land	Environment (Wales) Act, 2016, Joint Nature Conservation Committee Geological Conservation Review, Welsh Assembly (2012)	These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level regarding the avoidance and remediation of contaminated land and the creation of a geological	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance for local developments which may be taking place on	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to contaminated land remediation, soil quality and pollution to



SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	Contaminated Land (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012, The Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations.	profile of Wales.	protected areas or contaminated land.	ground receptors.  Consequential human health and ecological risks and impacts should also be considered in a holistic manner.
Water	Environment (Wales) Act, 2016, Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales - NRW) (2015) National Seascape Assessment for Wales, LUC, NRW, Environment Agency (2015) The Severn River Basin Management Plan Natural Resources Wales (2015) Dee River Basin Management Plan, Natural Resources Wales (2015) Welsh Coastal Tourism Strategy (WG, 2008), Interim Marine Aggregates Dredging Policy (WG, 2007), Coastal Access Improvement Programme (WG, 2007) Making the Most of Wales' Coast: The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Wales (WG, 2008), Wales Fisheries Strategy (WG, 2011) Strategic Policy Position on Water (WG, 2011) Marine Renewable Energy Strategic Framework, WG (2013) National Flood and Coastal Erosion Strategy for Wales, WG (2013) Wales Marine and Fisheries Strategic Action Plan WG (2015) The Welsh National Marine Plan, WG (2019) Water Strategy for Wales, WG (2015) Wales Marine Evidence Report, Welsh Water (2008) Surface Water Management Strategy, Welsh Water (2014) Final Water Resources Management Plan, Welsh Regional Coastal Groups, SMP 20 Lavernock Point to St Ann's Head (South Wales), The Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations.	These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level regarding the management of coastal and river areas, marine renewable energies, surface water management and coastal tourism.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance for local developments which may be affected by rising water levels, poor flood risk management or may be assisted by coastal and tourism strategies in the NPTC area.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the quality of the water environment and water resources, as well as to manage flood risks.
Air	Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations (2010); Environment (Air Quality and	This document provides a framework at the Welsh level regarding the protection and improvement of air	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance for	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to air quality and air

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill (March 2023).	quality in accordance with limits set within European legislative.	appropriate levels of local air quality management within the NPTC area.	pollution controls, as well as provide acceptable air quality levels for health purposes.
Climatic Factors	Environment (Wales) Act, 2016, Committee on Climate Change (2017) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report, Summary for Wales, Re- Energising Wales Project, WG (2006) Environment Strategy for Wales, WG (2010) Climate Change Strategy for Wales, WG (2010), Capturing the Potential: A Green Jobs Strategy for Wales, WG (2010), Low Carbon Revolution – the WG Energy Policy Statement, WG (2011) Policy Statement: Preparing for a Changing Climate, WG (2011) Preparing Wales for Climate Change: Adaptation Delivery Plan, WG (2012) Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition, WG (2014) Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition Delivery Plan, WG (2016) Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Energy Generation in Wales: 2021 (November 2022); Net Zero Wales: Carbon Budget 2 (2021 – 2025).	These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level to respond to the need to mitigation and adapt to climate change. The framework focuses on seeking to decarbonise key economic sectors, encouraging low carbon energy generation and enhancing the reliance of the natural environment.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the prevention of environmental effects caused by local redevelopment and the pursuit of renewable energies where possible.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to renewable energy use, resource efficiency, sustainable transport, GHG emissions and climate change mitigation within the NPTC area.
Material Assets	HM Government (2010) Waste (Wales) Measure 2010, NRW (2015) LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales NRW (2016) State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR), Sustainable Development Commission (2009) Low Carbon Wales, WG (2008) One Wales: Connecting the Nation, WG (2008) Wales Transport Strategy, WG (2010) Towards Zero Waste One Wales: One Planet. The Overarching Waste Strategy Document for Wales, WG (2012) Sustaining a Living Wales: A Green Paper on a New Approach to Natural Resource Management in Wales, WG (2012)	These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level regarding the protection of natural resources, infrastructure development strategies and investment plans, and transport strategies and policies.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the enhancement and protection of material assets within the NPTC area.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to waste regulations, protection of natural resources, resource management and green growth.

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	<p>Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan, WG (2013) Active Travel (Wales) Act, WG (2015) Green Growth Wales: Local Energy, WG (2016) Active Travel Action Plan for Wales, WG (2016) Energy Efficiency in Wales: A Strategy for the Next 10 years 2016-2026, WG (2017) Natural Resources Policy, Active Travel Act (Wales) 2013.</p>			
Cultural Heritage	<p>Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Valuing the Welsh Historic Environment WG (2010), Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, Cymraeg 2050 A million Welsh speakers, WG, WG (2017), Light Springs through the Dark: A vision for culture in Wales (2016); Cymraeg 2050: Welsh Language Strategy Action Plan 2022 – 2023 (March 2022); Cymraeg 2050: Our Plan for 2021 to 2026.</p>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level regarding the protection of cultural heritage; including historic assets and the use of the Welsh language.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP review should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the protection, preservation and presentation of cultural heritage and where possible, the inclusion of the Welsh language wherever relevant in the NPTC area.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objections relating to the protection of historic assets.</p>
Landscape	<p>Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Countryside Council for Wales (now NRW) (2001) Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest, Natural Resources Wales LANDMAP Programme.</p>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level regarding the protection and mapping of natural resources, protected and important landscapes of historic interest.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the preservation of protected landscapes and natural resources within the NPTC area.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to landscape features, landscape character and visual impacts.</p>
Interrelated Effects	<p>Environment (Wales) Act, 2016, Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016, (2015) Planning (Wales) Act 2015, WG (2008) People, Places, Future Wales 2040: The National Plan (2021), WG (2009) One Wales: One Planet, A New Sustainable Development Scheme for Wales (2018), WG Future Trends Report (2017), WG (2011) Rural Development Plan for Wales (2014-2020), WG (2012) City Regions Final Report, WG (2016) PPW – Edition 12, WG (2016) WG Programme for government, Taking Wales Forward 2016-2021, WG: Wales We Want National Conversation, Reforming Local</p>	<p>These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level regarding sustainable urban and rural development, city regional development and spatial planning.</p> <p>Building Better Places emphasises the importance of a plan-led and placemaking approach to recovery in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance for adhering to sustainable development guidelines where possible within the NPTC area.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to sustainable development targets.</p>

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	Government: Resilient and Renewed – WG Whitepaper (Jan 2017); Building Better Places (2020).			

**Regional (Proposed SDP Level)**

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
Interrelated effects	Swansea Bay City Deal (2017), Emerging Strategic South West Wales Strategic Development Plan, Regional Technical Statement (RTS) 2nd Review (2020) NRW - South West Wales Area Statement 2020.	<p>The Swansea Bay City Deal is a £1.3bn investment in 11 major projects across the Swansea Bay City Region across Carmarthenshire, NPT, Pembrokeshire and Swansea. The City Deal is being funded, subject to the approval of project business cases, by the UK Government, the WG, the public sector and the private sector.</p> <p>The Swansea Bay City Deal aims to boost the regional economy by £1.8bn and generate up to 10,000 jobs. It is being led by the four regional local authorities: Carmarthenshire Council, Swansea Council, NPT Council and Pembrokeshire Council – together with the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg and Hywel DDA University Health Boards, Swansea University, the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, and private sector partners.</p> <p>It focuses on three themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Internet of Economic Acceleration;</li> <li>2. Internet of Life Science &amp; Well-being; and,</li> <li>3. Internet of Energy.</li> </ol> <p>Local planning authorities have been invited to consider the development of Strategic Development Plans in addition to their own LDP reviews currently being undertaken. 4 SPDs are proposed to cover North Wales, Mid Wales, South East Wales and South West Wales.</p> <p>Under the provisions set out in Mineral Technical Advice Note 1 (MTAN1): Aggregates, the South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party (SWRAWP) must prepare an RTS setting out how demand for aggregates will be met in the region across a 15-year period. The RTS assesses the supply and demand of aggregates in each Mineral Planning Authority (MPA) area, setting out each</p>	<p>The preparation of any RLDP will need to be closely aligned with the preparation of the South West Wales SDP and the South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Parties RTS to ensure that once adopted, both documents provide a coherent framework for effectively and efficiently addressing relevant planning issues.</p> <p>The preparation of any RLDP will therefore need to align with the planned provision of aggregates with that for housing, to ensure that housing plans are not thwarted by an under-provision of aggregates.</p> <p>The South West Wales Area Statement provides a collaboratively developed identification of the key environmental challenges faced in the South West Wales Area. It identifies key thematic issues which the NPT RLDP needs to consider and build into the Review. It usefully provides a clear regional understanding of the key issues faced by NPT and its neighbours in the region and provides data sources which will be updated as the RLDP process progresses.</p>	<p>A separate SA/SEA process will need to be undertaken for the emerging South West Wales SDP once the lead Responsible Authority for the preparation of this plan has been determined. As with this LDP Review, SA/SEA Scoping will be needed to set an assessment framework prior to the development of substantive SPD components. The ISA Framework proposed for use in the ISA of the LDP Review (Section 5) should be kept under review and tested for compatibility against the SA Framework for the South West SPD once this has been produced.</p> <p>The South West Wales Area Statement should inform the ISA framework and be kept under review as the ISA is developed through the RLDP process.</p>

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>MPA's contribution to meeting regional demand. The SWRAWP 2<sup>nd</sup> Review was published for consultation in August 2019, setting out the demand for primary land-won aggregates in the South Wales sub regions at 12.486 mtpa. NPT is part of the Swansea City- Sub-Region on which calculations are based on two 'theoretical' options (i.e. only one of two options/datasets would be used to calculate demand). These are split into Option A (historical sales) and Option B (housing requirements from each LPA). Based on historical sales across the South Wales region (option A), 0.611 mtpa of aggregate will be required from NPT to meet ongoing demand.</p> <p>Based on housing requirements outlined in the existing LDP and calculated against the demand across the South Wales region, 0.347 mtpa would be required from NPT would be required to meet demand across the region.</p> <p>Taking into account the differences in provision of types of aggregate across all local authorities in the South Wales region, Preferred Annualised Apportionment for NPT has been calculated at 0.305 mtpa.</p> <p>NRW has produced its first Area Statements (2020). Each Area Statement outlines the key challenges facing that particular locality, what we can all do to meet those challenges, and how we can better manage our natural resources for the benefit of future generations. They will be updated regularly and improved year-on-year.</p> <p>Viewed together, the seven Area Statements can be seen as a collaborative response to what is known as the Natural Resources Policy, published by the WG in 2017, which sets out the key challenges and</p>		

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>opportunities for the sustainable management of Wales' natural resources into the future. NPT is located within the South West Wales Area Statement. This Area Statement identifies the key risks, opportunities and priorities that we all need to address to build the resilience of our ecosystems and support sustainable management of the natural resources. It sets out actions that NRW and its partners, will take forward to address the issues they have identified.</p> <p>The themes for South West Wales are: Reducing health inequalities - This theme aims to examine the opportunities to address health inequalities in South West Wales by using natural resources and habitats; Ensuring sustainable land management - Ensuring our land is sustainably managed for future generations; Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity - This theme aims to explore how we can reverse the decline of biodiversity by building resilient ecological networks; and, Cross-cutting theme: Mitigating and adapting to a changing climate – This cross- cutting theme looks at how we can adapt and respond to a changing climate.</p>		

## Local (NPTC & Neighbouring Local Authorities)

All legislative and policy frameworks are informed by relevant higher-level Welsh, UK, European and international frameworks.

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
<p>Population (including relevant socio- economic issues)</p>	<p>NPT Strategic School Improvement Programme (NPTC, 2018). NPT We Want (Well-being Plan 2018 – 2023), Aging Well in NPT Plan, NPT Public Services Board Assessment of Local Well-being May 2017, NPT Single Integrated Plan 2013-2023, NPTC Corporate Plan 2019- 2022, NPT Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-2020, NPTC Local Housing Strategy 2015-20, NPTC Homelessness Strategy 2018-22, Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013-2030, NPT Strategic Equality Plan 2015-2019, NPTC Local Development Strategy, Port Talbot Waterfront Enterprise Zone, NPT Digital Strategy (2018-2022) 'Smart &amp; Connected', NPT Tourism Development Action Plan, NPT Destination Management Plan; NPT Corporate Plan 2022 – 2027: Recover, Reset, Renew; NPT Economic Recovery Plan (February 2022).</p>	<p>The Corporate Plan covers the period 2022-2027 and sets out how the Council will approach recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in the short, medium and longer term. It sets out the council's strategic change programme for the next five years, and is centred on four well-being objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All children get the best start in life;</li> <li>• All communities are thriving and sustainable;</li> <li>• Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations; and,</li> <li>• Local people are skilled and access high quality, green jobs.</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, other local policies regarding socio-economic issues broadly address the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving quality of life for all;</li> <li>• Protecting and enhancing the environment;</li> <li>• Increasing prosperity;</li> <li>• Delivering safer and more inclusive communities;</li> <li>• Achieving a healthier County Borough; and,</li> <li>• Ensure good quality housing.</li> </ul> <p>The NPT Public Services Board Wellbeing Assessment (2017) summaries the challenges to Economic, Environmental and Social Wellbeing affecting residents of the NPTC area, as required under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.</p> <p>Informed by the Wellbeing Assessment, the NPT Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028 identifies policy</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP Review should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to the wellbeing and the prosperity for the community in the NPTC area.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the creation of acceptable policies for the benefit of the population. The quality of social services, job provision, equality legislation and economic growth targets should be considered in a holistic manner.</p>



SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>changes and actions to improve the health and wellbeing of the population within NPT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support children in their early years, especially children at risk of adverse childhood experiences;</li> <li>• Create safe, confident and resilient communities, focusing on vulnerable people;</li> <li>• Put more life into our later years - Ageing Well;</li> <li>• Promote well-being through work and in the workplace;</li> <li>• Valuing green infrastructure and the contribution it makes to Well-being; and,</li> <li>• Tackling digital exclusion.</li> </ul> <p>The NPT Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028 also sets out wellbeing objectives for the NPTC area, particularly '[d]evelop[ing] the local economy and environment'.</p>		
Human Health	<p>NPT Council's Plan for Adult Social Care 2019-2022, NPT Active Travel 'Existing Route Map' (ERM) and Integrated Route Map (IRM), NPT Health, Social Care &amp; Wellbeing Strategy, NPTC Strategic Delivery Plan for Mental Health Services (2018), NPT Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028, Aging Well in NPT Plan, NPT Public Services Board Assessment of Local Well-being May 2017.</p>	<p>The health policies relevant to NPTC address issues encompassing social inclusion, lifestyle and health and social care.</p> <p>The NPT Well-being Assessment summarises the challenges to Economic, Environmental and Social Wellbeing for residents in NPT in accordance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Informed by the Wellbeing Assessment, the NPT Public Services Board NPT Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028 provides key statistics to inform future local development plans, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The promotion of health lifestyles including regular exercise;</li> <li>• Addressing poor lifestyle choices and childhood</li> </ul>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP review should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to healthcare targets set by NPTC in their LDP area.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to tackling health issues and creating adequate health and safety guidelines.</p>

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>poverty;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addressing health inequalities within the NPTC area, including differences in life and health life expectancy; and,</li> <li>Improve access to healthcare facilities.</li> </ul> <p>The NPT Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028 also sets out wellbeing objectives for the NPTC area, particularly,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the well-being of children and young people; and,</li> <li>Improve the well-being of all adults.</li> </ul>		
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	NPT Biodiversity Duty Plan (2017), NPT Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP); NPT Biodiversity Duty Plan 2020-2023.	<p>The local biodiversity action plan and duty plans aim to map/quantify biodiversity and identify its importance for the NPTC area.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Action Plan Objectives include requirements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embedding biodiversity into decision-making at all levels; Safeguarding species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management;</li> <li>Increasing resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation;</li> <li>Tackle key pressures on species and habitats;</li> <li>Improving our evidence and understanding and monitoring of biodiversity; and</li> <li>Putting in place a framework for governance and support for delivery.</li> </ul>	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP review should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance to protect biodiversity, flora and fauna and its habitats from being destroyed by local development.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to conservation, protection and enhancement of biodiversity interests.

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
Soil & Land	N/A			
Water	NPTC Flood Risk Management Strategy.	The NPTC Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out locally significant flood risk in the NPTC area. The main aim of the strategy is to reduce the social and economic impacts on the local community as a result of flooding while also reducing the overall risk of flooding.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP review should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance to protect, prevent and mitigate adverse impacts on flood risk levels as a result of local development.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the reduction of flood risk while guiding local development decisions.
Air	NPTC Air Quality Strategy 'Airwise: Clean Air for Everyone' (2017).	This Air Quality Strategy sets out NPTC's approach to tackle air quality issues in the area now and in the future.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP review should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the protection of air quality and the prevention of adverse impact on local, regional and national air quality standards as a result of development, including industry.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to tackling air quality issues.
Climatic Factors	NPT Decarbonisation and Renewable Energy Strategy (2020).	The NPT Decarbonisation and Renewable Energy Strategy sets out the framework to achieve the Council's carbon footprint reduction aspirations. It is based around three key themes: transportation; buildings and spaces; and, influencing behaviour.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation. In particular, the LDP Review should plan for upgraded and new infrastructure to support the decarbonisation of key economic sectors within the NPTC area. The RLDP should therefore include a policy framework to support the deployment of renewable energy technologies and heat networks in appropriate locations. The RLDP will therefore have a key role in facilitating the implementation of this overarching corporate strategy.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
Material Assets	Joint Local Transport Plan 2015-2020, Regional Waste Plan for the South West Wales Region, NPT Public Services Board Assessment of Local Well-being May 2017, the NPT Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028.	The Joint Local Transport Plan sets out the transport strategy adopted by four local authorities (Carmarthenshire, NPT, Swansea and Pembrokeshire), replacing original individual plans. It provides a strategic outlook on road traffic reduction, road safety, public transport, parking, managing the transportation network, and cycling and walking.	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to the reasoned provision of transport.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the growth of material assets.

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>The regional waste plan policy aims to provide a land use planning framework at the regional level. Each Local Planning Authority (LPA) shall develop whichever service best suits their needs and manage their own waste.</p> <p>The NPT Wellbeing Assessment (2017) summarises the challenges to Economic, Environmental and Social Wellbeing for residents in the NPT area in accordance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Informed by the Wellbeing Assessment, the NPT Public Services Board NPT Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028 provides key statistics and goals to inform future local development plans, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of a wider mix of uses on sites in existing employment areas to stimulate growth;</li> <li>• Provision of business and management skills training in NPTC; and,</li> <li>• Address inequalities faced by people living in the Valleys.</li> </ul>		
Cultural Heritage	NPT Public Services Board Assessment of Local Well-being May 2017, the NPT Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028, NPTC Welsh Language Promotion Strategy.	<p>The NPTC Welsh Language Promotion Strategy describes how NPTC will aim to raise the profile of the Welsh language and culture with its residents and employees.</p> <p>The NPT Wellbeing Assessment (2017) summaries the challenges to Economic, Environmental and Social Wellbeing for residents in the NPT area in accordance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Informed by the Wellbeing Assessment, the NPT Public Services Board NPT Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028 provides key statistics and goals to inform future local development plans, including:</p>	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to the preservation and promotion of the Welsh language and promote the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the NPTC area.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the preservation of historic assets.

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>Work to maximise the benefit to residents of NPTC from cultural, built and natural assets; understanding Welsh heritage by mapping sites and Buildings; promoting the use of the Welsh language; and, promoting awareness of the benefits of these assets.</p>		
Landscape	N/A			
Interrelated Effects	<p>NPT Public Services Board Assessment of Local Well-being May 2017, the NPT Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028. NPT Single Integrated Plan 2013-2023.</p>	<p>As noted above, these documents identify a wide-ranging set of socio-economic and wellbeing challenges affecting residents within the NPTC area and identify wellbeing objectives and associated measures to address these.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP must respond to the locally identified wellbeing objectives and demonstrate compliance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to all aspects of health and wellbeing, including each of the wellbeing objectives defined within the NPT Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028</p>

## **B.3 Review of National Planning Policy Requirements**

B.3.1 **Table B.2** below presents a review of Welsh national planning policies and guidance in order to identify key policy requirements which will need to be taken account of within the LDP Review. National planning policy is presently contained within PPW, comprising of policy themes concerning well-being goals in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and reflecting the WG strategies and policies. Future Wales was published by the WG on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021, setting out the 20-year plan for Wales up to 2040 and identifying nationally significant developments. Key policy requirements arising from Future Wales that are of relevance to the LDP Review are also identified in **Table B.2**.

### **Future Wales: The National Plan (February 2021)**

B.3.2 In September 2020, the Minister for Housing and Local Government provided a working draft Future Wales National Development Framework, including a Schedule of Changes report, setting out the changes made since consultation was undertaken on the previous draft published in 2019. Future Wales 2040: The National Plan (Future Wales) was then published by the WG on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

B.3.3 Future Wales will be reviewed and updated every five years but provides a twenty-year spatial vision for development in Wales. Future Wales provides a framework to be built upon by Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and Local Development Plans which will identify the location of infrastructure and development across the country. Future Wales has been reviewed, with the implications described under each SEA Objective in **Table B.2**.

### **Implications of the Covid-19 Pandemic**

B.3.4 Following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020, the preparation of RLDPs was impacted by changes to local authority capacity and resources, the ability to host the traditional LDP consultation events and the ability to adhere to the agreed Delivery Agreement (DA). In response, the WG released a letter on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 requesting all Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to reflect on their individual circumstances, providing guidance for LPAs at different stages of RLDP preparation.

B.3.5 NPTC commenced work on the preparation of the LDP Review Report at the beginning of 2020, completing the 6-week public consultation period on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Following formal approval from NPTC, the LDP Review Report was submitted to the WG in July 2020. The DA was initially approved in 2021, however, following the findings of the Call for Candidate Sites, coupled with a need for additional work to be carried out on viability and transport, a new DA was produced in 2023. This updated DA sets out the review timetable (as required to be approved by WG), the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) and the NPTC resources which will be committed to developing the RLDP. The finalised timescales for completion of these elements are confirmed in the final version of the DA, approved by WG on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

### **Implications of Brexit**

B.3.6 On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, the United Kingdom left the European Union, with implications for legislative geographies taken under review as part of the SA of the emerging NPT LDP. The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 provides legal continuity, enabling the transposition of directly applicable existing EU law and converting it into UK law, creating a new category of domestic law for the United Kingdom named 'Retained EU Law'. Brexit therefore has implications of the review of European legislation undertaken for this SA which has been addressed in the main policy tables.

**Table B. 2: Implications of Welsh National Planning Policies for NPT LDP Review**

Approved policy documents

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
<p>Population (including relevant socio- economic issues)</p>	<p>PPW Edition 12 (2024), Future Wales: The National Plan (2021), TAN2: Planning and Affordable Housing (2006), TAN 4: Retail and Commercial Development, WG (2010) TAN6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities, WG (2009) TAN 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space, WG (2014) TAN23: Economic Development, Technical Advice Note (TAN) 13: Tourism, WG (2013), WG Circular (005/2018): Planning for Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Sites (2018), WG 'Prosperity for All': the National Strategy' (2017), WG Valleys Task Force: Our Valleys, Our Future (July 2017), Building Better Places (2020).</p>	<p>These documents require the preparation of LDPs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-ordinate development with infrastructure provision;</li> <li>Follow the principles of sustainable development including demonstrating an appropriate consideration to the 'five ways of working' and an improvement in the delivery of all four aspects of wellbeing: social, economic, environmental, and cultural; Support national, regional, and local economic policies and strategies;</li> <li>Align jobs and services with housing, wherever possible, so as to reduce the need for travel, especially by car;</li> <li>Promote the re-use of previously developed, vacant and underused land;</li> <li>Deliver physical regeneration and employment opportunities to disadvantaged communities;</li> <li>Guide and control economic development to facilitate regeneration initiatives and promote environmental and social sustainability;</li> <li>Reflect work with neighbouring authorities and other relevant stakeholders to plan strategically for employment land provision;</li> <li>Be underpinned by an up to date and appropriate evidence base to support policy choices and land allocations for economic development;</li> <li>Set out an evidence based economic vision for the area, including a broad assessment of anticipated employment change by broad sector and land use;</li> <li>Provide targets on land provision for the employment</li> </ul>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to relevant socio- economic and population issues within the NPTC area.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to socio-economic issues including economic competitiveness and economic growth, employment provision, social wellbeing, housing and open space.</p>

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>uses (Classes B1-B8), showing net change in land/floorspace for offices and industry/warehousing separately, and protect these sites from inappropriate development;</p> <p>Identify strategic employment sites at regional scale by agreement amongst local authorities, giving careful consideration to the attributes of strategic employment sites to ensure they provide a differentiated offer across the region;</p> <p>Include policies relating to future development on existing employment sites to protect them from inappropriate development: to encourage the regeneration and re-use of sites which are still suitable and needed for employment, and to control and manage the release of unwanted employment sites to other uses;</p> <p>Seek to provide the right amount of land and qualitative mix of sites to meet the market demand for economic development uses;</p> <p>Propose specific locations for those necessary industries which are detrimental to amenity and may be a source of pollution;</p> <p>Seek to promote and facilitate development that will deliver physical regeneration;</p> <p>Prioritise sites that deliver appropriate job and training opportunities to disadvantaged communities;</p> <p>Concentrate development that attracts large numbers of people, including retail and offices, in city, town and village centres;</p> <p>Include criteria-based policies to deal with development not specifically allocated in the development plan and help respond to unexpected change;</p> <p>Include policies on the scope for new economic</p>		



SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>development in and adjoining rural settlements and identify suitable sites. In remote rural areas and smaller settlements, a criteria-based approach should be considered;</p> <p>Include policies encouraging farm diversification and new rural development opportunities;</p> <p>Identify protection zones around establishments that hold hazardous substances and protect the ability of existing establishments to operate or expand by preventing the incremental development of vulnerable uses in the vicinity of such sites;</p> <p>Adopt the 'town centres first' principle with consideration always given to an existing centre;</p> <p>Establish a local retail hierarchy which identifies the nature, type and strategic role to be performed by retail and commercial centres;</p> <p>Set out measures to reinvigorate particular centres, as appropriate, including linking to centre-wide strategies, masterplans and place plans;</p> <p>Promote vibrant, attractive and viable retail and commercial centres;</p> <p>Identify the boundaries of retail and commercial centres contained within the hierarchy on the proposals map;</p> <p>Allocate sites for retail and commercial centre uses where there is assessed to be a quantitative or qualitative need and where size and scale are in accord with the retail strategy. Sites should be identified using the sequential approach and, where appropriate, assessed for their impact on other centres;</p> <p>Include a criteria-based policy against which proposals coming forward on unallocated sites can</p>		

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>be judged;</p> <p>Set out policies for primary and secondary areas, where appropriate;</p> <p>Develop policies which deal flexibly with changes to existing buildings;</p> <p>Include policies relating to future development on existing retail sites to protect them from inappropriate development and to control and manage the release of unwanted retail sites to other uses;</p> <p>Monitor the health of retail centres to assess the effectiveness of policies;</p> <p>Locate new commercial, retail, education, health, leisure and public service facilities within town and city centres with good access by public transport to and from the town/city and where appropriate the wider region.</p> <p>LPAs should work in partnership with the private sector to identify sites which accord with the sequential approach and are in line with the LDPs retail strategy;</p> <p>Incorporate the new sequential search methodology for identifying housing sites (PPW (2024) paras 3.41 – 3.43);</p> <p>Planning Authorities must use their housing trajectory as the basis for monitoring the delivery of their housing requirement and will form part of the basis for monitoring the delivery of LDP housing requirements as part of LDP AMRs and for subsequent plan review. The monitoring of housing delivery for AMRs must be undertaken by planning authorities in accordance with the guidance set out in the Development Plans Manual. Under delivery against the trajectory can itself be a reason to review a development plan;</p>		

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>Establish a strategic framework for the protection, provision and enhancement of well-designed tourism, sport, recreation and leisure facilities in the NPTC area;</p> <p>Protect playing fields and open space that has significant amenity or recreational value to local communities from development;</p> <p>Locate facilities that may generate high levels of travel demand in or close to town centres where possible;</p> <p>Consider the scope to use disused land and routes as parks, linear parks or greenways in urban areas; and, Encourage the multiple use of open space and facilities, where appropriate, to increase their effective use and reduce the need to provide additional facilities.</p>		
Human Health	PPW 12 <sup>th</sup> Edition (2024), Future Wales: The National Plan (2021), WG (1997) TAN11: Noise and Soundscape Action Plan (2018-2023); Building Better Places (2020).	<p>These documents require the preparation of LDPs to take into account EU limits and target values and WHO guidelines on the detrimental effects of noise on health, including:</p> <p>Taking account of the 'Agent of Change' principle in the consideration of adverse impacts upon human health caused by air and soundscape quality affected by proposed developments;</p> <p>The prioritisation of active travel modes to assist in achieving the Well-being Goals; and,</p> <p>Support the introduction of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles through the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.</p>	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to the protection and promotion of human health within the NPTC area.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to all aspects of human health and wellbeing.
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	PPW 12 <sup>th</sup> Edition (2024), Future Wales: The National Plan (2021), WG (2009) TAN5: Nature Conservation and Planning, WG (1997) TAN 10: Tree	These documents require the preparation of LDPs to: Identify all international, national and local designated sites (including potential SPAs, candidate SACs and listed Ramsar sites);	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to the protection and preservation of biodiversity, flora and fauna in accordance with national planning	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to biodiversity conservation.

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
	<p>Preservation Orders, National Natural Resources Policy (NNRP) (2017).</p>	<p>Provide criteria against which a development affecting the different types of designated site will be assessed, reflecting their relative significance;</p> <p>Include locally specific policies for the conservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of landscape and amenity;</p> <p>Provide for the conservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of biodiversity and landscape outside designated areas, in particular identifying opportunities to conserve important local habitats and species, and to safeguard and manage landscape features of major importance for nature conservation or amenity;</p> <p>Make appropriate provision for Local Nature Reserves;</p> <p>Include, where appropriate, locally specific policies for conserving native woodland and protecting and planting trees; Clarify how biodiversity will be safeguarded outside statutory designated sites without unduly restricting development that is otherwise appropriate;</p> <p>Provide for the protection and enhancement of open space of conservation value, seeking to identify opportunities to promote responsible public access for enjoyment and understanding of the natural heritage where this is compatible with its conservation and existing land uses; Recognise the potential of and encourage land uses and land management practices that help to secure carbon sinks;</p> <p>Consider the location of fragile habitats and species; and,</p> <p>Encourage the diversification of farm enterprises and other parts of the rural economy for appropriate tourism, sport, recreation and leisure uses, subject</p>	<p>policy.</p>	

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>to adequate safeguards for the character and appearance of the countryside, particularly its landscape, biodiversity and local amenity value.</p>		
Soil & Land	PPW 12 <sup>th</sup> Edition (2024), Future Wales: The National Plan (2021).	<p>These documents require the preparation of LDPs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take account of the physical and environmental constraints on development of land, including, for example, the level of contamination and stability;</li> <li>Ensure new development is not undertaken without an understanding of the risks, including those associated with the previous land use, mine and landfill gas emissions, and rising groundwater from abandoned mines;</li> <li>Ensure new development does not take place without appropriate remediation;</li> <li>Ensure consideration is given to the potential impacts which remediation of land contamination might have upon the natural and historic environments;</li> <li>Ensure new development is not undertaken without an understanding of the risks, including those associated with subsidence, landslips or rock falls;</li> <li>Ensure development does not take place without appropriate precautions;</li> <li>Take account of coastal / land erosion risks;</li> <li>Seek to restore unstable and contaminated land;</li> <li>Ensure that any proposals for opencast, deep mine development (in wholly exceptional circumstances only) clearly demonstrate why they are needed in the context of climate change emissions reductions targets and for reasons of national energy security;</li> <li>and,</li> <li>Take account of the requirement to provide a Health Impact Assessment to accompany any applications for opencast coal working.</li> </ul>	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to the safeguarding and efficient use of land and soil resources.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the safeguarding and efficient use of land and soil resources.

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
Water	<p>PPW 12<sup>th</sup> Edition (2024), Future Wales: The National Plan (2021); WG (1998) TAN14: Coastal Planning, WG (2004); TAN15: Development and Flood Risk; Implementation of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010: the Mandatory Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) (2019); Welsh National Marine Plan (2019).</p> <p>TAN 15: Development and Flood Risk is currently under review by the WG, and an update to this document has been delayed due to a further consultation on the TAN. In the interim period, layers available on NRW's 'Flood Map for Planning' should be used.</p>	<p>These documents require the preparation of LDPs to:</p> <p>Take account of the key role of flooding in strategic decision making on locations for growth and new infrastructure;</p> <p>Take account of the physical and environmental constraints on development of land, including flood risk;</p> <p>Include policies relating to PPW12 (2024) 'Water and Flood Risk objectives regarding the effects of development on water supply and wastewater management;</p> <p>Consider the effects of development on water supply and wastewater management, development plans and water and development management and water; and,</p> <p>When preparing LDPs, LPAs should consult with adjacent authorities and NRW and ensure that, as well as not being at risk itself, development does not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to the protection and enhancement of water quality, water resources and the water environment.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the protection and enhancement of water quality, water resources and the water environment.</p>
Air	<p>PPW 12<sup>th</sup> Edition (2024), Future Wales : the National Plan (2021).</p>	<p>These documents require the preparation of LDPs to consider the effects of development on air quality and recognise that air quality impacts from development proposals must be assessed, including by:</p> <p>Taking account of the 'Agent of Change' principle in the consideration of adverse impacts upon human health caused by air and soundscape quality affected by proposed developments.</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to air quality.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to air quality.</p>
Climatic Factors	<p>PPW 12<sup>th</sup> Edition (2024), Future Wales: The National Plan (2021), WG 'Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales' (2019); Building Better Places (2020).</p>	<p>These documents require the preparation of LDPs to:</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP needs to respond to the climate emergency and should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>Align with the need to meet Wales's international commitments to address climate change targets.</p> <p>Align with Wales's targets for the generation of renewable energy, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For 70% of consumed electricity to be generated from renewable energy by 2030;</li> <li>• For one gigawatt of renewable energy capacity to be locally owned by 2030; and,</li> <li>• For new renewable energy projects to have at least an element of local ownership from 2020.</li> </ul> <p>Identify opportunities and plan positively for the implementation of District Heat Networks within Priority Areas for District Heat Networks as identified in Future Wales;</p> <p>Align with the WG's presumption in favour of large-scale wind-energy development (including repowering) within the Pre- Assessed Areas for Wind Energy as identified in Future Wales;</p> <p>Ensure that renewable and low carbon energy proposals are in alignment with the criteria set out in Policy 17 and 18 of Future Wales;</p> <p>Ensure that tackling the causes and consequences of climate change is taken into account in locating new development;</p> <p>Consider the increased risk of physical and environmental constraints as a result of climate change;</p> <p>Policies 16-18 of Future Wales note the priority areas for the development of new renewable energy (wind and solar farms and district heating networks)</p>	<p>climate change mitigation and adaptation, including the need to support developments which will contribute towards meeting international and national climate change targets such as the renewable energy targets set out in Future Wales.</p>	

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>sites;</p> <p>Commit to contributing towards a reduction in carbon emitting transport modes and mitigating poor air quality;</p> <p>Support the introduction of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles through the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure;</p> <p>Direct development to settlements that are resilient to the effects of climate change, by avoiding areas where environmental consequences and impacts cannot be sustainably managed. Where development takes place in areas of known risks, LDP policies must ensure that the development is designed for resilience over its whole lifetime; and,</p> <p>Consider the effects of development on the adoption of renewable and low carbon energy.</p>		
Material Assets	<p>PPW 12<sup>th</sup> Edition (2024) Future Wales: The National Plan (2021), WG (2007), TAN 18: Transport, WG (2002) TAN 19: Telecommunications, WG (2014) TAN 21: Waste, WG (2009) Minerals Technical Advice Note (MTAN) Wales 2: Coal, WG (2004) MTAN Wales 1: Aggregates WG (2004).</p>	<p>These documents require the preparation of LDPs to:</p> <p>Be consistent and integrated with the strategies and policies contained in Local Transport Plans and other relevant strategies. Any LTP proposal that directly involves the development or use of land, or has land use implications, should appear as a policy or proposal in the development plan;</p> <p>Ensure that transport centred projects undergo an assessment in accordance with the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG);</p> <p>LDPs must support PPW (2024) objectives (promoting active travel, supporting public transport, managing traffic and parking and planning for roads, railways, airports, ports and inland waterways);</p> <p>Take into account the land use implications of the Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP) (2019);</p> <p>Set out the land use/transportation strategy,</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to infrastructure development, waste management and the sustainable use of natural resources.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to infrastructure development, waste management and the sustainable use of natural resources.</p>



SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>addressing accessibility and the provision of strategic and integrated transport facilities, including roads, railways and interchanges;</p> <p>Locate major generators of travel demand within existing urban areas, or in other locations that can be well served by walking, cycling and public transport;</p> <p>Ensure that development sites that are highly accessible to non-car modes are used for travel intensive uses, reallocating their use if necessary;</p> <p>Locate major generators of travel demand within existing urban areas, or in other locations that can be well served by walking, cycling and public transport;</p> <p>In rural areas, designate local service centres, or clusters of settlements where a sustainable functional linkage can be demonstrated, as the preferred locations for new development;</p> <p>Include specific measures to promote active travel in accordance with the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013;</p> <p>Set out policies to promote the use of public transport including new and improved interchange facilities and, where appropriate, park and ride schemes;</p> <p>Include appropriate traffic management policies: identify the primary road network, including trunk roads, and separately identify the core network;</p> <p>Identify proposals for new roads and major improvements to the primary route network and the broad policy on priorities for minor improvements;</p> <p>Include policies and proposals relating to the development of transport infrastructure other than roads;</p> <p>Identify, and where appropriate protect, routes required for the sustainable movement of freight;</p> <p>Protect disused transport infrastructure, including</p>		

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>railways, rail sidings, ports, harbours and inland waterways from development that would compromise their future transport use, where re-use is a possibility;</p> <p>Minimise the adverse impacts of transport infrastructure projects on the natural, historic and built environment and on local communities;</p> <p>LDPs should maximise the use of existing infrastructure and should consider how the provision of different types of infrastructure can be co-ordinated; and,</p> <p>LDPs should identify suitable locations for sustainable waste management as well as criteria for how applications for waste management development will be determined, recognising that the most appropriate locations will be those with the best potential to contribute to a broad infrastructure framework and those with the least adverse impact on the local population. LDPs should set out policies and proposals for the location of telecommunications equipment, allocating sites for major developments and including criteria-based policies to guide telecommunications developments where sites other than those identified in the plan may be proposed.</p>		
Cultural Heritage	<p>PPW 12<sup>th</sup> Edition (2024), Future Wales: The National Plan (2021), WG (2016) TAN12: Design, WG (1997) TAN20: Planning and the Welsh Language, WG (2017) TAN24: The Historic Environment.</p>	<p>These documents require the preparation of LDPs to:</p> <p>Adhere to the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure (2011) to support the preservation of the Welsh language;</p> <p>Provide a statement about how the needs and interests of the Welsh language have been taken into account;</p> <p>If necessary, language impact assessments may be carried out in respect of large developments not allocated in the LDP which are proposed in areas of</p>	<p>Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to the protection and enhancement of the historic environment and the promotion of the Welsh language.</p>	<p>The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the protection and enhancement of the historic environment and the promotion of the Welsh language.</p>

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>particular sensitivity or importance for the language. Any such areas should be clearly defined in the development plan;</p> <p>Emphasis on protecting and supporting the Welsh language in policy making and in its contribution towards achieving the Thriving Welsh language well-being goal and the wider WG target of a million Welsh language speakers by 2050;</p> <p>Provide policies relating to the protection and preservation of world heritage sites, archaeological remains, listed buildings and conservation areas, local historic assets and historic parks and gardens;</p> <p>Identify locally specific policies in relation to the historic environment and cover those historic assets deemed to be important considerations from a local planning perspective;</p> <p>Consider the risk archaeological and historic sites by housing developments; and,</p> <p>Policies must also not be introduced which encourage discrimination between individuals based on their linguistic ability or seek to control housing occupancy on linguistic grounds.</p>		
Landscape	PPW 12 <sup>th</sup> Edition (2024), TAN7 Outdoor Advertisement Control, Future Wales 2040	<p>These documents require the preparation of LDPs to:</p> <p>Take into account designated historic landscapes in Wales, and, where it is appropriate, develop locally specific policies which will contribute to their conservation;</p> <p>Consider the physical risks to landscape as a result of housing developments;</p> <p>Support the WG's strategic framework for the enhancement of biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems;</p> <p>Include areas which could be protected as ecological</p>	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance relating to the protection and enhancement of designated landscapes, landscape character, landscape features and visual amenity.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the protection and enhancement of designated landscapes, landscape character, landscape features and visual amenity.

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>networks for their potential importance for adaptation to climate change, habitat restoration or creation, or which provide key ecosystems services in development planning policy;</p> <p>Support opportunities where strategic green infrastructure could be maximised as part of development proposals, requiring the use of nature-based solutions as a key mechanism for securing sustainable growth, ecological connectivity, social equality and public well-being; and,</p> <p>Cumulative action towards the enhancement of biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems should be demonstrated as part of development proposals through innovative, nature- based approaches to site planning.</p>		
Lighting	PPW 12 <sup>th</sup> Edition (2024)	<p>This document highlights the need to balance the provision of lighting to enhance safety and security to help in the prevention of crime and to allow activities like sport and recreation to take place with the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect the natural and historic environment including wildlife and features of the natural environment such as tranquility;</li> <li>• Retain dark skies where appropriate;</li> <li>• Prevent glare and respect the amenity of neighbouring land uses; and</li> <li>• Reduce the carbon emissions associated with lighting.</li> </ul>	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance to support the sensitive use of lighting.	The ISA Framework should include objectives relating to the sensitive use of lighting.
Interrelated Effects	PPW 12 <sup>th</sup> Edition (2024), Future Wales: The National Plan (2021), TAN3: Simplified Planning Zones (WG, 1996).	These documents require the preparation of LDPs to: Promote sustainable patterns of development, identifying previously developed land and buildings, and indicating locations for higher density development at hubs and interchanges and close to route corridors where accessibility on foot and by	Any RLDP resulting from this LDP should provide policies, proposals, advice and guidance to support the delivery of sustainable development.	The ISA Framework should provide a suite of linked objectives to support the delivery of sustainable development.

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>bicycle and public transport is good;</p> <p>Maintain and improve the vitality, attractiveness and viability of town, district, local and village centres;</p> <p>Development for tourism, sport and leisure uses should, where appropriate, be located on previously developed land;</p> <p>Encourage higher density and mixed-use development near public transport nodes, or near corridors well served by public transport;</p> <p>Foster development approaches that recognise the mutual dependence between town and country, thus improving linkages between urban areas and their rural surroundings;</p> <p>Locate development so that it can be well serviced by existing infrastructure (including for energy supply, waste management and water);</p> <p>Ensure that development encourages opportunities for commercial and residential uses to derive environmental benefit from co-location;</p> <p>Locate development in settlements that are resilient to the effects of climate change, by avoiding areas where environmental consequences and impacts cannot be sustainably managed.</p> <p>Where development takes place in areas of known risks, ensure that the development is designed for resilience over its whole lifetime;</p> <p>Contribute to the wider efforts by the planning system to respond to the behavioural changes as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and contribute to a sustainable recovery shaping places around a vision for healthy and resilient places; and,</p> <p>Include strategic policies on the location of potentially polluting developments and should set out criteria by</p>		

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>which applications for such developments will be determined, but they should not exclude provision for such projects or prohibit all applications to set them up.</p> <p>With reference to the protection of Green Belts and Green Wedges; LDPs should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities for access to the open countryside;</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for outdoor sport and outdoor recreation;</li> <li>• Maintain landscape/wildlife interest;</li> <li>• Retain land for agriculture, forestry, and related purposes;</li> <li>• Improve derelict land; and,</li> <li>• Provide carbon sinks and help to mitigate the effects of urban heat islands.</li> </ul> <p>PPW (2024) also promotes the protection of agricultural land and the re-use of brownfield land alongside further sustainability guidelines. LDPs should identify opportunities to ensure higher sustainable building standards are adopted, ensure that proposed developments are evidence based and viable and encourage applications which reflect key principles of climate responsive developments.</p> <p>The preparation of LDPs must ensure that:          Their housing trajectory is used as the basis for monitoring the delivery of their housing requirement and will form part of the basis for monitoring the delivery of LDP housing requirements as part of LDP AMRs and for subsequent plan review. The monitoring of housing delivery for AMRs must be undertaken by planning authorities in accordance with the guidance set out in the Development Plans Manual. Under</p>		

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>delivery against the trajectory can itself be a reason to review a development plan;</p> <p>The availability of previously developed sites and empty or underused buildings and their suitability for housing use;</p> <p>The location of potential development sites and their accessibility to jobs, shops and services by modes other than the car, and the potential for improving such accessibility;</p> <p>The capacity of existing and potential infrastructure, including public transport, water and sewerage, other utilities and social infrastructure (such as schools and hospitals), to absorb further development, and the cost of adding further infrastructure;</p> <p>The scope to build sustainable communities to support new physical and social infrastructure, including consideration of the effect on the Welsh language, and to provide sufficient demand to sustain appropriate local services and facilities;</p> <p>The compatibility of housing with neighbouring established land uses which might be adversely affected by encroaching residential development;</p> <p>Proposals for new settlements should be promoted through and fully justified in the LDP;</p> <p>LDPs must include an authority wide target for affordable housing based in the LHMA and identify the expected contributions that policy approaches identified in the LDP will make to meeting this target;</p> <p>LDPs should also include site thresholds or a combination of thresholds and site-specific targets, including the correct proportion of affordable housing;</p> <p>LDPs must be supported by an assessment of the</p>		

SEA Topic	Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Overview of Purpose and Key Requirements	Implications for NPT LDP Review	Implications for ISA
		<p>accommodation needs at Gypsy/traveller sites;</p> <p>Quantify the housing requirement (both market and affordable housing);</p> <p>Set an affordable housing target;</p> <p>Set out a settlement strategy;</p> <p>Adopt the new sequential search methodology for identifying housing sites;</p> <p>Include clear policy criteria against which applications for development of unallocated sites will be considered;</p> <p>Specify the circumstances in which previously developed sites would be deemed to perform so poorly that their use would not be favoured before that of a (particular) greenfield site;</p> <p>Set targets on land provision for the employment uses (Classes B1-B8), showing net change in land/floorspace for offices and industry/warehousing separately, and protect these sites from inappropriate development;</p> <p>Include clear development management policies to guide the determination of applications, including guidance on design, access, density, off-street parking and open space provision for particular areas as appropriate;</p> <p>Specify mechanisms to be used to monitor the take up of housing land;</p> <p>Include policies for affordable housing in areas where need has been identified, including any areas where exception sites will be considered; and,</p> <p>Include policies to indicate where developer contributions will be expected toward infrastructure, community facilities and affordable housing.</p>		



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# **Appendix C    Proposed NPT LDP SEA Framework**

**Table C1: Proposed ISA Objectives for the RLDP Review**

No.	Proposed ISA Objective Topic	Proposed ISA Objective
1	Health and Wellbeing	Improve the health and wellbeing of the population, including with respect to physical and mental health, social wellbeing and community safety.
2	Equality and Social Inclusion	Reduce poverty and inequalities, advance equality of opportunity, reduce socio-economic disadvantage, tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.
3	Transport and Communications	Enhance the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets through improving infrastructure and creating a sustainable transport network, whilst also ensuring access to high quality communications and utilities.
4	Inclusive Economic Growth	Increase the number and quality of employment opportunities and improve educational and skill levels while maximising the economic contribution of the NPTC area to the Swansea Bay City Region, including through diversifying and strengthening the local economic base
5	Housing	Provide a sufficient quantum and range of good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations to meet identified local needs.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Proposed ISA Objective Topic</b>	<b>Proposed ISA Objective</b>
6	Air Quality	Prevent and reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and minimise exposure to poor air quality.
7	Climate Change	Adopt appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climate change.
8	Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil	Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests, including through safeguarding important sites and species, improving green infrastructure provision and safeguarding important soil resources.
9	Water and Flood Risk	Conserve, protect and enhance water and coastal environments, water quality and water resources, whilst reducing the risk of flooding.
10	Materials and Waste	Contribute to the implementation of the circular economy, manage waste with minimal environmental impacts and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including for energy generation and the provision of an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.

**Table C2: Proposed ISA Framework for the RLDP Review**

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
<p>1. Health and Wellbeing: Improve the health and wellbeing of the population, including with respect to physical and mental health, social wellbeing and community safety.</p>	<p>Protect and improve access to healthcare services and facilities?</p> <p>Reduce health inequalities and improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of communities?</p> <p>Improve accessibility to green active travel routes, high quality accessible recreational open spaces and sports facilities, in particular for those facing structural inequalities and/or socio-economic disadvantage?</p> <p>Facilitate or encourage active travel for all communities?</p> <p>Increase access to nature?</p> <p>Provide clean air and high- quality bathing beaches and rivers?</p> <p>Protect against noise pollution, delivering context appropriate soundscapes?</p> <p>Protect communities from environmental risks such as flooding using nature-based solutions?</p> <p>Protect against light pollution?</p> <p>Create urban communities that feature a network of high quality, well connected green infrastructure?</p>	<p>Proximity to existing active travel networks; Proximity to Health Facilities</p> <p>Proximity of New Health Facilities and/or Active Travel Routes</p>
<p>2. Equality and Social Inclusion: Reduce poverty and inequalities, advance equality of opportunity, reduce socio-economic</p>	<p>Reduce poverty and social exclusion?</p> <p>Result in differential impacts (beneficial or adverse) on different demographic groups or persons with protected characteristics?</p> <p>Result in differential impacts (beneficial or adverse) on communities (of place or interest) facing inequality of outcome due to socio-economic disadvantage?</p>	<p>Proximity to Community Facilities/ Public Services</p> <p>Provision of New Community Facilities/ Services</p>

<b>Proposed SA Objectives</b>	<b>Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i></b>	<b>Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments</b>
<p>disadvantage, tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.</p>	<p>Result in differential impacts (beneficial or adverse) on individuals vulnerable to social exclusion or poverty?</p> <p>Provide fair and impartial protection from environmental hazards (such as air quality, flooding)?</p> <p>Protect and enhance access to high quality community facilities, public services and key amenities to meet the diverse needs of different demographic groups, vulnerable members of the community and those facing socio-economic disadvantage?</p> <p>Protect and enhance access to natural resources, including good quality public green and blue spaces?</p> <p>Help to reduce levels of absolute and relative income poverty, inequality in the distribution of household wealth, and levels of multiple deprivation affecting communities?</p> <p>Promote social cohesion and integration?</p> <p>Reduce fuel poverty?</p>	
<p>3. Transport and Communications:            Enhance the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets through improving infrastructure and creating a sustainable transport network, whilst also ensuring access to high quality communications and</p>	<p>Increase the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets?</p> <p>Improve connectivity within the NPTC area and to other areas?</p> <p>Reduce car dependencies and encourage a shift to more sustainable forms of travel, including for people and freight?</p> <p>Support the increased uptake of active travel by providing integrated active travel routes?</p> <p>Improve the accessibility, capacity and safety of the transport network?</p> <p>Reduce traffic flows and congestion?</p>	<p>Proximity to the public transport network (bus stops and train stations);</p> <p>Proximity to the strategic road network (motorways and trunk roads);</p> <p>Proximity to existing active travel networks;</p> <p>Proximity to congestion pinch points;</p> <p>Availability and the capacity of Transport &amp; Utilities infrastructure (Water and Sewage);</p> <p>Drainage Management and Site Capacity; and</p> <p>Provision of New/ Upgraded Transport or Communications</p>

<b>Proposed SA Objectives</b>	<b>Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i></b>	<b>Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments</b>
utilities.	<p>Enhance the quality and integration of public transport?</p> <p>Enhance the provision of high-quality communications infrastructure?</p> <p>Improve utilities infrastructure to support economic growth and meet population needs?</p>	Infrastructure
<p>4. Inclusive Economic Growth: Increase the number and quality of employment opportunities and improve educational and skill levels while maximising the economic contribution of NPT to the Swansea Bay City Region, including through diversifying and strengthening the local economic base.</p>	<p>Enhance access to and diversify employment opportunities for local residents?</p> <p>Provide equal access to high equality employment opportunities, social and cultural activities, and public services and amenities for all?</p> <p>Improve access to employment for all demographic groups and communities, in particular for those facing structural inequalities and/or socio-economic disadvantage?</p> <p>Enhance opportunities for education, lifelong learning and the retention of skills within the local economy?</p> <p>Support the growth of further and higher education institutions?</p> <p>Deliver the right type of development and economic activities in the accessible locations to maximise economic competitiveness?</p> <p>Help to diversify and regenerate the local economy? Encourage inward investment and innovation?</p> <p>Promote the co-location of synergistic economic activities, industries and land uses?</p> <p>Support social and environmental wellbeing in NPTC and beyond.</p> <p>Provide the infrastructure and workspace required for new and existing businesses?</p>	<p>Employment capacity Mixed use Suitability;</p> <p>Proximity to key employment locations; Proximity to Primary Education Infrastructure; Proximity to Secondary Education Infrastructure; Education Infrastructure Capacity;</p> <p>Provision of New Education Infrastructure; Suitability of Industrial / Economic Use;</p> <p>Neighbouring Uses &amp; Potential Agglomeration Effects; and</p> <p>Proximity to Strategic Road and Rail Network</p>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
	<p>Promote the principles of green recovery?</p> <p>Support the aims of the Swansea Bay City Region City Deal, including enhanced digital connectivity?</p> <p>Promote the sustainable use and consumption of natural resources (eg utilising the DISRUPT Framework)?</p>	
<p>5. Housing: Provide a sufficient quantum and range of good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations to meet identified local needs.</p>	<p>Help to facilitate the increased delivery of housing to meet a range of identified needs?</p> <p>Improve the quality of the housing stock?</p> <p>Provide energy efficient housing stock which operates at close to zero emissions?</p> <p>Reduce homelessness and overcrowding?</p> <p>Increase the mix, range and affordability of housing?</p> <p>Provide housing that encourages a sense of community?</p> <p>Delivery adequate pitches and plots required for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people?</p> <p>Maximise benefits of new development using appropriate housing locations and good design?</p>	<p>Housing capacity of the site; Deliverability of affordable housing; Mixed Use Suitability; Neighbouring Uses;</p> <p>Proximity to COMAH (control of major accident hazards) sites; and</p> <p>Proximity to Sites Designated in National Site Network (vulnerable to recreational pressures)</p>
<p>6. Air Quality: Prevent and reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and minimise exposure to poor air quality.</p>	<p>Maintain or improve air quality? Reduce exposure to poor air quality?</p> <p>Prevent and reduce emissions of harmful pollutants?</p> <p>Prevent and reduce poor air quality which is in proximity to international, national and local level for reasons of biodiversity, conservation, ecological or geological importance?</p>	<p>Proximity to AQMA;</p> <p>Proximity to congestion pinch points; and Potential operational emissions.</p>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
<p>7. Climate Change: Adopt appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Help to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from key economic sectors?</p> <p>Support the minimisation of energy use?</p> <p>Support the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy and reduce dependency on non-renewable sources?</p> <p>Facilitate investment in and promote the use of low carbon and sustainable infrastructure?</p> <p>Implement adaptation measures to address the likely effects of climate change, including increased flood risks?</p> <p>Promote sustainable design that minimises GHG emissions and is adaptable to the effects of climate change?</p> <p>Restore or create a network of natural carbon capture environments including peatlands, grasslands, woodlands and within 'blue carbon' sinks?</p>	<p>On-site provision of low / zero carbon energy generation;</p> <p>Proximity to the public transport network; and</p> <p>Incorporation of Climate Change Adaptation Measures.</p>
<p>8. Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil: Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests, including through safeguarding important sites and species, improving green infrastructure provision and safeguarding important soil resources.</p>	<p>Ensure appropriate safeguards for the integrity and conservation objectives of sites designated at international, national or local levels for reasons of biodiversity or geodiversity value or species protection?</p> <p>Protect and enhance valued species and habitats? Safeguard Resilient Ecological Networks (RENs)? Safeguard against habitat loss or fragmentation?</p> <p>Maintain and enhance urban green infrastructure?</p> <p>Protect or enhance protected trees or important woodland areas?</p> <p>Improve access to nature?</p> <p>Remediate known contamination of land and groundwater?</p>	<p>Proximity to National Site Network Sites (SAC/SPA)</p> <p>Proximity to SSSI;</p> <p>Proximity to ancient woodlands; Proximity to NNR;</p> <p>Proximity to RIGS;</p> <p>Proximity to LWS/SINC/LNR; Potential Effects on Designated Sites;</p> <p>Presence of Important Trees, Hedgerows or Tree Protection Orders (TPOs)?</p> <p>Presence of Valued Habitats and Species; and</p> <p>Agricultural land classification.</p>



Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
	<p>Safeguard the best quality and locally important agricultural land?</p> <p>Protect and enhance important soil resources?</p> <p>Outline more direct consideration/reference to the condition of designated sites?</p> <p>Provide a clearer definition of ‘valued’ habitats and species.</p> <p>Provide a means for assessment of green infrastructure?</p>	
<p>9. Water and Flood Risk: Conserve, protect and enhance water and coastal environments, water quality and water resources, whilst reducing the risk of flooding.</p>	<p>Improve the quality of waterbodies helping to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive?</p> <p>Maintain or enhance the ecological and chemical status of the water environment?</p> <p>Affect the volume of surface water runoff into or abstraction from water bodies?</p> <p>Provide a means to assess the condition of waterbodies and degree of physical modification (WFD)?</p> <p>Protect and assess the number of properties at risk from flooding (taking account of the climate change scenarios outlined in the new Flood Map Wales)?</p> <p>Support improvements to water infrastructure (water supply and sewerage)?</p> <p>Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources of flooding to all people, property, infrastructure and environmental assets?</p> <p>Manage residual flood risks appropriately and avoid new flood risks?</p> <p>Review average water usage per household?</p> <p>Avoid new development in areas prone to flood risk or mitigate the</p>	<p>Proximity to Flood Risk Zones; Proximity to Main Rivers and Lakes, and</p> <p>Utilities Capacity (Power, Water Supply and Drainage).</p>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
	<p>potential for such risk?</p> <p>Promote the deployment of sustainable urban drainage systems and promote nature-based solutions for better management of surface water?</p> <p>Maintain and restore natural river processes to safeguard river habitats and help to mitigate the effects of climate change including flooding and droughts?</p> <p>Conserve water resources and promote water efficiency?</p>	
<p>10. Material assets and Waste: Contribute to the implementation of the circular economy, manage waste with minimal environmental impacts and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including for energy generation and providing an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.</p>	<p>Minimise the production of waste?</p> <p>Promote the principles of circular economy?</p> <p>Treat and process waste with minimal environmental impact?</p> <p>Minimise the demand for raw materials and the need for minerals extraction?</p> <p>Promote the use of local resources and minimise the importation of minerals?</p>	<p>Proximity to Community Recycling Centres, and Locational need for minerals extraction.</p>
<p>11. Sustainable Placemaking: Maximise the efficient use of land and enhance design quality to create great</p>	<p>Promote high quality architecture and design which strengthens local distinctiveness, linked to historic and cultural protections, and fosters a sense of place?</p> <p>Create and maintain a safe and attractive public realm which encourages people to walk and cycle?</p>	<p>Previously Developed Land or Greenfield Land, and Proximity to existing active travel networks.</p>

<b>Proposed SA Objectives</b>	<b>Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i></b>	<b>Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments</b>
places for people.	<p>Ensure appropriate siting, scale, massing and density of development?</p> <p>Make the best use of land, including through prioritising the redevelopment of brownfield sites and locating high footfall uses close to the public transport network?</p> <p>Reduce opportunities for crime and antisocial behaviour through the siting and design of new development?</p> <p>Provide public realm which feels safe to all users at all times?</p> <p>Consider nature-based solutions in sustainable placemaking?</p> <p>Make space for and integrate green infrastructure as intrinsic part of design and function of new places?</p> <p>Facilitate well connected spaces for people and nature?</p>	
<p>12. Cultural Heritage and Welsh Language:            Conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets, including the use of the Welsh language.</p>	<p>Increase availability and accessibility of culture, leisure and recreation activities/venues?</p> <p>Conserve, protect and enhance the integrity, character and setting of historic assets?</p> <p>Protect and enhance the qualities of areas of historical or cultural significance?</p> <p>Promote the sensitive re-use of historic or culturally important buildings?</p> <p>Preserve and, where appropriate, enhance important archaeological resources?</p> <p>Safeguard and increase the use of the Welsh language?</p>	<p>Proximity to Scheduled Monuments; Proximity to Listed Buildings;</p> <p>Impacts on Important Archaeological Site; Effect on Designated Sites;</p> <p>Re-Use of Historic or Culturally Important Buildings; and Effect on Welsh Language.</p>

<b>Proposed SA Objectives</b>	<b>Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i></b>	<b>Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments</b>
13. Landscape: Protect and enhance the landscape character, visual amenity and legibility of settlements in NPT.	Protect and enhance landscape character, local distinctiveness and sense of place? Safeguard important landscape and townscape features? Protect visual amenity and valued views? Prevent urban sprawl?	Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast; Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area; Visual Amenity Impacts; Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact; and Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact).

## Appendix C - Table C3 – Candidate Sites Assessment Scoring Criteria

**Table C3.1: General SA Site Assessment Scoring Key**

Effect Definition	Symbol
Major Positive (Significant Beneficial)	++
Minor Positive	+
Neutral	0
Minor Negative	-
Major Negative (Significant Adverse)	--

**Table C3.2: od Risk Assessment Scoring Keys- TAN15 Compliant**

Effect Definition	Symbol
Within Zone 1/ Compliant with TAN15	++
Within Defended Zone (Highly Vulnerable/Less Vulnerable Dev)	?
Within Zone 2 (Highly Vulnerable/Less Vulnerable Dev)	??
Within Zone 3 (Less Vulnerable Development Only)	-
Within Zone 3 (Highly Vulnerable Development Only)	--

Highly Vulnerable Development	Symbol
Within Zone 1	++
Within Defended Zone	?
Within Zone 2	??
Within Zone 3	--

Less Vulnerable Development	Symbol
Within Zone 1	++
Within Defended Zone	?
Within Zone 2	??
Within Zone 3	-

Water Compatible	Symbol
Within Zone 1	++
Within Defended Zone	++
Within Zone 2	++
Within Zone 3	++

## Full SA Site Assessment Scoring Criteria<sup>1</sup>

### SA Objective: N/A

#### Criteria: Common Land

##### *Sustainability implications:*

The Commons Act 2006 restricts the use of Common Land and requires applications for the release of Common Land exceeding 200m<sup>2</sup> to be accompanied by proposals for replacement land (i.e., land cannot be released for development without this requirement being fulfilled). The loss of Common Land could result in local amenity and environmental impacts, which may or may not be adequately offset by the defined proposals for replacement Common Land. This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any instances of sites promoted by the LPA which constitute common land will not be excluded solely on this basis. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the extent of Common Land lost and the scale of development proposed.

**Table C3.3: Common Land**

Description	Symbol
Site on common land	<b>---</b>
Site not on common land	<b>0</b>

<sup>1</sup> 'Showstopper' criteria highlighted in bold.



**SA Objective 1: Health and Wellbeing Criteria**

Criteria 1(a): Proximity to Existing Active Travel Routes

*Sustainability implications:*

Whilst lack of proximity to active travel routes is not a fundamental constraint, this must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.4: Proximity to Existing Active Travel Routes**

Description	Symbol
Within 400m of existing route	++
Within 800m of existing route	+
800-1200m from existing route	-
Beyond 1200m from existing route	--

Criteria 1(b): Proximity to Health Facilities

*Sustainability implications:*

Whilst lack of proximity to healthcare facilities is not a fundamental constraint, this must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process

**Table C3.5: Proximity to Health Facilities**

Description	Symbol
Within 400m of a healthcare facility	++
Within 800m of a healthcare facility	+
800-1200m of a healthcare facility	-
Beyond 1200m from a healthcare facility	--

Criteria 1(c): Proximity of New Health Facilities and/or Active Travel Routes

*Sustainability implications:*

Depending on the scale of development, health needs should be met through onsite provision and/or contributions as appropriate, including provision of active travel opportunities which directly contribute to positive health outcomes. The absence of this would indicate the physical and mental health needs of residents/users may not be fully met.

**Table C3.6: Proximity of New Health Facilities and/or Active Travel Routes**

Description	Symbol
Proposal to provide healthcare facility within site or develop section of identified active travel route within the site.	++-
Proposal to contribute to off-site health facility or active travel improvements	+
No new health facilities or active travel routes / contribution being proposed at this stage	0-

**SA Objective 2: Equality and Social Inclusion**

Criteria 2(a): Proximity to Community Facilities/ Public Services

*Sustainability implications:*

Whilst lack of proximity to community facilities is not a fundamental constraint, this must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.7: Proximity to Community Facilities/ Public Services**

Description	Symbol
Within 400m of a community facility (community hall, library, council leisure facility or council service centre)	++
Within 800m of a community facility	+
800 - 1200m from a community facility	-
Beyond 1200m from a community facility	--

Criteria 2(b): Provision of New Community Facilities/ Services

*Sustainability implications:*

Depending on the scale of development, social needs should be met through onsite provision and/or contributions as appropriate. The absence of this would indicate the social and wellbeing needs of residents/users may not be fully met, resulting in potential lack of community cohesion and social isolation (for vulnerable groups in particular).

**Table C3.8: Provision of New Community Facilities/ Services**

Description	Symbol
Proposal to provide community facility within site	++-
Proposal to contribute to off-site community facility improvements	+
No new community facilities proposed at this stage	0

**SA Objective 3: Transport and Communications**

Criteria 3(a): Proximity to Public Transport Network (bus stops and train stations)

*Sustainability implications:*

Lack of proximity to public transport would lock in car dependency for residents/users (e.g. employees), resulting in traffic and Green House Gas (GHG) impacts, and increase isolation for those without car ownership. This is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.9: Proximity to Public Transport Network (bus stops and train stations)**

Description	Symbol
Within 400m of a bus stop or train station	++
Within 800m of a bus stop or train station	+
800 - 1200m from a bus stop or train station	-
Beyond 1200m from a bus stop or train station	--

Criteria 3(b): Proximity to Strategic Road Network (motorways and trunk roads)

*Sustainability implications:*

Whilst lack of proximity to the strategic road network is not a fundamental constraint, it must be considered as part of determining site accessibility (all modes). This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.10: Proximity to Strategic Road Network (motorways and trunk roads)**

Description	Symbol
Within 500m of strategic road network	++
Within 500m - 1km of strategic road network	+
1km - 2km from strategic road network	-
Beyond 2km from strategic road network	--

Criteria 3(c): Proximity to Existing Active Travel Network

*Sustainability implications:*

Whilst lack of proximity to active travel routes is not a fundamental constraint, this must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.11: Proximity to Existing Active Travel Network**

Description	Symbol
Within 400m of existing route	++
Within 800m of existing route	+
800 - 1200m from existing route	-
Beyond 1200m from existing route	--



Criteria 3(d): Proximity to Congestion Pinch Points

*Sustainability implications:*

Proximity to congestion hotspots could further increase traffic delays, resulting in adverse air quality, amenity and climate impacts. This **must be** taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.12: Proximity to Congestion Pinch Points**

Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from pinch point	++
1km - 2km from pinch point	+
Within 500m - 1km of pinch point	-
Within 500m of pinch point	--

Criteria 3(e): Availability & Capacity of Transport & Utilities Infrastructure (Water and Sewage)

*Sustainability implications:*

The provision or absence of adequate transport infrastructure to accommodate development could impact on the capacity and functioning of the surrounding transport network (all modes), leading to congestion/delays, adverse air quality impacts and/or inhibiting sustainable modal shift. This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.13: Availability & Capacity of Transport & Utilities Infrastructure (Water and Sewage)**

Description	Symbol
Existing Connection or Infrastructure established	++-
Upgraded / new infrastructure required to accommodate development	-
No information available	0

Criteria 3(f): Drainage Management and Site Capacity

*Sustainability implications:*

Strategic infrastructure may be needed to address non-localised (e.g. cumulative) infrastructure impacts. The provision/funding or absence of strategic infrastructure could therefore influence the delivery and phasing of development sites to meet identified needs and resulting environmental/amenity impacts. This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the **later stages** of the process.

**Table C3.14: Drainage Management and Site Capacity**

Description	Symbol
Welsh Water confirms no issue with site capacity	++
Site promoter outlines measures to address drainage at site.	+
Welsh Water confirms limited capacity.	-
Welsh Water confirms no Capacity	--
No information available	0

Criteria 3(g): Provision of New/ Upgraded Transport or Communications Infrastructure

*Sustainability implications:*

Strategic infrastructure may be needed to address non-localised (e.g. cumulative) infrastructure impacts. The provision/funding or absence of strategic infrastructure could therefore influence the delivery and phasing of development sites to meet identified needs and resulting environmental/amenity impacts. This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.15: Provision of New/ Upgraded Transport or Communications Infrastructure**

Description	Symbol
Proposal to provide non-local transport or utilities infrastructure within site	++-
Proposal to contribute to off-site transport or utilities infrastructure improvements	+
No new non-local transport or utilities infrastructure proposed at this stage	0

**SA Objective 4: Employment Capacity**

Criteria 4(a): Employment Capacity

*Sustainability implications:*

The loss of employment land<sup>2</sup> (where retention recommended by future version of the NPT Employment Land Review could undermine the RLDP employment land strategy.

**Table C3.16: Employment Capacity**

Description	Symbol
5ha or more land for employment use	++
Up to 5ha land for employment use	+
No employment use proposed/ no employment land	0
Removal of existing employment land for other uses	-
Removal of existing employment land for other uses where NPTELRL recommends retention.	--

<sup>2</sup> Definition of employment land to be specified in emerging NPT Employment Land Review.

Criteria 4(b): Mixed Use Suitability

*Sustainability implications:*

Mixed use development has the potential to deliver high densities and more sustainable outcomes. The absence of mixed-use development is not a fundamental constraint but must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.17: Mixed Use Suitability**

Description	Symbol
Proposed for mixed use development	++
Site has potential to accommodate mixed use development	+
Site not likely to accommodate mixed use development	-

Criteria 4(c): Proximity to Key Employment Locations

*Sustainability implications:*

Whilst lack of proximity to employment opportunities (existing main employment areas) is not a fundamental constraint, this must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.18: Proximity to Key Employment Locations**

Description	Symbol
Within 500m of key employment location	++
Within 500m - 1km of key employment location	+
1km - 2km from key employment location	-
Beyond 2km from key employment location	--

Criteria 4(d): Proximity to Primary Education Infrastructure

*Sustainability implications:*

Whilst lack of proximity to primary education infrastructure is not a fundamental constraint, this must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.19: Proximity to Primary Education Infrastructure**

Description	Symbol
Within 400m of primary school	++
Within 800m of primary school	+
800 - 1200m from primary school	-
Beyond 1200m from primary school	--



Criteria 4(e): Proximity to Secondary Education Infrastructure

*Sustainability implications:*

Whilst lack of proximity to secondary education infrastructure is not a fundamental constraint, this must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.20: Proximity to Secondary Education Infrastructure**

Description	Symbol
Within 400m of secondary school	++
Within 800m of secondary school	+
800 - 1200m from secondary school	-
Beyond 1200m from secondary school	--

Criteria 4(f): Education Infrastructure Capacity

*Sustainability implications:*

Inadequate education infrastructure capacity to accommodate development could place NPTC in breach of statutory education duties and would not be compatible with sustainable development. Adequate mitigation would be required.

**Table C3.21: Education Infrastructure Capacity**

Description	Symbol
NPTC Education Department confirms no capacity issue affecting site delivery	++-
Proposal includes measures/facilities to address education capacity constraints	+
No information available regarding education capacity constraints affecting site delivery	-
Beyond 1200m from secondary school	--

Criteria 4(g): Provision of New Education Infrastructure

*Sustainability implications:*

Depending on the scale of development, net additional education needs should be met through onsite provision and/ or contributions as appropriate. The absence of this would indicate that the education needs of residents may not be fully met and could place NPTC in breach of statutory education duties. This would not be compatible with sustainable development and adequate mitigation would be required.

**Table C3.22: Provision of New Education Infrastructure**

Description	Symbol
Proposal to provide education infrastructure within site	++
Proposal to contribute to off-site education infrastructure improvements	+
No new education infrastructure proposed at this stage	0

Criteria 4(h): Suitability of Industrial/ Economic Use

*Sustainability implications:*

Overprovision of employment land could dilute effectiveness of RLDP employment land and wider spatial strategies (i.e. directing employment generating development to the most appropriate and sustainable locations and growing key economic sectors).

Conversely local under provision or a failure to meet a specific locational need could restrict economic growth, restrict sectoral growth and limit employment opportunities. This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.23: Suitability of Industrial/ Economic Use**

Description	Symbol
NPT ELR indicates site is preferred for industrial/ economic use	+++
NPT ELR indicates site is suitable for industrial/ economic use but with marketability constraints	+
NPT ELR indicates site has some physical constraints affecting industrial/ economic use OR not preferred due to adequate (more suitable) supply of employment land already identified	-
NPT ELR indicates site is not suitable for industrial/ economic use	--

Criteria 4(i): Neighbouring Uses & Potential Agglomeration Effects

*Sustainability implications:*

Integration or conflicts with neighbouring (and wider surrounding) land uses could result in amenity, social or economic impacts. Co-location of employment/industrial uses could also generate agglomeration effects and catalyse economic growth. This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.24: Neighbouring Uses & Potential Agglomeration Effects**

Description	Symbol
Proposed use would integrate with neighbouring uses	++
No land use integration or conflicts likely	0
Proposed use likely to conflict with neighbouring uses	--

Criteria 4(i): Proximity to Strategic Road and Rail Network

*Sustainability implications:*

Proximity to strategic road network could affect the efficiency and environmental impacts of freight movements (materials delivery and product distribution) and well workforce. Whilst lack of proximity to the strategic road network is not a fundamental constraint, it must be considered as part of determining site accessibility (all modes). This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.25: Proximity to Strategic Road and Rail Network**

Description	Symbol
Within 500m of strategic road or rail network (inc. passenger rail services)	++
Within 500m - 1km of strategic road or rail network (inc. passenger rail services)	+
1km - 2km from strategic road or rail network (inc. passenger rail services)	-
Beyond 2km from strategic road or rail network (inc. passenger rail services)	--

**SA Objective 5: Housing**

Criteria 5(a): Housing Capacity of the Site

*Sustainability implications:*

The provision of net additional housing would contribute to meeting local and authority wide housing needs, as well as supporting population growth and delivery of the RLDP spatial strategy. Conversely, the loss of existing housing land could undermine the RLDP spatial strategy and exacerbate housing pressures (availability, affordability, etc.). This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.26: Housing Capacity of the Site**

Description	Symbol
5ha or more land for housing	++-
Up to 5ha land for housing	+
No residential use proposed / no residential land	0
Removal of existing housing land up to 10ha for other uses	-

Criteria 5(b): Deliverability of Affordable Housing

*Sustainability implications:*

The provision of affordable housing (at or above policy expectations) would contribute to meeting local and authority wide affordable housing needs, deliver mixed tenure developments with diverse communities, enable population growth and support delivery of the RLDP spatial strategy. Conversely, inadequate provision of affordable housing would exacerbate housing affordability pressures, limit household growth and underline delivery of the RLDP spatial strategy. This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process

**Table C3.27: Deliverability of Affordable Housing**

Description	Symbol
Direct affordable housing proposal (100% AH)	++
Indirect affordable housing delivery through market housing proposal	+
Site promoter contends non-viability of affordable housing within market housing	0



Criteria 5(c): Mixed Use Suitability

*Sustainability implications:*

Mixed use development has the potential to deliver high densities and more sustainable outcomes. The absence of mixed-use development is not a fundamental constraint but must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed.

These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.28: Mixed Use Suitability**

Description	Symbol
Proposed for mixed use development	++
Site has potential to accommodate mixed use development	+
Site not likely to accommodate mixed use development	-

Criteria 5(d): Neighbouring Uses

*Sustainability implications:*

Integration or conflicts with neighbouring (and wider surrounding) land uses could result in amenity, social or economic impacts. This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.29: Neighbouring Uses**

Description	Symbol
Proposed use would integrate with neighbouring uses	++
Site has potential to accommodate mixed use development	0
Proposed use likely to conflict with neighbouring uses	-

Criteria 5(e): Proximity to Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Sites

*Sustainability implications:*

Development in close proximity to COMAH installations (i.e. within Health and Safety Executive (HSE) notification zones) would introduce additional HSE risks. The acceptability of such risks requires to be considered when determining the feasibility of development, taking account of site characteristics and the type of development/land use proposed. This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process

**Table C3.30: Proximity to Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Sites**

Description	Symbol
Outside COMAH / HSE Notification Zone	0
Within 500m of COMAH / HSE Notification Zone	-
Within COMAH / HSE Notification Zone	--

Criteria 5(f): Proximity to Sites Designated in National Site Network<sup>3</sup> (vulnerable to recreational pressures)

*Sustainability implications:*

Population growth arising from housing development could result in increased recreational pressure (and other types of effects), resulting in Likely Significant Effects on the qualifying interests of Designated sites in the National Site Network (NSN). This could generate adverse effects on the achievement of Conservation Objectives and/or integrity of NSN Sites. To comply with the HRA Regulations, any Likely Significant Effects must be assessed (in the absence of mitigation) and development of the site must not have an adverse effect on sites integrity or conservation objectives (taking account of mitigation) which are designated in National Site Network. This is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process

**Table C3.31: Proximity to Sites Designated in National Site Network<sup>3</sup> (vulnerable to recreational pressures)**

Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from Designated NSN Site	++-
Within 1km - 2km of Designated NSN Site	+
Within 500m - 1km of Designated NSN Site	-
Within 500m of Designated NSN Site	--

<sup>3</sup> Including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

**SA Objective 6: Air Quality**

Criteria 6(a): Proximity to Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

*Sustainability implications:*

Proximity to AQMAs could exacerbate existing poor air quality in localised areas, with adverse health, amenity and environmental consequences. This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.32: Proximity to Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)**

Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from AQMA	++-
Within 1km - 2km of AQMA	+
Within 1km of AQMA	-
Within AQMA	--

Criteria 6(b): Proximity to Congestion Pinch Point

*Sustainability implications:*

Proximity to congestion hotspots could further increase traffic delays, resulting in adverse air quality impacts. This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.33: Proximity to Congestion Pinch Point**

Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from pinch point	++
1km - 2km from pinch point	+
Within 500m - 1km of pinch point	-
Within 500m of pinch point	--

Criteria 6(c): Potential Operational Emissions

*Sustainability implications:*

All land use activities have the potential to generate operational phase GHG emissions, whether directly from industrial processes (employment sites) or indirectly from energy consumption (domestic, non-domestic or transport related). The emerging NPT RLDP must respond to the climate emergency, including planning to support a low carbon economy and to minimise emissions from development (in pursuit of net zero targets). Consideration of likely operational GHG emissions must therefore be taken into account in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.34: Potential Operational Emissions**

Description	Symbol
Proposed operational use likely to generate non-domestic GHG emissions	-
No information available regarding potential operational emissions	0

**SA Objective 7: Climate Change**

Criteria 7(a): Onsite provision of Low/Zero Carbon Energy Generation

*Sustainability implications:*

National policy (PPW12 & Future Wales: The National Plan) makes clear there is a need for additional renewable energy and low/ zero carbon energy generation capacity in order to support the transition to a low carbon economy and achieve net zero climate targets. The emerging NPT RLDP must respond to the climate emergency, including planning to support a low carbon economy and providing an appropriate policy framework for the installation of low/ zero carbon energy generation and renewable energy developments. Any options for the provision of low/ zero carbon energy generation within candidate sites must therefore be taken into account in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.35: Onsite provision of Low/Zero Carbon Energy Generation**

Description	Symbol
Candidate site form/ response indicates likely provision of Low/Zero Carbon Energy Generation	++
No information provided by site promoter	0
Within 1km of AQMA	-
Within AQMA	--



Criteria 7(b): Proximity to Public Transport Network

*Sustainability implications:*

Lack of proximity to public transport would lock in car dependency for residents/ users (e.g. employees), resulting in traffic and GHG impacts. This is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.36: Proximity to Public Transport Network**

Description	Symbol
Within 400m of a bus stop or passenger train	++
Within 800m of a bus stop or passenger train	+
800-1200m from a bus stop or passenger train	-
Beyond 1200m from a bus stop or train station	--

Criteria 7(c): Incorporation of Climate Change Adaptation Measures

*Sustainability implications:*

Development needs to be sited and designed to adapt to/ cope with the effects of climate change. There is also a need for increased resilience within the natural environment to respond to climatic and associated environmental changes. The provision of adaptation measures as part of site allocations would therefore enhance the capacity of built and natural environments to respond to climate change. . Conversely, the absence of such measures within development sites could increase risks to life, property and livelihoods, as well as reducing ecosystem resilience. This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations.

Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.37: Incorporation of Climate Change Adaptation Measures**

Description	Symbol
Proposal includes Climate Change Adaptation Measures	++-
Proposal doesn't include information regarding potential Climate Change Adaptation Measures	?-

**SA Objective 8: Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil**

Criteria 8(a): Proximity to National Site Network Sites (SAC/SPA)

*Sustainability implications:*

Development could generate a range of pressures and environmental effects, resulting in impact pathways and the potential for Likely Significant Effects on the qualifying interests of National Site Network (NSN) Sites. This could generate adverse effects on the achievement of Conservation Objectives and/or integrity of (NSN) Sites. To comply with the HRA Regulations, any Likely Significant Effects must be assessed (in the absence of mitigation) and development of the site must not have an adverse effect on National Site Network Site (NSN) integrity or conservation objectives (taking account of mitigation). The potential for likely significant effects on a NSN Designated Site is a very important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed.

These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.38: Proximity to National Site Network Sites (SAC/SPA)**

Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from Designated NSN Site	+++
Within 1km - 2km of Designated NSN Site	+
Within 500m - 1km of Designated NSN Site	-
Within 500m of Designated NSN Site	--

Criteria 8(b): Proximity to SSSI

*Sustainability implications:*

Development could generate a range of pressures and environmental effects, resulting in impact pathways and the potential for Likely Significant Effects on the qualifying interests of National Site Network (NSN) Sites. This could generate adverse effects on the achievement of Conservation Objectives and/or integrity of (NSN) Sites. To comply with the HRA Regulations, any Likely Significant Effects must be assessed (in the absence of mitigation) and development of the site must not have an adverse effect on National Site Network Site (NSN) integrity or conservation objectives (taking account of mitigation). The potential for likely significant effects on a NSN Designated Site is a very important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed.

These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.39: Proximity to SSSI**

Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from SSSI	++-
Within 1km - 2km of SSSI	+
Within 1km of SSSI	-
Within SSSI	--

Criteria 8(c): Proximity to Ancient Woodland

*Sustainability implications:*

In the absence of mitigation (siting, design, construction and operational techniques), development in proximity to Ancient Woodland (or where Ancient Woodland is present within the site) could result in unacceptable habitat loss or deterioration. Development could also generate a range of pressures and environmental effects, resulting in indirect impact pathways and the potential for adverse effects on Ancient Woodland. In accordance with PPW12, loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats effects must be avoided unless, in wholly exceptional circumstances, evidence demonstrates that significant and clearly defined public benefits outweigh adverse impacts. Significant harm to biodiversity must also be avoided, including through adoption of the mitigation hierarchy where required. The potential for adverse impacts on Ancient Woodland is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. . These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.40: Proximity to Ancient Woodland**

Description	Symbol
Beyond 1km from Ancient Woodland	++-
Within 500m - 1km of Ancient Woodland	+
Within 500m of Ancient Woodland	-
Site includes Ancient Woodland	--

Criteria 8(d): Proximity to NNR

*Sustainability implications:*

Development could generate a range of pressures and environmental effects, resulting in impact pathways and the potential for adverse effects on the features and integrity of a NNR. PPW12 sets out a presumption against development resulting in adverse effects on the features for which a site has been designated. In accordance with this, adverse effects must be avoided unless, in exceptional circumstances, evidence demonstrates development benefits outweigh adverse impacts. The potential for adverse impacts on a NNR is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. . These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.41: Proximity to NNR**

Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from NNR	++-
Within 1km - 2km of NNR	+
Within 1km of NNR	-
Within NNR	--

Criteria 8(e): Proximity to RIGS<sup>4</sup>

*Sustainability implications:*

PPW12 requires planning authorities to protect the features and qualities for which Geoparks and RIGS have been designated, as well as encouraging the incorporation of geological features within the design of development, particularly where relevant evidence is provided by Green Infrastructure Assessments. Development could generate a range of direct and indirect environmental effects, resulting in impact pathways and the potential for adverse impacts on the features and qualities of a RIGS. The potential for adverse impacts on a RIGS is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed.

These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.42: Proximity to RIGS**

Description	Symbol
Beyond 1km from RIGS	++-
Within 500m - 1km of RIGS	+
Within 500m of RIGS	-
Within RIGS	--

<sup>4</sup> Regionally Important Geodiversity Site (RIGS)

Criteria 8(f): Proximity to LWS/SINC/LNR<sup>5</sup>

*Sustainability implications:*

Development could generate a range of pressures and environmental effects, resulting in impact pathways and the potential for adverse effects on the features and integrity of a LWS. PPW12 sets out a presumption against development resulting in adverse effects on the features for which a site has been designated. In accordance with this, adverse effects must be avoided unless evidence demonstrates development benefits outweigh adverse impacts. The potential for adverse impacts on a LWS is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.43: Proximity to LWS/SINC/LNR**

Description	Symbol
Beyond 1km from LWS / SINC/ LNR	++-
Within 500m - 1km of LWS / SINC/ LNR	+
Within 500m of LWS / SINC/ LNR	-
Within LWS / SINC/ LNR	--

<sup>5</sup> Local Wildlife Sites/ Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation/Local Nature Reserve



Criteria 8(g): Potential Effects on Designated Sites<sup>6</sup>

*Sustainability implications:*

Development could generate a range of pressures and environmental effects, resulting in impact pathways and the potential for adverse effects on the features and integrity of a designated site. PPW12 sets out a presumption against development resulting in adverse effects on the features for which a site has been designated. In accordance with this, adverse effects must be avoided unless evidence demonstrates development benefits outweigh adverse impacts. The potential for adverse impacts on a designated site is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.44: Potential Effects on Designated Sites**

Description	Symbol
Potential minor adverse ecological effects on designated site	-
Likely significant adverse ecological effects on designated sites -mitigation required	--
No information available regarding potential ecological effects	0

<sup>6</sup> As identified in the Designated Sites Hierarchy in Figure 12, PPW (12th Edition); Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area, Ramsar Sites UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Site of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserve, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Local Nature Reserve & Local Wildlife Sites.

Criteria 8(h): Presence of Important Trees, Hedgerows or Tree Protection Orders (TPOs)?

*Sustainability implications:*

PPW12 requires planning authorities to protect trees, hedgerows, groups of trees and areas of woodland where they have ecological value, contribute to the character or amenity of a particular locality, or perform a beneficial and identified green infrastructure function. In the absence of mitigation (siting, design, construction and operational techniques), development in proximity to trees/woodland or hedgerows (or where present within the site) could result in adverse biodiversity impacts including habitat loss or deterioration. Development could also generate a range of pressures and environmental effects, resulting in indirect impact pathways and the potential for adverse effects on woodland. The potential for adverse impacts on trees/woodland and hedgerows is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.45: Presence of Important Trees, Hedgerows or Tree Protection Orders (TPOs)?**

Description	Symbol
Site does not include TPO, Important Trees or Hedgerows	0
Site includes TPO, Important Trees or Hedgerows	--

Criteria 8(i): Presence of Valued Habitats and Species

*Sustainability implications:*

In accordance with statutory requirements, PPW12 requires development not to result in disturbance or harm to Protected Species or its habitat and to ensure the range and population of the species is sustained. Significant harm to biodiversity must also be avoided, including through adoption of the mitigation hierarchy where required. In the absence of mitigation (siting, design, construction and operational techniques), development in proximity to Protected Species' habitats could result in unacceptable disturbance effects or harm. Development could also generate a range of pressures and environmental effects, resulting in indirect impact pathways and the potential for adverse effects on Protected Species. The potential for adverse impacts on Protected Species and associated habitats is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. .

These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.46: Presence of Valued Habitats and Species**

Description	Symbol
Proposal includes onsite habitat enhancement proposals	++-
Potential minor adverse effects on valued habitats and species	-
Likely significant adverse ecological effects on valued habitats and species	--
No information available regarding potential ecological effects	?

Criteria 8(k): Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)

*Sustainability implications:*

PPW12 requires the best and most versatile agricultural land to be conserved as a finite resource for the future. The loss of such land (including degradation of high-quality soils for agriculture) could result in both reduced agricultural capacity and degraded ecosystem services. PPW12 requires RLDP site selection to afford considerable weight to protecting such land from development, because of its special importance. This means it is necessary for candidate sites involving the loss of ALC 1-3 land to demonstrate an overriding need for development, including taking account of other candidate sites and their environmental sensitivities.

The ALC V2 dataset (Dec 2019) will be used pending any future dataset updates.

**Table C3.48: Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)**

Description	Symbol
ALC Class 5	++-
ALC Class 4	+
ALC Class 2 or 3	-
ALC Class 1	--
No ALC Classification	

**SA Objective 9: Water and Flood Risk**

Criteria 9(a): Proximity to Flood Risk Zones

*Sustainability implications:*

PPW12 and TAN15 require that development reduce, and must not increase, flood risk arising from river and/or coastal flooding. Highly vulnerable development (HVD) in high-risk areas is not compliant with the requirements of TAN15. Any flooding consequences associated with highly vulnerable development are not considered to be acceptable. Plan allocations must not be made for such development and planning applications not proposed. Further TAN15 policy tests are required to be met for HVD in both the Defended Zone and Zone 2, while Less Vulnerable Development proposals are required to meet further TAN 15 policy tests for the Defended Zone, Zone 2 and Zone 3. Water Compatible Development is compliant with TAN15 in all circumstances.

These are a very important considerations which must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability, viability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. The full definitions of Highly Vulnerable, Less Vulnerable and Water Compatible are provided within TAN15.

**Table C3.49: Proximity to Flood Risk Zones**

Highly Vulnerable Development	Symbol
Within Zone 1	++
Within Defended Zone	?
Within Zone 2	??

Highly Vulnerable Development	Symbol
Within Zone 3	--

Less Vulnerable Development	Symbol
Within Zone 1	++
Within Defended Zone	?
Within Zone 2	??
Within Zone 3	-

Water Compatible	Symbol
Within Zone 1	++
Within Defended Zone	++
Within Zone 2	++
Within Zone 3	++

Criteria 9(b): Proximity to Main Rivers and Lakes

*Sustainability implications:*

Proximity to the water environment could result in direct or indirect impacts (during construction or operation) on water quality and water environment features. Having regard to statutory requirements including those arising from the Water Framework Directive, this must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.50: Proximity to Main Rivers and Lakes**

Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from Main River or Main Lake	+++
Within 1 - 2km of Main River of Main Lake	+
Within 500m - 1km of Main River or Main Lake	-
Within 500m of Main River or Main Lake	--

Criteria 9(c): Utilities Capacity (Power, Water Supply and Drainage)

*Sustainability implications:*

PPW12 requires planning authorities to protect water features, foster sustainable water management and consider the adequacy of utilities infrastructure when allocating development sites and making planning decisions. Development could exacerbate existing localised infrastructure constraints (potentially leading to adverse environmental effects including flooding) or require the installation of new / upgraded infrastructure where utilities networks are not already present or are insufficient to accommodate additional development of the scale proposed. In accordance with PPW12, this must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations following discussions with utilities infrastructure providers. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.51: Utilities Capacity (Power, Water Supply and Drainage)**

Description	Symbol
Surplus water utilities capacity available to service development and no mitigation required	+++
Development likely to require only minor mitigation - e.g., local pipe diversion/connection	+
Development would create a capacity shortfall - major mitigation required (e.g., treatment works)	-
Existing capacity shortfall which development would exacerbate	--



**SA Objective 10: Materials and Waste**

Criteria 10(a): Proximity to Community Recycling Centres

*Sustainability implications:*

Whilst lack of proximity to waste management facilities is not a fundamental constraint, this must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.52: Proximity to Community Recycling Centres**

Description	Symbol
Within 1km of NPTC community recycling centre	++
Within 1 - 2km of NPTC community recycling centre	+
Within 2 - 5km of NPTC community recycling centre	-
Beyond 5km of NPTC community recycling centre	--

Criteria 10(b): Locational Need for Minerals Extraction

*Sustainability implications:*

Adequate minerals extraction is needed to support construction activity, with extraction closer to end uses resulting in less transport related environmental impacts. However, the working of mineral resources, as a finite resource, without clear evidence of a need for additional extraction, could unnecessarily deplete available resources and result in local adverse environmental impacts (noise, vibration, dust, traffic, etc). This must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate mineral extraction site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of extraction proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.53: Locational Need for Minerals Extraction**

Description	Symbol
Robust locational need for minerals extraction identified	++-
No locational need identified	?
No minerals extraction proposed	0

**SA Objective 11: Sustainable Placemaking**

Criteria 11(a): Previously Developed Land or Greenfield Land

*Sustainability implications:*

PPW12 requires planning authorities to prioritise the use of suitable and sustainable previously developed land and/or underutilised sites for all types of development. This includes considering previously developed land and/or underutilised sites located within existing settlements first, before edge of settlement sites and then Greenfield land (as required to meet identified development needs). The approach recognises both the sustainability benefits of regenerating brownfield land (reduced environmental harm, improved sustainable transport, etc) and the range of adverse environmental effects likely to result from encroachment onto Greenfield land.

**Table C3.54: Previously Developed Land or Greenfield Land**

Description	Symbol
Previously Developed Land	++
Greenfield Land	--

Criteria 11(b): Proximity to Existing Active Travel Network

*Sustainability implications:*

Whilst lack of proximity to active travel routes is not a fundamental constraint, this must be taken account of in evaluating the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.55: Proximity to Existing Active Travel Network**

Description	Symbol
Within 400m of existing route	++
Within 800m of existing route	+
800-1200m of existing route	-
Beyond 1200m from existing route	--

**SA Objective 12: Cultural Heritage (incl. Welsh Language)**

Criteria 12(a): Proximity to Scheduled Monuments

*Sustainability implications:*

In accordance with statutory requirements, PPW12 requires development not to result in direct adverse effects on Scheduled Monuments, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any predicted indirect or setting effects must also be balanced against the need for development, with any suitable mitigation applied. In the absence of mitigation (siting, design, construction techniques), development in proximity to a Scheduled Monument could result in unacceptable effects on its understanding, appreciation or cultural value. The potential for adverse impacts on Scheduled Monuments is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.56: Proximity to Scheduled Monuments**

Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from Scheduled Monument	++-
Within 1km - 2km of Scheduled Monument	+
Within 1km of Scheduled Monument	-
Site includes Scheduled Monument	--

Criteria 12(b): Proximity to Scheduled Monuments

*Sustainability implications:*

In line with statutory requirements, PPW12 set out a general presumption in favour of the preservation or enhancement of a listed building and its setting, which might extend beyond its curtilage. In the absence of mitigation (siting, design, construction techniques), development for in proximity to a Listed Building could result in unacceptable effects on its understanding, appreciation or architectural value, as well as resulting in wider landscape and visual effects. The potential for adverse impacts on Listed Buildings is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.57: Proximity to Scheduled Monuments**

Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from Listed Building	+++
Within 1km - 2km of Listed Building	+
Within 1km of Listed Building	-
Site includes Listed Building	--

Criteria 12(c): Impacts on Important Archaeological Sites

*Sustainability implications:*

PPW12 sets out a presumption in favour of the physical protection in situ of nationally important archaeological remains unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any direct, indirect or setting effects on archaeological areas must also be balanced against the need for development, with any suitable mitigation applied. In the absence of mitigation (siting, design, construction techniques), development in proximity to an Important Archaeological Area could result in unacceptable effects on its understanding, appreciation or heritage value. The potential for adverse impacts on an Important Archaeological Area is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process

**Table C3.58: Impacts on Important Archaeological Sites**

Description	Symbol
No likely impact on Important Archaeological Site	0
Likely minor adverse impact on Important Archaeological Site	-
Likely major adverse impact on Important Archaeological Site	--

Criteria 12(d): Effect on Designated Sites

*Sustainability implications:*

In accordance with statutory requirements, PPW12 sets out multiple requirements for development to avoid direct adverse effects on nationally important historic assets<sup>7</sup> and for the need for any development resulting in adverse effects on the historic environment to be robustly justified. In the absence of mitigation (siting, design, construction techniques), development in proximity to a designated heritage asset could result in unacceptable effects on its understanding, appreciation or heritage value. The potential for adverse impacts on designated heritage assets is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.59: Effect on Designated Sites**

Description	Symbol
Potential minor adverse effects on designated site	-
Likely significant adverse effects on designated sites – mitigation required	--
No information available regarding potential effects	?

<sup>7</sup> For initial reporting on designated historic assets, please cross refer to NPT ISA RLDP Scoping Report.



Criteria 12(e): Re-Use of Historic or Culturally Important Buildings

*Sustainability implications:*

The reuse of historic or culturally important buildings recognises both the contribution of historic assets to a high-quality built environment and the sustainability benefits maximising the use of existing material assets. Development involving the loss of historic or culturally important buildings (where retention and potential restoration is possible) could result in unacceptable effects on the understanding, appreciation or value of the historic environment. The potential for the reuse of historic or culturally important buildings, or adverse effects on their setting or fabric, are important considerations in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations.

Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.60: Re-Use of Historic or Culturally Important Buildings**

Description	Symbol
Proposed re-use of Historic or Culturally Important Buildings	++-
Proposal includes demolition of Historic or Culturally Important Buildings	--
No information available regarding use or demolition of Historic or Culturally Important Buildings	?

Criteria 12(f): Effect on Welsh Language

*Sustainability implications:*

The protection and increased use of the Welsh Language supports social and cultural wellbeing. The need to protect and increase the use of the Welsh Language is enshrined in legislation and Future Wales 2040 & PPW12 requires development planning to take into account the conditions necessary for the Welsh Language to thrive (and for its use not to diminish).

Development resulting in demographic changes, economic development or educational changes could all directly or indirectly affect the use of the Welsh Language in existing and new communities. There is also an opportunity for developments to be sited and designed in ways which promote use of the Welsh Language, including by incorporating linguistic considerations into placemaking approaches. This is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.61: Effect on Welsh Language**

Description	Symbol
Proposal would add 100 or greater residential units/ Proposal for employment uses over 1000 sq.m in Welsh Language Sensitive Area <sup>8</sup>	--
Proposal for less than 100 residential units/ Proposal for employment uses under 1000 sq.m in Welsh Language Sensitive Area.	0

<sup>8</sup> NPT LDP has the following Welsh Language Sensitive Areas 1) Amman Valley 2) Swansea Valley, 3) Pontardawe and 4) Community of Crynant in the Dulais Valley. These may be subject to alteration to be defined by the Council at any point.

**SA Objective 13: Proximity to SLA<sup>9</sup> or Heritage Coast**

Criteria 13(a): Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast

*Sustainability implications:*

PPW12 defines SLAs as local areas of high landscape importance, which may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the area, and advises that particular landscapes of the coastline should be recognised and protected where they represent significant characteristics of place. To protect and enhance both high quality landscapes and local distinctiveness, the features and qualities of SLA and Heritage Coasts should therefore be protected from significant adverse effects which undermine their integrity. This is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.62: Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast**

Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from SLA or Heritage Coast	+++
Within 1km - 2km of SLA or Heritage Coast	+
Within 1km of SLA or Heritage Coast	-
Site within SLA or Heritage Coast	--

<sup>9</sup> Special Landscape Areas

Criteria 13(b): Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area

*Sustainability implications:*

PPW12 defines SLAs as local areas of high landscape importance, which may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the area, and advises that particular landscapes of the coastline should be recognised and protected where they represent significant characteristics of place. To protect and enhance both high quality landscapes and local distinctiveness, the features and qualities of SLA and Heritage Coasts should therefore be protected from significant adverse effects which undermine their integrity. This is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.63: Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area**

Description	Symbol
Beyond 2km from National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies area	++
Within 1km-2km of Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies area	+
Within 1km of National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies area	--

Criteria 13(c): Visual Amenity Impacts

*Sustainability implications:*

PPW12 defines SLAs as local areas of high landscape importance, which may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the area, and advises that particular landscapes of the coastline should be recognised and protected where they represent significant characteristics of place. To protect and enhance both high quality landscapes and local distinctiveness, the features and qualities of SLA and Heritage Coasts should therefore be protected from significant adverse effects which undermine their integrity. This is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.64: Visual Amenity Impacts**

Description	Symbol
No evidence of potential adverse visual amenity impact	0
Evidence of potential minor adverse visual amenity impact	-
Evidence of potential major adverse visual amenity impact	--

Criteria 13(d): Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact

*Sustainability implications:*

PPW12 defines SLAs as local areas of high landscape importance, which may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the area, and advises that particular landscapes of the coastline should be recognised and protected where they represent significant characteristics of place. To protect and enhance both high quality landscapes and local distinctiveness, the features and qualities of SLA and Heritage Coasts should therefore be protected from significant adverse effects which undermine their integrity. This is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.65: Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact**

Description	Symbol
Proposal would integrate strongly with existing settlement structure	++-
Proposal likely to integrate with existing settlement structure	+
Proposal detached from existing settlements or likely to result in coalescence (minor impact)	-
Proposal detached from existing settlements or likely to result in coalescence (major impact)	--

Criteria 13(e): Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)

*Sustainability implications:*

PPW12 defines SLAs as local areas of high landscape importance, which may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the area, and advises that particular landscapes of the coastline should be recognised and protected where they represent significant characteristics of place. To protect and enhance both high quality landscapes and local distinctiveness, the features and qualities of SLA and Heritage Coasts should therefore be protected from significant adverse effects which undermine their integrity. This is an important consideration in determining the overall sustainability and thus suitability of candidate site allocations. Any sustainability impacts would also depend on the scale of development proposed. These will be considered in the later stages of the process.

**Table C3.66: Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact)**

Description	Symbol
No Change from individual site integration score	Same scoring as Individual Site Integration/Coalescence/separation Impact
Allocation of site will have a cumulative impact	Relevant Comment/scoring

## **Appendix D      SA of Proposed LDP Strategic Framework**



**Appendix D - Table D1: Compatibility Matrix to Assess RLDP Vision and Objectives**

Key	
+	Compatible
0	Neutral
?	uncertain
-	Incompatible
~	No Clear Relationship

ISA Objective	RLDP Key Issues	RLDP Vision	NO1	NO2	NO3	NO4	NO5	NO6	NO7	NO8	NO9	NO10	NO11	NO12	NO13	NO14	Commentary
1. Health and Wellbeing: Improve the health and wellbeing of the population, including with respect to physical and mental health, social wellbeing and community safety, including through context appropriate soundscapes and reductions in addressing light pollution.	+ (3)	+ (3)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	~	+	+	<p><b>Proposed RLDP Vision</b> Of relevance to this SA Objective, the proposed RLDP Vision sets out the aim of improvement of public health and well-being.</p> <p><b>Proposed RLDP Objectives</b> With the exception of NO9 and NO12 the proposed RLDP Objectives include a direct or indirect focus on improving aspects of health and wellbeing (including physical environmental quality) and therefore directly align with this SA Objective:</p> <p>NO9: Uncertain at this point depending on the type of clean green technologies and whether the technology would adopt locally.</p>
2. Equality and Social Inclusion: Reduce poverty and inequalities, advance equality of opportunity, reduce socio-economic disadvantage, tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.	+ (6,8)	+ (6,8)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	<p><b>Proposed RLDP Vision</b> Of relevance to this SA Objective, the proposed RLDP Vision requires that the travel and transport is convenient and accessible. Besides, the vision requires all communities have ready access to goods, services, jobs and community facilities.</p> <p><b>Proposed RLDP Objectives</b> With the exception of NO12 the proposed RLDP Objectives include a direct or indirect focus on improving aspects of Equality and Social Inclusion and therefore directly align with this SA Objective.</p>
3. Transport and Communications: Enhance the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets through improving infrastructure and creating a	+ (6)	+ (6)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	?	~	<p><b>Proposed RLDP Vision</b> Of relevance to this SA Objective, the proposed RLDP Vision sets out the aim of that Travel and transport is more sustainable, convenient, accessible and efficient.</p> <p><b>Proposed RLDP Objectives</b></p>

ISA Objective	RLDP Key Issues	RLDP Vision	NO1	NO2	NO3	NO4	NO5	NO6	NO7	NO8	NO9	NO10	NO11	NO12	NO13	NO14	Commentary
sustainable transport network, whilst also ensuring access to high quality communications and utilities.																	<p>With the exception of NO2, NO12, NO13 and NO14 the proposed RLDP Objectives include a direct or indirect focus on improving aspects of Transport and Communication and therefore directly align with this SA Objective.</p> <p>NO2 – Uncertain at this point. Potential for conflict if the two objectives converge on single site and appropriate balance not found.</p> <p>NO13 - Uncertain at this point. Could be a conflict depending on priority given to either objective.</p>
4. Inclusive Economic Growth: Increase the number and quality of employment opportunities and improve educational and skill levels while maximising the economic contribution of the NPTC area to the Swansea Bay City Region, including through diversifying and strengthening the local economic base.	+	+	~	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	?	?	<p><b>Proposed RLDP Vision</b> Of relevance to this SA Objective, the proposed RLDP Vision sets out the aim of maximizing the benefits of major national and local structural economic change and requiring all areas of NPT are served by up-to-date physical and digital economic infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Proposed RLDP Objectives</b> With the exception of NO1, NO2, NO11, NO12, NO13 and NO14 the proposed RLDP Objectives include a direct or indirect focus on improving aspects of Inclusive Economic Growth and therefore directly align with this SA Objective.</p> <p>NO7: This will depend on whether co-location between employment and housing can be achieved.</p> <p>NO13, NO14 – Uncertain at this point. Potential for conflict if the two objectives converge on single site and appropriate balance not found.</p>
5. Housing: Provide a sufficient quantum and range of good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	~	~	?	?	<p><b>Proposed RLDP Vision</b> Of relevance to this SA Objective, the proposed RLDP Vision sets out the aim of maximizing the benefits of major national and local structural economic change and requiring all areas of NPT are served by up-to-date physical and digital economic infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Proposed RLDP Objectives</b> With the exception of NO2, NO9, NO11, NO12, NO13 and NO14 the proposed RLDP Objectives include a direct or indirect focus on improving aspects of Inclusive Economic Growth and therefore directly align with this SA Objective.</p> <p>NO2 – Uncertain at this point. Potential for conflict if the two objectives converge on single site and appropriate balance not found.</p> <p>NO9: This will depend on whether co-location between employment and housing can be achieved.</p>

ISA Objective	RLDP Key Issues	RLDP Vision	NO1	NO2	NO3	NO4	NO5	NO6	NO7	NO8	NO9	NO10	NO11	NO12	NO13	NO14	Commentary
																	NO13, NO14 – Uncertain at this point. Potential for conflict if the two objectives converge on single site and appropriate balance not found.
6. Air Quality: Prevent and reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and minimise exposure to poor air quality.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	?	+	+	<p><b>Proposed RLDP Vision</b> Of relevance to this SA Objective, the proposed RLDP Vision sets out the aim of requiring Travel and transport is more sustainable and pollution issues are appropriately addressed, and adverse impacts minimised.</p> <p><b>Proposed RLDP Objectives</b> With the exception of NO4, NO9, NO10, NO12, the proposed RLDP Objectives include a direct or indirect focus on improving aspects of Air Quality and therefore directly align with this SA Objective.</p> <p>NO9, NO10: Uncertain at this point. It depends on whether economic growth would cause more traffic in existing busy location.</p> <p>NO12: If successfully implemented has potential for a positive relationship but difficult to discern at this point. There may be impact from traffic generation and energy consumption but the objective already requires to minimize adverse impact.</p>
7. Climate Change: Adopt appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climate change.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	?	+	+	<p><b>Proposed RLDP Vision</b> Of relevance to this SA Objective, the proposed RLDP Vision sets out the aim of positively addressing the climate emergency.</p> <p><b>Proposed RLDP Objectives</b> With the exception of NO4, NO9, NO10, NO12, the proposed RLDP Objectives include a direct or indirect focus on improving aspects of Climate Change and therefore directly align with this SA Objective.</p> <p>NO9, NO10: Uncertain at this point. It depends on whether economic growth would cause more traffic in existing busy location.</p> <p>NO12: If successfully implemented has potential for a positive relationship but difficult to discern at this point. There may be impact from traffic generation and energy consumption but the objective already requires to minimize adverse impact.</p>
8. Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil: Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests, including through safeguarding important sites and species,	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?	?	?	?	+	+	<p><b>Proposed RLDP Vision</b> Of relevance to this SA Objective, the proposed RLDP Vision sets out the aim of positively addressing the climate emergency and requiring that natural and historic assets and environments, biodiversity, Green Infrastructure,</p>

ISA Objective	RLDP Key Issues	RLDP Vision	NO1	NO2	NO3	NO4	NO5	NO6	NO7	NO8	NO9	NO10	NO11	NO12	NO13	NO14	Commentary
improving green infrastructure provision and safeguarding important soil resources.																	<p>landscapes and coastal areas are conserved, protected and enhanced.</p> <p><b>Proposed RLDP Objectives</b> With the exception of NO4, NO6, NO7, NO8, NO9, NO10, No11, NO12, the proposed RLDP Objectives include a direct or indirect focus on improving aspects of Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil and therefore directly align with this SA Objective.</p> <p>NO3 – Broadly compatible but a lack of certainty at this point</p> <p>NO6 – Uncertain at this point. It depends on whether the improvements to Active Travel and public transport links would have impact on biodiversity.</p> <p>NO7- Broadly compatible but lack of certainty. Depends on final weight given to biodiversity.</p> <p>NO8 - Broadly compatible but lack of certainty. Depends on final weight given to biodiversity and actual developments which come forward.</p> <p>NO9, NO10 - Uncertain at this point. It depends on whether economic growth would cause impact on the biodiversity.</p> <p>NO11 - Uncertain at this point. It depends on whether the renewable generation and low carbon energy generation would have impact on the biodiversity.</p> <p>NO12 – Uncertain at this point. The objective already requires to minimize adverse impact.</p>
9. Water and Flood Risk: Conserve, protect and enhance water and coastal environments, water quality and water resources, whilst reducing the risk of flooding.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	?	?	~	?	+	+	<p><b>Proposed RLDP Vision</b> Of relevance to this SA Objective, the proposed RLDP Vision sets out the aim of requiring that flood risk, coastal and fluvial change and pollution issues are appropriately addressed, and adverse impacts minimised.</p> <p><b>Proposed LDP Objectives</b> With the exception of NO6, NO9, NO10, No11, NO12, the proposed RLDP Objectives include a direct or indirect focus on improving aspects of Water and Flood Risk and therefore directly align with this SA Objective.</p> <p>NO9, NO10: depends on the final weight given to economic development in relation to water and flood risk</p> <p>NO12 – Uncertain at this point. The objective already requires to minimize adverse impact.</p>

ISA Objective	RLDP Key Issues	RLDP Vision	NO1	NO2	NO3	NO4	NO5	NO6	NO7	NO8	NO9	NO10	NO11	NO12	NO13	NO14	Commentary
10. Material assets and Waste: Contribute to the implementation of the circular economy, manage waste with minimal environmental impacts and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including for energy generation and providing an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	+	+	~	+	<p><b>Proposed RLDP Vision</b>            Of relevance to this SA Objective, the proposed RLDP Vision sets out the aim of requiring that measures taken to address energy demand and efficiency will be taking effect while appropriate benefit will be coming from NPT's renewable and low carbon energy generation potential. The vision requires that mineral resources, reserves and infrastructure are conserved and safeguarded and appropriate waste treatment and disposal facilities provided to meet needs.</p> <p><b>Proposed RLDP Objectives</b>            With the exception of NO2, NO3, NO4, NO5, NO6, NO8, NO9, NO10, NO13, the proposed RLDP Objectives include a direct or indirect focus on improving aspects of Material assets and Waste and therefore directly align with this SA Objective.</p>
11. Sustainable Placemaking: Maximise the efficient use of land and enhance design quality to create great places for people.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	<p><b>Proposed RLDP Vision</b>            Of relevance to this SA Objective, the proposed RLDP Vision sets out the aim of requiring that important natural, cultural and built heritage, including the Welsh language, across all NPT's communities is supported, enhanced and enriched through the application of placemaking principles</p> <p><b>Proposed RLDP Objectives</b>            With the exception of NO9, the proposed RLDP Objectives include a direct or indirect focus on improving aspects of Material assets and Waste and therefore directly align with this SA Objective.</p>
12. Cultural Heritage and Welsh Language: Conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets, including the use of the Welsh language.	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	?	+	+	?	+	-?	?	+	+	<p><b>Proposed RLDP Vision</b>            Of relevance to this SA Objective, the proposed RLDP Vision sets out the aim of requiring that natural and historic assets and environments, biodiversity, Green Infrastructure, landscapes and coastal areas are conserved, protected and enhanced.</p> <p><b>Proposed RLDP Objectives</b>            With the exception of NO4, NO6, NO9, NO11 and NO12, the proposed RLDP Objectives include a direct or indirect focus on improving aspects of Cultural Heritage and Welsh Language and therefore directly align with this SA Objective.</p>

ISA Objective	RLDP Key Issues	RLDP Vision	NO1	NO2	NO3	NO4	NO5	NO6	NO7	NO8	NO9	NO10	NO11	NO12	NO13	NO14	Commentary
																	<p>NO6: Uncertain at this point. It depends on whether the improvements to Active Travel and public transport links would have impact on heritage.</p> <p>NO9: Uncertain at this point. Depending on the location of industries</p> <p>NO11: Potential negative. Depending on the type of renewable energy generation and location.</p> <p>NO12: Uncertain. Depending on the mineral extraction location. The objective already requires to minimise the impact.</p>
13. Landscape: Protect and enhance the landscape character, visual amenity and legibility of settlements in the NPTC area.	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	?	+	+	?	?	-?	-	+	+	<p><b>Proposed RLDP Vision</b>                      Of relevance to this SA Objective, the proposed RLDP Vision sets out the aim of requiring that natural and historic assets and environments, biodiversity, Green Infrastructure, landscapes and coastal areas are conserved, protected and enhanced.</p> <p><b>Proposed RLDP Objectives</b>                      With the exception of NO3, NO6, NO9, NO10, NO11 and NO12 , the proposed RLDP Objectives include a direct or indirect focus on improving aspects of Landscape and therefore directly align with this SA Objective.</p> <p>NO6: Uncertain at this point. It depends on whether the improvements to Active Travel and public transport links would have impact on landscape.</p> <p>NO9: Uncertain at this point. Depending on the location of industries</p> <p>NO10: Uncertain at this point. Depending on the location of economic infrastructure</p> <p>NO11: Potential negative. Depending on the type of renewable energy generation and location.</p> <p>NO12: Uncertain. Depending on the mineral extraction location. The objective already requires to minimise the impact.</p>

## Appendix D – Table D2: ISA on Growth Options

### Proposed Scoring System

Score	Description	Symbol
Significant (Major) Positive Effect	The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the ISA Objective.	++
Minor Positive Effect	The proposed policy contributes to the achievement of the ISA Objective but not significantly.	+
Neutral Effect	The proposed policy contributes is related to but does not have any effect on the achievement of the ISA Objective.	0
Minor Negative Effect	The proposed policy distracts from the achievement of the ISA Objective but not significantly.	-
Significant (Major) Negative Effect	The proposed policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the ISA Objective. Mitigation is therefore required.	--
Uncertain Effect	The proposed policy has an uncertain relationship to the ISA Objective, or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. Additionally, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.	?
No Clear Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed policy and the achievement of the ISA Objective, or the relationship is negligible.	~

Growth Options (GO)		Adjusted Core Scenario	Baseline Employment	Adjusted Supplementary Scenario	Average 15 year Past Delivery Rate	Population Growth (PG) Long-term	The WG 2018 Principal Projection	LHMA (Housing Need)	
ISA	RLDP	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7	Justification
No. of Dwellings (Plan Period)		2145	2657	3828	3927	3915	4275	4445	
No. of Dwellings (p.a.)		130	161	232	238	261	285	296	
No. of Jobs (p.a.)		121	130	237	Not available	181	152	Not Available	
1. <b>Health and Wellbeing:</b> Improve the health and wellbeing of the population, including with respect to physical and mental health, social wellbeing and community safety, including through context appropriate soundscapes and reductions in addressing light pollution.		?	?	++	?	+	?	--	<p>The number of jobs for GO4 and GO7 are not available. Hence, it is uncertain for health and Wellbeing. Besides, GO7 will have misalignment between homes and job. This would have major negative impact against the Objective.</p> <p>Other GOs are likely to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes through facilitating growth of the working age population and the provision of associated economic opportunities, although to varying extents. Nevertheless, as GO1, GO2 and GO6 will have greater out-commuting due to constrained aspirational economic opportunities. This will cause certain frustration due to long transportation.</p> <p>GO3 and GO5 will have further potential to reduce out-commuting through employment provision opportunities, which would be benefit to health and wellbeing. In particular, Option 3 would have higher number of job creation.</p>
2. <b>Equality and Social Inclusion:</b> Reduce poverty and inequalities, advance equality of opportunity, reduce socio-economic disadvantage, tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.		?	?	++	?	+	?	--	<p>The number of jobs for GO4 and GO7 are not available. Hence, it is uncertain for Equality and social inclusion effect. Besides, GO7 will have misalignment between homes and job. This can limit access to employment opportunities, especially for those without reliable transportation. This can disproportionately affect low-income individuals and marginalized communities. Hence, this would have major negative impact against the Objective.</p> <p>All other assessed GOs are likely to support efforts to increase the number and quality of employment opportunities and improve the level of educational attainment within the resident population, through supporting population growth and increased employment provision to vary extent. Nevertheless, as GO1, GO2 and GO6 will have greater out-commuting due to constrained aspirational economic opportunities. This will cause uncertain to the Objective.</p> <p>GO3 would have higher number of job creation. This would have relative higher benefit.</p>



		Adjusted Core Scenario	Baseline Employment	Adjusted Supplementary Scenario	Average 15 year Past Delivery Rate	Population Growth (PG) Long-term	The WG 2018 Principal Projection	LHMA (Housing Need)	
<b>Growth Options (GO)</b>									
3. <b>Transport and Communications:</b> Enhance the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets through improving infrastructure and creating a sustainable transport network, whilst also ensuring access to high quality communications and utilities.		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	Uncertain relationship at this point although potentially positive. Investment in transport to enhance accessibility and connectivity would be a pre-requisite for implementing growth options, thereby potentially resulting in enhanced access to public services, economic opportunities and markets.
4. <b>Inclusive Economic Growth:</b> Increase the number and quality of employment opportunities and improve educational and skill levels while maximising the economic contribution of the NPTC area to the Swansea Bay City Region, including through diversifying and strengthening the local economic base.		+	+	++	?	+	+	?	<p>The number of jobs for GO4 and GO7 are not available. Hence, it is uncertain for the economic growth effect</p> <p>Other assessed GOs would have a positive effect on this SA Objective as each provides additional employment land which would support future economic growth.</p> <p>GO3 would have higher number of job creation. This would have relative higher benefit.</p>
5. <b>Housing:</b> Provide a sufficient quantum and range of good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.		-	-	-	?	-	-	+	GO1, GO2, GO3, GO5 and GO6 are unable to meet affordable housings needs resulting in greater needs for other forms of accommodation. GO7 has the potential to make the most positive contribution towards meeting the existing unmet and newly arising affordable and market housing needs over the plan period. However, it is uncertain whether GO4 would meet the affordable housing need.
6. <b>Air Quality:</b> Prevent and reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and minimise exposure to poor air quality.		-	-	?	?	?	-	?	GO1, GO2 and GO6 would have greater out-commuting due to constrained aspirational economic opportunities. This will increase the trips and associated air emissions. Other GOs would have uncertain effects on this SA Objective, as the relationship depends on the location of housing and employment development relative to each other and relative to areas with known poor air quality.

		Adjusted Core Scenario	Baseline Employment	Adjusted Supplementary Scenario	Average 15 year Past Delivery Rate	Population Growth (PG) Long-term	The WG 2018 Principal Projection	LHMA (Housing Need)	
<b>Growth Options (GO)</b>									
7. <b>Climate Change:</b> Adopt appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climate change.		-	-	?	?	?	-	?	GO1, GO2 and GO6 would have greater out-commuting due to constrained aspirational economic opportunities. This will increase the trips and associate greenhouse emission. The assessed GOs would have uncertain effects on this SA Objective, as the relationship depends on whether developments incorporate mitigation and adaptation measures to respond to climate change rather than on the level of housing and employment growth per se.
8. <b>Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil:</b> Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests, including through safeguarding important sites and species, improving green infrastructure provision and safeguarding important soil resources.		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	The assessed GOs all involve new housing and employment land allocations which would result in land-take. Depending on the extent to which greenfield land is used, the characteristics of individual development sites (including brownfield land) and mitigation measures to be implemented, the levels of housing and employment growth under each GO could result in adverse effects on ecological, geodiversity and soil interests.
9. <b>Water and Flood Risk:</b> Conserve, protect and enhance water and coastal environments, water quality and water resources, whilst reducing the risk of flooding.		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	The assessed GOs would have uncertain effects on this SA Objective, as the relationship depends on the pressures placed on water resources by individual developments and the proximity of water bodies to individual development sites. However, sufficient water resources are likely to be able, or could be provided through investment, to support each GO.
10. <b>Material Assets and Waste:</b> Contribute to the implementation of the circular economy, manage waste with minimal environmental impacts and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including for energy generation and providing an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	All of the assessed GOs would have uncertain effects on this SA Objective, as impacts on natural resource usage, waste generation and the growth of the circular economy would depend upon the characteristics of developments and on natural resources and waste management policies within the emerging RLDP rather than the level of growth per se.

		Adjusted Core Scenario	Baseline Employment	Adjusted Supplementary Scenario	Average 15 year Past Delivery Rate	Population Growth (PG) Long-term	The WG 2018 Principal Projection	LHMA (Housing Need)	
<b>11. Sustainable Placemaking:</b> Maximise the efficient use of land and enhance design quality to create great places for people		-	-	+	?	+	-	-	<p>The number of jobs for GO4 and GO7 are not available. Hence, it is uncertain to this Objective. Besides, GO7 will have misalignment between homes and job. This would have major negative impact against the Objective.</p> <p>GO1, GO2 and GO6 have potential for greater out-commuting due to constrained aspirational economic opportunities. Hence, these options would not support this Objective</p> <p>GO3 and GO5 will have further potential to reduce out-commuting through employment provision opportunities, which would be beneficial to this Objectives.</p>
<b>12. Cultural Heritage and Welsh Language:</b> Conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets, including the use of the Welsh language.		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	<p>All of the assessed GOs would have uncertain effects on this SA Objective, as impacts on cultural heritage would depend upon the characteristics of developments and on cultural heritage policies within the emerging RLDP rather than the level of growth per se. However, in general a higher level of growth is likely to increase development pressures close to heritage assets, meaning that GO7 is considered likely to result in negative but uncertain effects on this SA Objective.</p> <p>All the assessed GOs would also have uncertain effects on Welsh Language. The developments could risk creating competition from job seekers from outside NPTC. However, if the option encourages tourism and smaller scale enterprises to maximise the potential employment opportunities, this could provide a positive impact on Welsh speaking communities in rural areas. Hence, it is uncertain at this moment.</p>
<b>13. Landscape:</b> Protect and enhance the landscape character, visual amenity and legibility of settlements in the NPTC area.		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	<p>All the assessed GOs would have uncertain effects on this SA Objective, as the relationship depends on the location and design of housing and employment development relative to landscape features and character. GO7 is considered likely to have a negative, albeit uncertain, relationship with this SA Objective as the over allocation of land could increase development pressure in areas with higher landscape sensitivity, whereas the other GOs propose lower levels of growth which are likely to be driven through subject policies, within the emerging RLDP, to areas with lower sensitivity.</p>

## Appendix D - Table D3 - Spatial Options Assessment\_R3

### Proposed Scoring System

Score	Description	Symbol
Significant (Major) Positive Effect	The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the ISA Objective.	++
Minor Positive Effect	The proposed policy contributes to the achievement of the ISA Objective but not significantly.	+
Neutral Effect	The proposed policy contributes is related to but does not have any effect on the achievement of the ISA Objective.	0
Minor Negative Effect	The proposed policy distracts from the achievement of the ISA Objective but not significantly.	-
Significant (Major) Negative Effect	The proposed policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the ISA Objective. Mitigation is therefore required.	--
Uncertain Effect	The proposed policy has an uncertain relationship to the ISA Objective, or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. Additionally, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.	?
No Clear Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed policy and the achievement of the ISA Objective, or the relationship is negligible.	~

**Option A – Continue with the existing Adopted Strategy**

**Option B – Dispersed growth across the authority**

**Option C – National Growth Area and Sustainable Transport Infrastructure**

**Option D – Building on key opportunities in the Valleys**

**Option E – Town Centre First approach**

**Option F – Hybrid option of Option C and Option D.**

**General Assumptions:** The assessment is high level. The impact due to the proximity of preferred sites on sensitive areas is considered in “ISA on candidates” and is not considered here.

Strategic Objective (SO)	Stage	A	B	C	D	E	F	Commentary
<b>1. Health and Wellbeing:</b> Improve the health and wellbeing of the population, including with respect to physical and mental health, social wellbeing and community safety, including through context appropriate soundscapes and reductions in addressing light pollution.	O	?	-	+	-	+	++	<p>Option A: The option allows focusing development along the Coastal Corridor and in the urban areas of Neath and Port Talbot. The option provides growth in sustainable areas that have access to facilities which would have minor positive contribution to the SO. However, key strategic regeneration areas still have not come forward as anticipated. Hence, the overall effect on health and wellbeing is considered as uncertain.</p> <p>Option B: This option focuses on growth occurring across the authority - from towns through to minor settlements as identified in the settlement hierarchy. Dispersed development growth may lead to a greater reliance on the private car due to limited Active Travel provision in the more rural parts of the authority and a mismatch between co-location of homes and jobs, resulting in negative effect of the objective.</p> <p>Option C - This spatial option would see growth in accordance with the existing LDP strategy where the majority of the growth is located in the Coastal Corridor; It has ability to further spread Active Travel to the valleys resulting in minor positive effect of the objective.</p> <p>Option D - This option focuses on the Valley’s to deliver innovative and visionary development. This involves the regeneration of valley communities which have lacked investment for long periods. However, Active Travel is more limited and there would be mismatch of homes and jobs which may encourage more commuting. Hence, the overall effect is considered as minor negative.</p> <p>Option E - This option takes forward the approach set out in Future Wales and PPW that all development should be in town centres first. The option creates sustainable town centre environments containing a mix of complementary and interdependent uses. It helps to reduce the need to travel through colocation of housing, infrastructure and services, and increasing the potential for realising Active Travel benefits.</p> <p>Option F – This is the hybrid option of option C and D which will result in directing the majority of growth to the most sustainable locations with active travel and public transport infrastructure; It allows co-location of homes and jobs to reduce commuting and promote active and healthy lifestyle and regeneration of valleys communities which have lacked investment for long periods. This would result in major positive effect on the objective.</p>
	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: O: Operation; C: Construction

Strategic Objective (SO)	Stage	A	B	C	D	E	F (C+D)	
2. <b>Equality and Social Inclusion:</b> Reduce poverty and inequalities, advance equality of opportunity, reduce socio-economic disadvantage, tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.	O	?	?	+	?	?	++	<p>Option A: This option focuses development along the Coastal Corridor and in the urban areas of Neath and Port Talbot. It provides a flexible approach to development within the Valley communities. This would have minor positive benefit to the SO. However, growth points around Glynneath and Pontardawe have not been realised as anticipated (Residential and Tourism) and are unlikely due to constraints, resulting in certain uncertainty.</p> <p>Option B: Dispersal strategy of this option that targets development across the whole County Borough proportionate to the size of each existing settlement; It helps support facilities in existing settlements, particularly in rural areas. This would have minor positive benefit to the SO. Nevertheless, some rural areas could be disadvantaged as they would not all benefit from additional housing or growth to attract additional facilities, resulting in certain uncertainty in equality and social inclusion.</p> <p>Option C: This option would see growth in accordance with the existing LDP strategy where the majority of the growth is located in the Coastal Corridor. Development would be focused around key areas. Valley's growth will also occur to complement the job creation along the NGA; however, this will be proportionate to size, role and function of existing settlements. On balance a minor positive effect is therefore predicted on the Objective.</p> <p>Option D: This option focuses on the valleys to deliver innovative and visionary development. It identifies focus areas for growth delivery. However, viability remains marginal across NPT, particularly in some communities. This option does not acknowledge the economic strength and importance of the Coastal Corridor. On balance an uncertain effect is therefore predicted on the Objective.</p> <p>Option E: All development should be in town centres first. Creation of sustainable town centre environments containing a mix of complementary and interdependent uses, including housing, community facilities and, where appropriate, employment, as well as retail and commercial leisure. This will have minor positive benefit to the SO. However, there may be lack of suitable development in town centre which make this option not achievable. This SO also lacks a strategy for rural development, resulting in certain uncertainty in the equality and social inclusion in rural area.</p> <p>Option F: This option facilitates a sustainable distribution of growth to support innovative green developments in both the Coastal Corridor and National Growth Area and the Valleys Opportunity Area, resulting in major positive effect towards to the objective.</p>
	C	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Note: O: Operation; C: Construction

Strategic Objective (SO)	Stage	A	B	C	D	E	F (C+D)	
<b>3. Transport and Communications:</b> Enhance the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets through improving infrastructure and creating a sustainable transport network, whilst also ensuring access to high quality communications and utilities.	O	?	-	+	+	-	++	<p>Option A: This option allows key infrastructure improvements delivered– Port Talbot Parkway Station and Integrated Transport hub; Baglan Energy Park Link Road; Harbour Way and Ffordd Amazon and provides continuity. However, key strategic regeneration areas still have not come forward as anticipated. Hence, it is considered uncertain towards the objective.</p> <p>Option B: This option focuses on growth occurring across the authority - from towns through to minor settlements. Dispersed development growth may lead to a greater reliance on the private car due to limited Active Travel provision in the more rural parts of the authority. Infrastructure requirements could be likely to be across the whole authority and there could be limited services within lower tier settlements. Hence, it is considered negative towards the objective.</p> <p>Option C: This option directs the majority of growth to the most sustainable locations with Active Travel and public transport infrastructure; and ability to further spread Active Travel to the Valleys. Key infrastructure will include improvements relating to the South West Wales Metro, M4/A465 Junction, Active Travel Network, A465 Glynneath corridor (links to midlands) etc. Hence, it is considered minor positive towards the objective.</p> <p>Option D: This option would see growth in Valley areas. It allows expansion of Active Travel Network into the Valleys. Besides, this option involves broadband infrastructure and flexible policy approach to promote home working. Hence, it is considered minor positive towards the objective.</p> <p>Option E: This option can increase the potential for realising Active Travel benefits. However, it may add substantial pressure to the transport network in the main town centres. There is no expansion of access to the valley area. Overall, it is considered minor negative towards the objective.</p> <p>Option F: this option can direct the majority of growth to most sustainable locations with active travel and public transport infrastructure. It is considered major positive benefits towards the objective.</p>
	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: O: Operation; C: Construction

Strategic Objective (SO)	Stage	A	B	C	D	E	F (C+D)	
<b>4. Inclusive Economic Growth:</b> Increase the number and quality of employment opportunities and improve educational and skill levels while maximising the economic contribution of the NPTC area to the Swansea Bay City Region, including through diversifying and strengthening the local economic base.	O	?	?	?	-	?	++	<p>Option A: This option will provide growth in sustainable areas that have access to facilities. This is considered minor positive towards to the objective. However, the growth points around Glynneath and Pontardawe have not been realised as anticipated. Depending on implementation factors, there is a potential issue in the lack of focus in rural area, resulting in limited economic growth.</p> <p>Option B: This option focuses on growth occurring across the authority - from towns through to minor settlements as identified in the settlement hierarchy. In general, this option will provide sustainable growth. Nevertheless, the viability of sites may restrict development, resulting in some uncertainties.</p> <p>Option C: This option maximises Green Growth opportunities in the coastal area. However, there would be only a limited amount of growth occurring in the Valleys. Overall speaking, this is considered minor positive towards to the objective. Depending on implementation factors there is a potential issue in the lack of focus on rural and areas of low demand, resulting in some uncertainties.</p> <p>Option D: Although there would be development in the Valley's area, the option does not acknowledge the economic strength and importance of the Coastal Corridor and National Growth Area. Hence, it is considered minor negative towards the objective.</p> <p>Option E: This option focuses on takes forward the approach set out in Future Wales and PPW that all development should be in town centres first. In general, this option will provide sustainable growth. However, Town centres within NPT are constrained by flooding and other constraints, resulting in some uncertainties.</p> <p>Option F: Directs the majority of growth to most sustainable locations with Active Travel and public transport infrastructure; Regeneration of Valleys communities which have lacked investment for long periods. Hence, it is considered major positive towards the objective.</p>
	C	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Note: O: Operation; C: Construction



Strategic Objective (SO)	Stage	A	B	C	D	E	F (C+D)	
5. <b>Housing:</b> Provide a sufficient quantum and range of good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.	O	-	?	+	--	?	++	<p>Option A: This option will provide growth in sustainable areas that have access to facilities. However, the level of housing delivered falls short of the annual build rate of 520 and is around 213 per annum. Hence, it is considered a minor negative towards the objective.</p> <p>Option B: This option focuses on growth occurring across the authority - from towns through to minor settlements as identified in the settlement hierarchy. In general, this option will support sustainable housing. Nevertheless, the viability of sites may restrict the housing development, resulting in some uncertainty.</p> <p>Option C: Development would only be focused around key areas; and only a limited amount of growth occurring in the valleys. Hence, it is considered minor positive towards the objective.</p> <p>Option D: Limited housing developer interest in the Valleys may limit the number of properties built; Housing not delivered in areas of greatest need. Hence, it is considered major negative towards the objective.</p> <p>Option E: This option focuses on takes forward the approach set out in Future Wales and PPW that all development should be in town centres first. In general, this option will support sustainable housing. However, Town centres within NPT are constrained by flooding and other constraints, resulting in some uncertainties.</p> <p>Option F: Housing can be delivered in areas of greatest need and to meet local needs. Hence, it is considered major positive effect on the objective.</p>
	C	~	~	~	~	~	~	No direct relationship of construction towards with the Objective.

Note: O: Operation; C: Construction

Strategic Objective (SO)	Stage	A	B	C	D	E	F (C+D)	
6. <b>Air Quality:</b> Prevent and reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and minimise exposure to poor air quality.	O	?	--	+	--	+	++	<p>Option A: The option supports a number of key infrastructure projects that were considered essential to delivering a number of strategic allocations, including housing, employment and regeneration sites. This may increase vehicle trips. Nevertheless, this option would encourage the use of public transport which may result in modal shift, which would reduce the toxic gas emission. These will result in certain uncertain towards the air quality.</p> <p>Option B: Dispersed development growth may lead to a greater reliance on the private car due to limited Active Travel provision in the more rural parts of the authority and a mismatch between co-location of homes and jobs. This will have major negative impact on air quality.</p> <p>Option C: The option can direct the majority of growth to most sustainable locations with active travel and public transport infrastructure. This option has the ability to further spread Active Travel to the valleys. This would encourage modal shift which would reduce toxic gas emissions. This will have minor positive benefit to air quality.</p> <p>Option D: The Active Travel linkages in this option are more limited. There is locational mismatch of homes and jobs which may encourage more commuting. This will result in major negative impact on air pollution.</p> <p>Option E: This option reduces the need to travel through the co-location of housing, infrastructure and services, and increasing the potential for realising Active Travel benefits. It will also require substantial infrastructure investment such as existing road re-routing. This may help to reduce the traffic congestion which would reduce the toxic gas emissions, which would result in minor positive benefit.</p> <p>Option F: Directs the majority of growth to most sustainable locations with Active Travel and public transport infrastructure. This would encourage modal shift. It also allows co-location of homes and jobs to reduce commuting and promote active and healthy lifestyle. This will have positive benefit on air pollution.</p>
	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: O: Operation; C: Construction

Strategic Objective (SO)	Stage	A	B	C	D	E	F (C+D)	
7. <b>Climate Change:</b> Adopt appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climate change.	O	?	--	+	--	+	++	<p>The option supports a number of key infrastructure projects that were considered essential to delivering a number of strategic allocations, including housing, employment and regeneration sites. This may increase vehicle trip. Nevertheless, this option would encourage the use of public transport and encourage modal shift, which would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The extent of the benefit is uncertain.</p> <p>Option B: Dispersed development growth may lead to a greater reliance on the private car due to limited active travel provision in the more rural parts of the authority and a mismatch between co-location of homes and jobs. This would have major negative impact on the objective.</p> <p>Option C: The option can direct the majority of growth to most sustainable locations with Active Travel and public transport infrastructure. Besides, the option has the ability to further spread Active Travel to the Valleys. This would encourage modal shift, which would reduce the greenhouse emission and have positive impact on the objective.</p> <p>Option D: The Active Travel linkages in this option are more limited. There is locational mismatch of homes and jobs which may encourage more commuting. This will have major negative impact on the objective.</p> <p>Option E: This option reduces the need to travel through colocation of housing, infrastructure and services, and increasing the potential for realising Active Travel benefits. The option may require major infrastructure investment such as existing road re-routing. This will further reduce greenhouse emission due to traffic congestion, resulting in minor positive benefit.</p> <p>Option F: Directs the majority of growth to most sustainable locations with Active Travel and public transport infrastructure. This would encourage modal shift. It also allows co-location of homes and jobs to reduce commuting and promote active and healthy lifestyle. This will have major positive impact on the objective.</p>
	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: O: Operation; C: Construction

Strategic Objective (SO)	Stage	A	B	C	D	E	F (C+D)	
8. <b>Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil:</b> Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests, including through safeguarding important sites and species, improving green infrastructure provision and safeguarding important soil resources.	O	+	-	0	-	+	-	<p>Option A: According to the adopted LDP, important habitats, species and sites of geological interest will be protected, conserved, enhanced and managed through different measures. With the continuation of the adopted LDP strategy for this option, it is considered that this objective can be achieved.</p> <p>Option B: Growth in this option would be predominantly on greenfield site. Hence, it has minor negative impact on the objective.</p> <p>Option C: This spatial option would see growth in accordance with the existing LDP strategy where the majority of the growth is located in the Coastal Corridor; albeit a more tempered approach given the lower than anticipated delivery rates of the adopted LDP.</p> <p>Option D: Growth will predominantly in valley area. This may have implication on the use of greenfield site. Hence, it has minor negative impact on the objective.</p> <p>Option E: This option adopts the Town Centre First Approach. Directing growth to the most urban areas would be likely to be compatible with the objective as it would minimise the need for greenfield development and therefore help to protect biodiversity, soil and geodiversity interests. Hence, it has minor positive benefit on the biodiversity.</p> <p>Option F: This option would mean development on some greenfield sites, some of which may have biodiversity, landscape or agricultural importance. Hence, it has minor negative impact on the objective.</p>
	C	0	-	0	-	0	-	<p>It is anticipated that environmental and traffic mitigation measures will be implemented during construction phase. For large scale projects, environmental impact assessments and traffic impact assessments will be conducted. Adverse environmental and traffic impacts are not anticipated. Hence, it is considered neutral for the objective. However, there will be development in greenfield for Options B and D, some may of having biodiversity, landscape or agricultural importance. Therefore, it has minor negative impact on the objective.</p>

Note: O: Operation; C: Construction

Strategic Objective (SO)	Stage	A	B	C	D	E	F (C+D)	
<b>9. Water and Flood Risk:</b> Conserve, protect and enhance water and coastal environments, water quality and water resources, whilst reducing the risk of flooding.	O	?	?	?	?	-	+	<p>Option A: This option broadly focuses growth in the Coastal Corridor area where adequate water infrastructure is in place to accommodate rising demand. However, effects on flood risk are uncertain and would depend upon the implementation of the option.</p> <p>Option B: Spreading growth across settlements would not necessarily support the objective, as this could result in some growth being directed to areas at risk of flooding, resulting negative effects towards the objective. However, the effects of this option depend largely on its implementation and are therefore uncertain at this stage.</p> <p>Option C: This option focuses development around key areas where adequate water infrastructure is in place to accommodate rising demand. However, effects on flood risk are uncertain and would depend upon the implementation of the option.</p> <p>Option D: This option would result in the development of a valley region to accommodate household and employment growth. Whilst the construction process is likely to result in adverse effects on the water environment, the location selected for the settlement would determine the level of flood risk and the ability to utilise existing water infrastructure. As such, the effect on the objective may be negative but would largely depend on implementation factors which are presently uncertain.</p> <p>Option E: Town centres within NPT are constrained by flooding. Hence, further development in town centres will likely intensify the flooding.</p> <p>Option F: This SO would focus growth in the most deliverable areas and is therefore likely to avoid high flood risk areas. A minor positive benefit on the objective is therefore predicted, albeit with uncertainties related to the implementation of the SO.</p>
	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	<p>Water quality impact and flooding risk due to construction is transient and can be well controlled with mitigation measures. Hence, the effect on the objective is considered as neutral for construction.</p>

Note: O: Operation; C: Construction

Strategic Objective (SO)	Stage	A	B	C	D	E	F (C+D)	
<b>10. Material assets and Waste:</b> Contribute to the implementation of the circular economy, manage waste with minimal environmental impacts and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including for energy generation and providing an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.	O	-	-	?	?	-	?	<p>Option A: There will be key infrastructure development leading to waste generation and embodied energy.</p> <p>Option B: There will be infrastructure development across the whole authority leading to waste generation and embodied energy.</p> <p>Option C: There will be key infrastructure development and expansion of active travel network into valley leading to waste and embodied energy generation, resulting in negative impact. However, this option allows green growth (e.g., Net zero). Any effects would depend upon implementation factors, leading to uncertainties.</p> <p>Option D: There will be key infrastructure development and expansion of Active Travel network into Valley's. This will generate waste and embodied energy, resulting in negative impact. However, this option allows for green growth renewable energy developments (Wind, Solar, Battery Storage). The overall effects would depend upon implementation factors leading to uncertainties.</p> <p>Option E: There will be key infrastructure development in the town centre leading to waste generation and embodied energy.</p> <p>Option F: There will be key infrastructure development and expansion of Active Travel network into Valley's leading to waste generation and embodied energy and resulting in negative impact. However, this option allows green growth and renewable energy developments (e.g., Wind and Solar). Any effects would depend upon implementation factors leading to uncertainties.</p>
	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: O: Operation; C: Construction

Strategic Objective (SO)	Stage	A	B	C	D	E	F (C+D)	
11. <b>Sustainable Placemaking:</b> Maximise the efficient use of land and enhance design quality to create great places for people	O	?	-	?	-	+	++	<p>Option A: This option would provide growth in sustainable areas that have access to facilities as the strategy supported a number of key infrastructure projects that were considered essential to delivering a number of strategic allocations, including housing, employment and regeneration sites. However, key strategic regeneration areas still have not come forward as anticipated. Hence, the overall effect is uncertain and would depend upon the implementation of the option.</p> <p>Option B: There is potential for smaller settlements to become bigger and for them to become more sustainable through the inclusion of additional local everyday facilities or to sustain their existing facilities. However, there would be a mismatch between co-location of homes and jobs; Some rural areas could be disadvantaged as they would not all benefit from additional housing or growth to attract additional facilities. Hence, it is considered minor negative effect to the objective.</p> <p>Option C: The option allows co-location jobs and homes in the Coastal Corridor and National Growth Area to reduce commuting; It also allows sustainable patterns of development; However, there will be limited growth occurring in the Valley's. Hence, the overall effect is uncertain and would depend upon the implementation of the option.</p> <p>Option D: This option would result in locational mismatch of homes and jobs. Housing not delivered in areas of greatest need. Hence, it is considered minor negative effect to the objective.</p> <p>Option E: This option allows creation of sustainable town centre environments containing a mix of complementary and interdependent uses, including housing, community facilities and, where appropriate, employment, as well as retail and commercial leisure; It reduces the need to travel through the co-location of housing, infrastructure and services. Hence, it is considered a minor positive effect to the objective.</p> <p>Option F: This option directs the majority of growth to the most sustainable locations with Active Travel and public transport infrastructure; It allows for the co-location of homes and jobs to reduce commuting and promote active and healthy lifestyles; Also allows for the regeneration of valleys communities. Hence, it is considered major positive effect to the objective.</p>
	C	~	~	~	~	~	~	~

Note: O: Operation; C: Construction

Strategic Objective (SO)	Stage	A	B	C	D	E	F (C+D)	
<b>12. Cultural Heritage and Welsh Language:</b> Conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets, including the use of the Welsh language.	O	?	-	?	?	-	?	All of the assessed options would have uncertain effects on this objective, as impacts on cultural heritage would depend upon the characteristics of developments and on cultural heritage policies within the emerging RLDP rather than the distribution of growth per se.  Besides, Option B has no consideration given to the character and environmental constraints of the settlement, meaning that this option is considered most likely to result in minor negative effects on the objective.  For Option E, as the town centre are already constrained, further development would intensify the impact, and hence, have minor negative effects on the objective.
	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	Heritage impact due to construction is transient and can be well controlled with mitigation measures. Hence, the effect on this objective is considered as neutral for construction.
<b>13. Landscape:</b> Protect and enhance the landscape character, visual amenity and legibility of settlements in the NPTC area.	O	+	+	+	-	+	-	Option A: Majority development would be in coastal area (i.e. urban area) which would help to reduce impact on the landscape character, but this option could cause a negative impact on urban visual amenity. On balance, minor positive effects on objective are predicted.  Option B: Spreading growth across settlements would help to protect landscapes from overdevelopment, resulting in minor positive effects on the objective.  Option C: Majority development would be in Coastal Corridor and National Growth area (i.e. urban area) which would help to reduce valley landscape character but could negatively impact on urban visual amenity. On balance, minor positive effects on the objective are predicted.  Option D: This option will focus development in the Valley's area, resulting in minor negative effect on the objective.  Option E: This SO would see growth broadly directed to the most accessible and sustainable urban locations and existing settlements, which would help to protect rural landscape character but could negatively impact on urban visual amenity. On balance, positive effects on the objective are predicted.  Option F: There will be development on some greenfield sites, some of which may have biodiversity, landscape or agricultural importance.
	C	?	?	?	?	?	?	Landscape impact due to construction depends on location and can be transient and reduced with mitigation measures. Hence, the effect on this objective is considered as minor negative impact for construction.

Note: O: Operation; C: Construction



## Appendix E SA of Strategic Policies

### Proposed Scoring System

Score	Description	Symbol
Significant (Major) Positive Effect	The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the ISA Objective.	++
Minor Positive Effect	The proposed policy contributes to the achievement of the ISA Objective but not significantly.	+
Neutral Effect	The proposed policy contributes is related to but does not have any effect on the achievement of the ISA Objective.	0
Minor Negative Effect	The proposed policy distracts from the achievement of the ISA Objective but not significantly.	-
Significant (Major) Negative Effect	The proposed policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the ISA Objective. Mitigation is therefore required.	--
Uncertain Effect	The proposed policy has an uncertain relationship to the ISA Objective, or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. Additionally, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.	?
No Clear Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed policy and the achievement of the ISA Objective, or the relationship is negligible.	~

	Strategic Place making	Climate Change	Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment	Health	Placemaking in Action	Strategy Area	Sustainable Transport	Housing	Retail and Commercial Centres	Tourism	Economic Recovery	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Mineral	Sustainable Waste Management	Historic Environment	Green Infrastructure	Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast	Environmental Protection	
	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
<p>1. <b>Health and Wellbeing:</b> Improve the health and wellbeing of the population, including with respect to physical and mental health, social wellbeing and community safety, including through context appropriate soundscapes and reductions in addressing light pollution.</p>	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	~	+	++	+	~	+	++	++	++	<p><b>Assessment of Predicted Effects</b></p> <p>SP1: The proposed policy helps to direct development to the most sustainable locations in accordance with the spatial policy, settlement hierarchy and defined settlement limits to promote health and well-being. Hence, it gives positive effect to the Objective.</p> <p>SP2: The proposed policy helps to encourage sustainable communities, avoids development in areas identified as being risk at flooding and maximises green infrastructure to reduce the urban heat island effect. It also requires development to prioritise in previously developed land and encourage active travel. Hence, it gives positive effect to the Objective.</p> <p>SP3: The proposed policy seeks to reduce pollution, addresses environmental risk and improves ecosystem resilience, all of which help to improve physical and mental outcomes.</p> <p>SP4: The proposed policy ensures the health outcome through development and enhancement of sustainable, safe and cohesive communities, reducing people's exposure to adverse environmental impacts and improving accessibility within and between communities. The policy also encourages healthier and more active lifestyles and provides good quality, and energy efficient housing. Hence, it gives positive effect to the Objective.</p> <p>SP5: The proposed policy ensures high quality and safe design, incorporates Green Infrastructure, seeks to retain and protect existing and develop new recreation space and community facilities and ensures places have access to sustainable transport options. Hence, it gives positive effect to the Objective.</p> <p>SP6: The proposed policy allows co-locates home and jobs to reduce commuting and maximizes sustainable transport opportunities and connectivity. Hence, it gives positive effect to the Objective.</p> <p>SP7: The proposed policy enables opportunities to enhance the active travel network. Hence, it gives positive effect to the Objective.</p>

	Strategic Place making	Climate Change	Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment	Health	Placemaking in Action	Strategy Area	Sustainable Transport	Housing	Retail and Commercial Centres	Tourism	Economic Recovery	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Mineral	Sustainable Waste Management	Historic Environment	Green Infrastructure	Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast	Environmental Protection	
	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
																			<p>SP8: This proposed policy helps to achieve a more balanced demographic character and avoids a rapidly ageing population alongside a larger working age population to support an ageing population. These have minor positive benefits to the Objective.</p> <p>SP9: This proposed policy assists in the long-term viability and vitality of retail and commercial centres ensuring that they will function as places and spaces for socialising, working, studying and enjoying. These have minor positive benefits to the Objective.</p> <p>SP11: This proposed policy will indirectly contribute to the achievement of this SA Objective by outlining an economic growth and employment land policy to meet identified population needs, particularly in the context of predicted population ageing. These have minor positive benefits to the Objective.</p> <p>SP12: The proposed policy promotes and optimises of renewable and low carbon energy supply and distribution options for local communities. This will reduce the emission and embodied carbon. These have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP13: This proposed policy requires the designation of buffer zones around quarries to protect amenity, which would help to safeguard physical and mental health. These have minor positive benefits to the Objective.</p> <p>SP15 – The proposed policy contributes to this SA Objective by promoting the protection of the historic environment and the range of socio-economic and wider benefits this brings in terms of ‘promoting general well-being’. These have minor positive benefits to the Objective.</p> <p>SP16: This proposed policy creates new green infrastructure and employs nature-based solutions wherever possible. These have positive benefits to the Objective.</p> <p>SP17: This proposed policy recognises countryside would provide a wide range of benefits and the importance of conservation.</p> <p>SP18: This proposed policy reduces pollution, addresses environmental risks, and improves ecosystem resilience. These have positive benefits to the Objective.</p>

	Strategic Place making	Climate Change	Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment	Health	Placemaking in Action	Strategy Area	Sustainable Transport	Housing	Retail and Commercial Centres	Tourism	Economic Recovery	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Mineral	Sustainable Waste Management	Historic Environment	Green Infrastructure	Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast	Environmental Protection		
	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary	
																				There is no clear link between the proposed SP10 and SP14 and this SA Objective.

	Strategic Place making	Climate Change	Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment	Health	Placemaking in Action	Strategy Area	Sustainable Transport	Housing	Retail and Commercial Centres	Tourism	Economic Recovery	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Mineral	Sustainable Waste Management	Historic Environment	Green Infrastructure	Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast	Environmental Protection	
	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
<p><b>2. Equality and Social Inclusion:</b> Reduce poverty and inequalities, advance equality of opportunity, reduce socio-economic disadvantage, tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.</p>	++	++	+	++	++	++	++	++	~	~	++	~	~	+	~	++	~	+	<p>SP 1: This proposed policy promotes and supports the uptake of active travel, provides an appropriate balance of homes and jobs, and enables access to a range of services, activities, facilities with adequate efficient infrastructure. This would have positive benefit to this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP2: This proposed policy requires that all development proposals must make a positive contribution towards mitigating, adapting and building resilience to the impacts of climate change. This will benefit to the marginalized communities. The policy would encourage sustainable communities which are supported through good design, digital connectivity and sustainable travel opportunities. This would have positive benefit to this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP3: This proposed policy requires all new developments to minimise its impact on natural systems, landscapes, species and habitats and to demonstrate net benefit for biodiversity. This would have benefit to all community members, including those who might be disproportionately affected by environmental degradation. This would have minor positive benefit to this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP4: This proposed policy promotes of cohesive communities through the co-location of jobs, facilities, and services in accordance with the settlement hierarchy. This would have positive benefit to this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP5: This proposed policy seeks to retain and protect existing and develop new recreation space and community facilities, ensure places have access to sustainable transport options and protect and promote the Welsh language and linguistic heritage. These have positive benefit to equality and social inclusion.</p> <p>SP6: The proposed policy capitalises on employment growth. This will reduce poverty. The policy also identifies key housing sites to help deliver affordable housing and maximises sustainable transport opportunities and connectivity. These will help to reduce inequalities. The co-location of homes and jobs would promote community cohesion.</p> <p>SP7: The proposed policy enables opportunities to enhance the active travel network. These have positive benefit to equality and social inclusion.</p>

	Strategic Place making	Climate Change	Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment	Health	Placemaking in Action	Strategy Area	Sustainable Transport	Housing	Retail and Commercial Centres	Tourism	Economic Recovery	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Mineral	Sustainable Waste Management	Historic Environment	Green Infrastructure	Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast	Environmental Protection	
	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
																			<p>SP8: The proposed policy contributes to the achievement of the SAO through focusing on ensuring that needs-based housing requirements for market and affordable housing, and for Gypsy &amp; Traveller provision, is met. These have positive benefit to equality and social inclusion.</p> <p>SP11: The proposed policy contributes to this objective by setting an employment land policy to meet identified need, facilitates new opportunities arising decarbonisation including growth in green economy, and embraces rural regeneration opportunities. These have positive benefit to equality and social inclusion.</p> <p>SP14: This proposed policy supports the circular economy, which can create new job opportunities in sectors like recycling, repair, and remanufacturing. These jobs can benefit economically disadvantaged communities, promoting social inclusion through employment. These would have minor positive benefit to this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP16 – This proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the Objective as infrastructure provision through new development is essential to meet the needs of existing and future communities. These have positive benefit to this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP18: The proposed policy contributes to the achievement of the Objective by recognizing the impacts of air, light and noise pollution. This would have benefit to all community members, including those who might be disproportionately affected by environmental degradation. These would have minor positive benefit to this SA Objective.</p> <p>There is no clear link between the proposed SP9, SP10, SP12, SP13, SP15 and SP17 and this SA Objective.</p>

	Strategic Place making	Climate Change	Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment	Health	Placemaking in Action	Strategy Area	Sustainable Transport	Housing	Retail and Commercial Centres	Tourism	Economic Recovery	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Mineral	Sustainable Waste Management	Historic Environment	Green Infrastructure	Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast	Environmental Protection	
	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
<p><b>3. Transport and Communication</b> s: Enhance the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets through improving infrastructure and creating a sustainable transport network, whilst also ensuring access to high quality communications and utilities.</p>	++	++	0	++	++	++	++	~	++	?	?	~	~	~	0	++	0	0	<p>SP1 – The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the Objective primarily through focusing on access and movement within new development.</p> <p>SP2 – The proposed policy encourages sustainable communities which are supported through good design, digital connectivity and sustainable travel opportunities. It requires the development be located in sustainable locations and avoid in areas identified as being at risk of flooding or that increases the risk of flooding and coastal erosion.</p> <p>SP4- This proposed policy improves accessibility within and between communities and encourages healthier and more active lifestyles through improvements to the physical and built environment, in particular maintaining and / or enhancing the extent, quality and connectivity of the Active Travel, Green Infrastructure Networks and recreation space</p> <p>SP5: The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the Objective primarily through focusing on provision access to sustainable transport options.</p> <p>SP6: The proposed policy would maximise sustainable transport opportunities and connectivity within the Swansea Bay region and promote more sustainable modes of transport. It supports the provision of good quality broadband infrastructure in the VOA. These would have positive benefits to the Objective.</p> <p>SP7: The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the Objective primarily through focusing on implementation of sustainable transport hierarchy.</p> <p>SP9: The proposed policy requires that the proposed schemes must be proportionate in scale, nature, size and character taking into account the placemaking principles. Furthermore, they will be accessible for all and prioritise sustainable transport; and will be well served by active travel infrastructure and public transport.</p> <p>SP10, SP11: Whilst there is an established relationship between transport and economic growth, as worded the employment and tourism within these proposed policies would not result in any clear effects on this SA Objective. This is owing to the absence of</p>

	Strategic Place making	Climate Change	Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment	Health	Placemaking in Action	Strategy Area	Sustainable Transport	Housing	Retail and Commercial Centres	Tourism	Economic Recovery	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Mineral	Sustainable Waste Management	Historic Environment	Green Infrastructure	Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast	Environmental Protection	
	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
																			<p>reference to specific allocations within the policies, which would be likely to generate specific transport implications. However, policy SP10 does identify the need for new tourism developments to respect existing communities, which would include ensuring adequate transport infrastructure to meet the needs of both local people and visitors.</p> <p>SP16: The proposed policy contributes significantly to this SA Objective on assumption that completion of the cycle network and key network links are required to secure green infrastructure.</p> <p>SP3, SP15, SP17, SP18 – Applied in isolation these proposed policies could detract from this SA Objective by limiting the ability to improve connectivity and accessibility through transport infrastructure improvements that may result in adverse effects on heritage assets, biodiversity, environmental quality or flood risk. However, as the policies would be applied in tandem with other relevant policies relating to the transport strategies of the emerging RLDP, on balance neutral effects are predicted as the policies themselves are not likely to prevent transport improvements.</p> <p>There is no clear link between the proposed SP8, SP12, SP13 and SP14 and this SA Objective.</p>



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	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
<p>4. <b>Inclusive Economic Growth:</b> Increase the number and quality of employment opportunities and improve educational and skill levels while maximising the economic contribution of the NPTC area to the Swansea Bay City Region, including through diversifying and strengthening the local economic base.</p>	+	+	0	+	+	++	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	0	0	<p>SP1: The policy directs development to the most sustainable locations. This would have minor benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP2: The policy requires the development to avoid in areas identified as being at risk of flooding or that in-crases the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. This would reduce the impact on economy growth due to climate extremities and has minor benefit to the Objectives.</p> <p>SP4: This policy allows the development and enhancement of sustainable, safe and cohesive communities through the provision of employment. This would have minor benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP5: This policy allows incorporation of green infrastructure and delivery of supporting infrastructure. This would have minor positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP6: This policy would capitalise on employment growth around the Freeport, the Port, and Baglan Energy Park to build upon market interest along the NGA and Port Talbot Steelworks to help with economic recovery. It also identifies key tourism, and employment opportunities such as Afan Valley Adventure Resort and GCRE Hence, these would have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP7: This policy enables opportunities to enhance the active travel network and the public transport network, and provision of infrastructure. These would benefit to the employment and would have minor benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP8: The policy seeks to deliver population growth to meet the projected level of eco-nomic growth over the Plan period. This would enhance the economic development and would have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP9: This policy encourages and supports the retention and provision of a mix of community, retail, employment and recreational facilities in appropriate locations across the county borough. This would enhance the economic development and would have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP10: This policy enhances tourism, which can be a catalyst for regeneration and benefit to economic growth. This would have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP11: This policy sets out employment land policy to underpin economic growth, encourages and enables the establishment and growth of new clean green technologies and industries, embraces rural regeneration opportunities and supports employment opportunities. These would have positive benefit to the Objective.</p>

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	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
																			<p>SP12: This policy encourages and enables the establishment and growth of new clean green technologies and industries. This would have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP13: The policy seeks to regulate the exploitation of mineral resources to make a proportionate contribution to meeting the national, regional and local demand for minerals. It also encourages the maximum use of alternative materials before the use of raw aggregate. These would have positive benefits to the Objective.</p> <p>SP14: This policy supports additional sustainable waste management facilities and circular economy. These would have positive benefits to the Objective.</p> <p>SP15: The policy contributes to the achievement of the objectives through recognizing the economic benefit of the heritage in Wales. This policy would support SP9: tourism and thus would have minor positive benefits to the Objective.</p> <p>SP16: This policy requires development to create new green infrastructure and employ nature-based solutions wherever possible. This would have benefit to the employment and green economy growth. Hence, it would have minor positive benefits to the Objective.</p> <p>SP3, SP17, SP18: Applied in isolation these proposed policies could detract from this SA Objective by limiting employment generating development in specific areas to protect landscape, heritage, biodiversity and water environment receptors from adverse effects. However, as the policies would be applied in tandem with other relevant policies relating to the employment land policy of the emerging RLDP, on balance neutral effects are predicted as the policies themselves are not likely to prevent identified employment needs from being met.</p>

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	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
5. <b>Housing:</b> Provide a sufficient quantum and range of good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.	++	++	0	++	++	++	++	++	++	?	+	~	~	~	0	+	0	0	<p>SP1: The proposed policy makes efficient use of existing infrastructure and where required, makes provision for new and improved infrastructure appropriate to the scale, type and location of proposed developments through the use of planning obligations. This would support the housing growth and have positive benefits on this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP2: The proposed policy directs housing development in sustainable locations. This would support the housing growth and have positive benefits on this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP3, SP15, SP17 and SP18: Applied in isolation these proposed policies could detract from this SA Objective by limiting housing development in specific areas to protect landscape, heritage, biodiversity and water environment receptors from adverse effects. However, as the policies would be applied in tandem with other relevant policies relating to the housing land policy of the emerging RLDP, on balance neutral effects are predicted as the policies themselves are not likely to prevent identified housing needs from being met.</p> <p>SP4: The proposed policy helps to provide good quality, and energy efficient housing. This would have positive benefits on this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP5: The proposed policy delivers an appropriate level of supporting infrastructure. New infrastructure, linked to new housing development, is essential in the creation of sustainable communities. These would have positive benefits on this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP6: The proposed policy identifies key housing sites to help deliver affordable housing in the areas identified as being in greatest need; These would have positive benefits to the Objective.</p> <p>SP7: This policy provides infrastructure such as parking and active travel network to support housing growth. These would have positive benefits on this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP8: The proposed policy directly overlaps with and supports this objective</p>

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	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
																			<p>SP9: The proposed policy encourages and supports the retention and provision of a mix of community, retail, employment and recreational facilities in appropriate locations across the county borough. It is essential in the creation of sustainable communities. These would have positive benefits on this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP10: The proposed policy has an uncertain relationship to this SA Objective, as whilst it identifies the need for tourism development to respect surrounding communities the policy does not address potential adverse impacts on housing availability and affordability from tourism accommodation.</p> <p>SP11: The proposed policy contributes to this SA Objective through setting out an employment land policy which is linked to housing growth. These would have minor positive benefits on this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP12, SP13, SP14: There is no clear relationship between the proposed policies and this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP16: The proposed policy contributes to this SA objective through linking housing, and jobs and key service sustainably. These would have minor positive benefits on this SA Objective.</p>

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	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	
6. <b>Air Quality:</b> Prevent and reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and minimise exposure to poor air quality.	++	++	+	++	+	++	++	0	0	~	?	++	++	~	+	++	+	++	<p>SP1: The proposed policy minimises the need to travel and prioritises sustainable travel linkages, active travel and public transport options that are well connected, accessible, and reduces dependency on private vehicles. These would have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP2: The proposed policy requires development to facilitate, where appropriate, renewable energy generation, to encourage energy conservation and contribute to achieving low/ net zero carbon targets, maximise Green Infrastructure opportunities to reduce the urban heat island effect. These will also have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP3, SP15, SP17: These proposed policies provide protection for a range of environmental assets. In doing so they would indirectly help to safeguard air quality and tackle harmful concentrations of atmospheric pollution, resulting in minor positive effects on this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP4: The proposed policy helps to reduce people's exposure to adverse environmental impacts on their health through enhancing local environments and addressing, where possible, all types of pollution. It also enhances the extent, quality and connectivity of the Active Travel, Green Infrastructure Networks and recreation space. These will reduce the emissions and have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP5: The proposed policy ensures places have access to sustainable transport options and incorporate Green Infrastructure. This will have minor benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP6: The proposed policy would facilitate the co-location of homes and jobs to reduce commuting. This will promote the mode shift to reduce the vehicle trips. The policy also maximises sustainable transport opportunities and connectivity within the Swansea Bay region and promote more sustainable modes of transport. This will reduce the air emissions. The policy also provides opportunities for Renewable Energy generation in VOA area. Overall, these would have positive benefits to the Objective.</p> <p>SP7: The proposed policy enables opportunities to enhance the active travel network; ensure alternatives to road transport for freight are facilitated through the safeguarding of Ports, Harbours, Docks, Rivers and Rail. This would reduce the air pollutant emission and have positive benefit to the Objective.</p>

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	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
																			<p>SP8 and SP9: Applied in isolation this proposed policies could detract from this SA Objective as increase in population / Retail and Commercial Centres will increase vehicular trips which in turn increase emissions. However, as the policies would be applied in tandem with other relevant policies relating to strategic placemaking, placement in action and sustainable transport of the emerging RLDP, on balance neutral effects are predicted as the policies themselves are not likely to prevent air quality from being met. It is assumed that proposed development would not be located to worsen the AQMA in Taibach / Margam.</p> <p>SP10, SP14– There is no clear relationship between the proposed policies and this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP11 – The proposed policy sets out an employment land policy. If not carefully managed, further intensification of development could result in traffic congestion and the deterioration of local air quality. There is one AQMS area located in Taibach / Margam. As potential air quality implications of the employment land policy are not discussed in this policy, an uncertain effect is predicted.</p> <p>SP12: The proposed policy framework underpins the deployment of renewable and low carbon energy generation technologies. The policy also promotes the optimisation of renewable and low carbon energy supply and distribution options for local communities. This would have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP13: The proposed policy requires the designation of buffer zones around quarries and the timeous restoration of inactive minerals sites in order to safeguard amenity, including in relation to air quality. This would have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP16: The proposed policy creates new green infrastructure and employs nature-based solutions wherever possible. This will reduce the air pollutants and would have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP18: The proposed policy contributes significantly to this SA Objective through its direct focus on improving air quality and reducing exposure to poor air quality.</p>

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	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
7. <b>Climate Change:</b> Adopt appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climate change.	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	+	++	+	++	<p>SP1: The proposed policy minimises the need to travel and prioritises sustainable travel linkages, active travel and public transport options that are well connected, accessible, and reduce dependency on private vehicles. This will mitigate the climate change effect and have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP2: The proposed policy contributes significantly to this SA Objective through its direct focus on climate change mitigation.</p> <p>SP3: The proposed policy seeks to reverse biodiversity loss and improves ecosystem resilience, which would directly align with climate change adaptation efforts. As such the policy would have a Major Positive effect on this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP15:., Protection and conservation of historic buildings prevents the use of new materials and resources, in which the production and transportation of new materials and resources generates emissions which contribute towards climate change. This should be a positive effect towards the SA Objective.</p> <p>SP17: No clear relationship between these policies and this SA Objective. Protecting from erosion can contribute to climate change mitigation by acting as a carbon sink as coastal ecosystem like mangroves, seagrass, etc are effective at storing carbon.</p> <p>SP4: The proposed policy enhances the extent, quality and connectivity of the Active Travel, Green Infrastructure Networks and recreation space. This will support the climate change mitigation and have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP5: The proposed policy ensures places have access to sustainable transport options and incorporates Green Infrastructure. This will support the climate change mitigation and have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP6: The proposed policy would facilitate the co-location of homes and jobs to reduce commuting. This will promote the mode shift to reduce the vehicle trips. The policy also maximises sustainable transport opportunities and connectivity within the Swansea Bay region and promote more sustainable modes of transport. This will reduce the greenhouse gas emission. The policy also provides opportunities for</p>

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	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
																			<p>Renewable Energy generation in VOA area. Overall, these would have positive benefits to the Objective. <b>Suggestions:</b> Suggest including opportunity to design and build for climate change resilient development for NPT to consider.</p> <p>SP7: The proposed policy enables opportunities to enhance the active travel network; ensure alternatives to road transport for freight are facilitated through the safeguarding of Ports, Harbours, Docks, Rivers and Rail. This would support the climate change mitigation.</p> <p>SP8, and SP9, SP10 and SP11: Applied in isolation these proposed policies could detract from this SA Objective as increase in population / Retail and Commercial Centres will increase vehicular trips which in turn increase greenhouse gas emissions. However, as the policies would be applied in tandem with other relevant policies relating to strategic placemaking, placement in action and sustainable transport of the emerging RLDP, on balance neutral effects are predicted.</p> <p>SP12: The proposed policy framework underpins the deployment of renewable and low carbon energy generation technologies, which would support climate change mitigation, as well as recognise the need to increase resilience to climate change impacts. This would have positive effects to this SA objective.</p> <p>SP13, SP14: The policies encourage recycling and efficient use of materials. This can reduce landfill emissions. Moreover, the extraction of minerals resources close to demand would avoid unnecessary transport of minerals resources over long distances. These policies would have minor positive benefits towards climate change.</p> <p>SP16: The proposed policy creates new green infrastructure and employs nature-based solutions wherever possible. This will support the climate change mitigation and have positive effect on the Objective.</p> <p>SP18: The proposed policy contributes to the achievement of the Objective through seeking to prevent pollution and protect environmental quality. This would directly protect ecosystem resilience whilst also indirectly supporting climate change mitigation, e.g. by tackling air pollution from vehicles. A major positive effect on this SA Objective is therefore predicted.</p>



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	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
<p>8. <b>Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil:</b> Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests, including through safeguarding important sites and species, improving green infrastructure provision and safeguarding important soil resources.</p>	+	++	++	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	~	0	+	++	++	++	++	<p>SP1: The proposed policy is likely to contribute to this SA Objective as the delivery of Strategic Placemaking is essential to delivering the quantum of growth required in the most sustainable locations.</p> <p>SP2: The proposed policy requires development to be located in appropriate sustainable locations, maximizes green infrastructure and prioritises previously developed land. These would have positive benefits to this SA objective.</p> <p>SP3: The proposed policy contributes significantly to this SA Objective through its direct focus on Biodiversity.</p> <p>SP4: The proposed policy improves the physical and built environment, in particular maintaining and / or enhancing the extent, quality and connectivity of the Green Infrastructure Networks and recreation space. This will have minor positive benefits to the Objective.</p> <p>SP5: The proposed policy requires development to incorporate green infrastructure. This would have minor positive benefits to this SA objective.</p> <p>SP6, SP8, SP9, SP10, SP11: Applied in isolation these proposed policies could detract from this SA Objective as increase in housing land / retail and commercial centre / employment land would have impact on biodiversity. However, as the policies would be applied in tandem with other relevant policies relating to strategic placemaking, and placement in action of the emerging RLDP, on balance neutral effects are predicted.</p> <p>SP7: NPT also has a number of disused or redundant railway lines which have the potential for redevelopment as transport corridors. This thus minimises impacts on biodiversity, geodiversity and soil, and would have minor benefit to this objective.</p> <p>SP12: As worded, there is no clear relationship between this proposed policy and this SA Objective, although moving to renewable and low carbon energy generation is indirectly likely to support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity interests,</p>

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	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
																			<p>SP13: Mineral development will have both construction and operational environmental impact. The policy requires the development would not have an unacceptable impact on the environment and amenity of local residents. This would have neutral effect to the objectives.</p> <p>SP14: The proposed policy identifies the need for the waste policy for the NPTC area to deliver environmental benefits and to implement the waste hierarchy, which could indirectly help to protect biodiversity and soil interests. A minor positive effect on this SA Objective is therefore predicted.</p> <p>SP15: The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the Objective through focusing on protecting Historic Parks Gardens and Landscapes – which often correlate with higher biodiversity – from development.</p> <p>SP16: The proposed policy creates green infrastructure and employs nature-based solutions which would have benefits to biodiversity. This would have positive benefit to the Objective.</p> <p>SP17: The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the Objective through focusing on Landscapes values – which often correlate with higher biodiversity – from development.</p> <p>SP18: The proposed policy contributes to this SA Objective through focusing on avoiding, protecting and reducing exposure to water quality pollution, air quality pollution, lighting, noise, land contamination. This will bring positive impact on biodiversity. A Positive effect on this SA Objective is therefore predicted.</p>

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	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
<p>9. <b>Water and Flood Risk:</b> Conserve, protect and enhance water and coastal environments, water quality and water resources, whilst reducing the risk of flooding.</p>	++	++	++	++	+	0	+	~	~	0	~	+	0	~	+	++	++	++	<p>SP1: The proposed policy contributes significantly to this SA Objective as it directs development to the most sustainable locations in accordance with the spatial policy, settlement hierarchy and defined settlement limits to promote health and well-being and avoid areas of flood risk.</p> <p>SP2: The proposed policy contributes significantly to this SA Objective as it requires development to avoid areas identified as being at risk of flooding or that increases the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It also requires development to be located within appropriate sustainable locations and increase the green infrastructure.</p> <p>SP3: The proposed policy significantly contributes to this SA Objective through seeking to protect biodiversity and enhance ecosystem resilience, which applies to water as much as terrestrial environments. The policy would therefore support the protection and enhancement of water quality and result in a positive effect on this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP4: The policy would reduce people's exposure to adverse environmental impacts (such as water quality) on their health. It also protects existing recreational area and employment area and enhances the green infrastructure. These would have positive effect on this SA objective.</p> <p>SP5: The proposed policy requires the development proposal to create sustainable communities and all development should seek to retain and protect existing and develop new recreation space and community facilities. These would have positive effect on this SA objective.</p> <p>SP6: This policy would promote tourism. Applied in isolation the proposed policy could detract from this SA Objective as increase in tourism may increase pressure on the land uses and coastal areas. However, as the policy would be applied in tandem with other relevant policy such as SP10, which supports opportunities for a variety of tourism developments that do not adversely impact upon the natural and built environment, cultural and linguistic heritage. On balance, neutral effects are predicted.</p>

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	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
																			<p>SP7: This proposed policy requires that development proposals should safeguard and support opportunities to enhance the public transport network. This would indirectly help to mitigate the risk of flooding. This would have minor positive effect to this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP8, SP9, SP11, SP14: As worded there is no clear relationship between these proposed policies and this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP10: Tourism would increase pressure on the land uses and coastal areas. The proposed policy supports opportunities for a variety of tourism developments that do not adversely impact upon the natural and built environment, cultural and linguistic heritage. This will have neutral effect to the objectives.</p> <p>SP12: The policy would promote the use of mine water for renewable energy (RE) generation involves utilizing water from abandoned or closed mines to produce and store clean energy. This would indirectly help to mitigate the water quality and risk of flooding.</p> <p>SP13: The proposed policy requires will not have an unacceptable impact on the environment and amenity of local residents. This will have neutral effect to the objectives.</p> <p>SP15 – The policy is seeking to protect the canals network Whilst the historic environment requires protection from flood risk and coastal erosion. This will have positive benefits to the objective.</p> <p>SP16: The proposed policy significantly contributes to this SA Objective through focusing on protecting and promoting green infrastructure, which would directly deliver flood risk management benefits.</p> <p>SP17: The proposed policy significantly contributes to this SA Objective through focusing on protecting areas of coastal area, of which the water environment forms a key part.</p> <p>SP18: The proposed policy significantly contributes to this SA Objective most obviously through focusing on protecting and promoting surface and groundwater quantity and quality.</p>

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	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
<p>10. <b>Material assets and Waste:</b> Contribute to the implementation of the circular economy, manage waste with minimal environmental impacts and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including for energy generation and providing an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.</p>	~	0	0	0	~	++	~	~	~	~	~	++	++	++	0	~	0	0	<p>SP1, SP5, SP7, SP8, SP9, SP10, SP11, SP16: There is no clear relationship between the proposed policies and this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP2, SP3, SP4: SP15, SP17, SP18– Applied in isolation these proposed policies could detract from this SA Objective by restricting minerals development that may result in adverse effects on heritage assets, biodiversity, environmental quality or flood risk. However, as the policies would be applied in tandem with other relevant policies and a recognised need for minerals development, on balance neutral effects are predicted as the policies themselves are not likely to prevent transport improvements.</p> <p>SP6: The proposed policy provides opportunities for renewable energy generation in VOA. This would have positive benefits to the objective.</p> <p>SP12 - The proposed policy directly contributes to this SA Objective through promoting energy efficiency, energy storage and renewable energy whilst ensuring a mix of energy sources to meet identified needs.</p> <p>SP13 - The proposed policy directly contributes to this SA Objective as it recognises the need to manage mineral resources in a sustainable manner which supports construction industries and provides sufficient quantities of minerals to meet identified regional needs.</p> <p>SP14 - The proposed policy directly contributes to this SA Objective by applying the waste hierarchy and promoting the growth of the circular economy.</p>

	Strategic Place making	Climate Change	Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment	Health	Placemaking in Action	Strategy Area	Sustainable Transport	Housing	Retail and Commercial Centres	Tourism	Economic Recovery	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Mineral	Sustainable Waste Management	Historic Environment	Green Infrastructure	Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast	Environmental Protection	
	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
<p><b>11. Sustainable Placemaking:</b> Maximise the efficient use of land and infrastructure and enhance design quality to create great places for people.</p>	++	++	+	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	+	+	+	+	<p>SP1, SP5: These policies contribute significantly to this SA Objective through its direct focus on Placemaking.</p> <p>SP2: This proposed policy encourages sustainable communities, avoids development in areas identified as being at risk of flooding, ensure development be located within appropriate sustainable locations. These have positive effect on this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP3, SP15, SP16, SP17 and SP18 – These proposed policies provide protection for a range of environmental assets and sensitivities. In doing so they would indirectly help to maximise the efficient use of land and promote good design in all development, resulting in minor positive effects on this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP4: The proposed policy enhances sustainable, safe and cohesive communities through the provision of local services, facilities and employment and requires the development to provide good quality and energy efficient buildings. These have positive effect on this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP6: The strategy co-locates homes and jobs to reduce commuting in CCNGA, which contributes directly to the Objectives</p> <p>SP7: The identification of a sustainable transport hierarchy within this proposed policy would support the delivery of sustainable places, resulting in a minor positive contribution to this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP8: The delivery of affordable housing is a key objective of the Plan’s Strategy, that seeks the delivery of sufficient good quality new homes of the required types in the most suitable locations to meet the identified need. This will have minor positive effect to the Objective</p> <p>SP9: The proposed policy protects and encourages appropriate retail and complementary use. This will have minor positive effect to the Objective.</p>

	Strategic Place making	Climate Change	Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment	Health	Placemaking in Action	Strategy Area	Sustainable Transport	Housing	Retail and Commercial Centres	Tourism	Economic Recovery	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Mineral	Sustainable Waste Management	Historic Environment	Green Infrastructure	Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast	Environmental Protection	
	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
																			<p>SP10: The proposed policy contributes to this SA Objective by supporting appropriately located and designed tourism developments which integrate with their surroundings. This will have minor positive effect to the Objective.</p> <p>SP11 - The proposed policy contributes to this SA Objective by setting out an employment land policy to meet identified needs, which would help to optimise the use of land and infrastructure. This will have minor positive effect to the Objective.</p> <p>SP12, SP13, SP14: There is no clear relationship between the proposed policies and this SA Objective.</p>

	Strategic Place making	Climate Change	Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment	Health	Placemaking in Action	Strategy Area	Sustainable Transport	Housing	Retail and Commercial Centres	Tourism	Economic Recovery	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Mineral	Sustainable Waste Management	Historic Environment	Green Infrastructure	Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast	Environmental Protection	
	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
<p><b>12. Cultural Heritage:</b> Conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets, including the use of the Welsh language.</p>	++	++	+	~	++	+	~	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	++	~	++	+	<p>SP1, SP5: These proposed policies promote and protect our heritage, culture and the Welsh Language. These will have positive effect to the Objective.</p> <p>SP2: The proposed policy protects and enhances all environmental assets required for climate adaption and resilience. These will have positive effect to the Objective.</p> <p>SP3: The proposed policy contributes to this SA Objective through for example the relationship between protection of parks and historic gardens and biodiversity. These will have minor positive effect to the Objective.</p> <p>SP4, SP7, SP12, SP13, SP14, and SP16: As worded, there is no clear relationship between the proposed policies and this SA Objective.</p> <p>SP8, SP9, SP11: As worded, there is no clear relationship between the proposed policies and this SA Objective. However, when considering these policies alongside SP1 &amp; 5, there is a relationship. There is planning to include language sensitive areas in the deposit plan and a policy which has requirements for housing and economic developments in those Language Sensitive Areas. These will have minor positive effect to the Objective.</p> <p>SP10: This proposed policy supports appropriate tourism development in suitable locations. This would enhance access to the historic environment. It also requires the tourism do not have adversely impact on built environment, cultural and linguistic heritage. This would have minor positive effect to the Objective.</p>



	Strategic Place making	Climate Change	Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment	Health	Placemaking in Action	Strategy Area	Sustainable Transport	Housing	Retail and Commercial Centres	Tourism	Economic Recovery	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Mineral	Sustainable Waste Management	Historic Environment	Green Infrastructure	Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast	Environmental Protection	
	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
																			<p>SP15: This policy contributes significantly to this SA Objective through its direct focus on historic Environment.</p> <p>SP17: The proposed policy contributes significantly to this SA Objective through focusing on protecting areas of landscape value, of which the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting forms a key part.</p> <p>SP18: The proposed policy will contribute to this SA Objective as safeguarding air quality will help to safeguard the fabric of heritage assets. These will have minor positive effect to the Objective.</p>

	Strategic Place making	Climate Change	Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment	Health	Placemaking in Action	Strategy Area	Sustainable Transport	Housing	Retail and Commercial Centres	Tourism	Economic Recovery	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Mineral	Sustainable Waste Management	Historic Environment	Green Infrastructure	Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast	Environmental Protection	
	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
<p>13. <b>Landscape:</b> Protect and enhance the landscape character, visual amenity and legibility of settlements in the NPTC area.</p>	++	+	+	+	++	?	+	0	?	?	?	?	0	+	++	+	++	+	<p>SP1: The proposed policy ensures that positive, distinctive qualities and character of existing places and the countryside are valued and respected. These will have positive effect to the Objective.</p> <p>SP2, SP16: the proposed policy contributes to this SA Objective by seeking to protect and enhance green infrastructure, which would support good design and landscape protection. These will have minor positive effect to the Objective.</p> <p>SP3: The proposed policy indirectly contributes to the achievement of this SA Objective as the protection and enhancement of biodiversity would also be expected to generate beneficial landscape effects.</p> <p>SP4: The proposed policy contributes to this SA Objective by affording protection to landscapes used for recreation and other valued landscapes. Policy also enhances the extent and quality of green infrastructure networks. These will have minor positive effect to the Objective.</p> <p>SP5: The proposed policy requires incorporation of green infrastructure, and protects, conserves and enhances natural environment. These will have positive effect to the Objective.</p> <p>SP6, SP9, SP10, SP11: These proposed policies are predicted to have uncertain effects on this SA Objective, as whilst there is the potential for adverse effects to occur from employment, tourism, and development, some of these proposed policies include environmental safeguards and any impacts would depend on their implementation.</p> <p>SP7: There is an indirect positive relationship between this proposed policy and this SA Objective as the identified sustainable transport hierarchy implies promoting active travel and modal shift ahead of road infrastructure improvements. This would indirectly help to protect landscape character and visual amenity,</p> <p>SP8: As words, there is no clear relationship between the proposed policies and this SA Objective. However, together</p>

	Strategic Place making	Climate Change	Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment	Health	Placemaking in Action	Strategy Area	Sustainable Transport	Housing	Retail and Commercial Centres	Tourism	Economic Recovery	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Mineral	Sustainable Waste Management	Historic Environment	Green Infrastructure	Countryside, Landscapes and Undeveloped Coast	Environmental Protection	
	SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15	SP16	SP17	SP18	Commentary
																			<p>with the implementation of SP1 in tandem, which require direct development to most sustainable location, neutral effect is predicted.</p> <p>SP12: This proposed policy supports the deployment of a “mix of energy generation sources” whilst contributing to decarbonisation. This could result in adverse impacts on landscape character and/or visual amenity from individual schemes, although any effect would depend on the implementation of the policy in tandem with relevant environmental policies. As such, an uncertain effect is predicted at this stage.</p> <p>SP13 – The proposed policy ensures that the mineral would not have an unacceptable impact on the environment and amenity of local resident. Hence it has neutral effect to the Objectives.</p> <p>SP14 – This proposed policy identifies the need for the waste policy for the NPT area to deliver environmental benefits and to implement the waste hierarchy, which could indirectly help to protect landscape character and visual amenity. A minor positive effect on this SA Objective is therefore predicted.</p> <p>SP 15: This proposed policy directly contributes to this SA Objective as the historic environment makes an important contribution to landscapes, so protecting heritage assets would afford wider landscape protection.</p> <p>SP17: This policy contributes significantly to this SA Objective through its direct focus on historic Environment.</p> <p>SP18: This policy contributes to this SA Objective as it seeks to prevent light pollution and more generally to safeguard environmental quality, which would help to safeguard both landscape character and visual amenity. These will have minor positive effect to the Objective.</p>

## Appendix F Proportionate Equalities Impact Assessment

### Proportionate Equalities Impact Assessment for RLDP

Potential Inequality Area	Likely Effect
People of different genders (men / women/ identifying gender)	<p>In Neath Port Talbot, 50.9% of the population are female, and 49.1% are male. This is similar to the ratio in Wales of 51.1% and 48.9%, respectively. Life expectancy of both men and women in NPT is lower than the national average by around 1.4 years and 1.2 years respectively, and women outlive men by 4 years in NPT, compared to the national average of 3.8.</p> <p>See <a href="#">01_HeathExpectanciesWalesProfile_v2a.knit (shinyapps.io)</a></p> <p>The RLDP is not expected to discriminate or differentially impact anyone based on their gender. The RLDP seeks to provide a suitable mix of housing types, tenures, sizes, and of a suitable design to meet the diverse needs of the NPT population.</p>
2. People of different races or ethnic groups (Black, White, Asian, Mixed / Dual Heritage, Gypsy/Traveller etc.)	<p>NPT has one of the largest Gypsy and Traveller Communities in Wales with a population of 212 (according to the NPT Gypsy &amp; Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2022). There are three authorised gypsy traveller caravan sites in the county borough with a total of 67 pitches.</p> <p>NPT has a well-established community of Gypsies and Travellers. The Council has assessed the accommodation need for Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Sites over the RLDP period up to the end of 2036. The Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2022 identifies no need in the short term and 10 pitches in the long term. A detailed policy will be prepared for the Deposit RLDP to address the need and provide a criteria-based policy to assess proposals for new sites or pitches throughout the Plan period. This will ensure that an effective mechanism of meeting need is established. Future requirements for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and the on-going take up of pitches will be closely monitored having regard to the GTAA, using the monitoring framework and Annual Monitoring Report.</p>
3. People with a form of mental or physical disability (both visible and invisible): e.g. hearing impairments, visual impairments, speech difficulties, learning difficulties, mobility difficulties, mental health problems, long-term ill health etc.	<p>Strategic policy SP4 of RLDP acts to reduce health inequalities and improve social cohesion by”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Developing and enhancing sustainable, safe and cohesive communities through the provision of local services, facilities and employment;</li> <li>2. Reducing people’s exposure to adverse environmental impacts on their health through enhancing local environments and addressing, where possible, all types of pollution;</li> </ol>

Potential Inequality Area	Likely Effect
	<p>3. Improving accessibility within and between communities will encourage healthier and more active lifestyles through improvements to the physical and built environment, including maintaining and / or enhancing the extent, quality and connectivity of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Active Travel Network;</li> <li>- Green Infrastructure Networks;</li> <li>- Recreation space; and</li> </ul> <p>4. Providing good quality, energy efficient housing.</p> <p>The RLDP will support both the physical and mental health of the NPT population.</p>
<p>4. People of different age groups e.g. children, teenagers, young adults, middle aged, or older people</p>	<p>The percentage of people aged over 65 in NPT is growing. In NPT, there has been an increase of 15.5% in people aged 65 years from 2011 to 2021 and over, with the Welsh national average of 17.7%.</p> <p>Age is relevant to the RLDP as the housing strategy outlined in the plan aims to deliver suitable, accessible, and affordable housing within NPT, for all age groups.</p> <p>SP1 requires that Housing developments will also need to provide an appropriate housing mix, supporting a variety of housing tenures and types to address a range of needs in line with the Local Housing Market Assessment, and contribute towards local affordable housing targets as set out in Policy SP8 Housing.</p> <p>The delivery of affordable housing is a key objective of the Plan's Strategy, that seeks the delivery of sufficient good quality new homes of the required types in the most suitable locations to meet the identified need. SP8 seeks to deliver 4,176 new homes ( including 20% flexibility allowance) to assist in addressing the needs of the Plan area's aging population.</p> <p>Additionally, as the RLDP aims to deliver more housing and employment opportunities, the plan can contribute to addressing the age imbalance within NPT. By providing more employment options, the RLDP can seek to retain more young people of working age, who typically leave the area for work. See <a href="#">Neath Port Talbot population change, Census 2021 – ONS</a></p>
<p>5. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual or heterosexual people.</p>	<p>The RLDP is not expected to discriminate or differentially impact anyone based on their sexuality. The Plan will seek to maximise opportunities for enhanced inclusivity across all policies within the RLDP.</p>
<p>6. People from different religious or belief groups e.g. Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Non-religious, or other beliefs, e.g. philosophical beliefs like humanists.</p>	<p>There is 42.1% Christians living in NPT, with a large proportion of people with no religion (46.5%). The RLDP may have a minor positive impact for people of religious backgrounds as SP5 requires to retain and protect and develop community facilities, which include places of worship (SP5). SP1 requires developments to be located in accordance with the spatial strategy and to be directed to the most sustainable locations where services and facilities are available in accessible locations to support and promote health and well-being.</p>

Potential Inequality Area	Likely Effect
	The RLDP is not likely to have any significant impact on people from different religions or beliefs.
7. People who have changed their gender or are in the process of doing so (i.e. transgender)	The RLDP is not expected to discriminate or differentially impact anyone based on the grounds that they have changed or are in the process of changing their gender.
8. Pregnant women or people who have just had a baby (Maternity/paternity can be defined as 26 weeks after giving birth and includes consideration about breastfeeding). Only relevant to the requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination)	<p>The RLDP will provide some benefits to those who are pregnant or just had a baby. As per SP4, the plan seeks to ensure development and enhancement of sustainable, safe and cohesive communities where people of all ages and backgrounds have access to good quality services and facilities that they need to live full, productive and prosperous lives. This will be achieved through the provision of facilities and services in accordance with the settlement hierarchy.</p> <p>Further, SP1 of the RLDP seeks to promote a mix of uses on larger sites. It will have the benefit of reducing the need to travel and subsequently the need to travel by car.</p>
9. Are there any other groups who could find it difficult to access or make use of the policy / function? For example: low income / people living in rural areas / single parents / carers and the cared for / past offenders / long-term unemployed / housebound / history of domestic abuse / people who don't speak English as a first language / people without computer access etc.	No, the Preferred Strategy seeks to meet identified needs across NPT and for all communities and residents. SP6 of the RLDP seeks to develop the Valleys Opportunity Area. SP1 also helps to promote and protect Welsh Language
10. Could this policy discriminate on the grounds of marriage or civil partnership?	The RLDP is not expected to discriminate or differentially impact anyone based on the grounds of marriage or civil partnership.
11. Is there any potential negative impact which cannot be minimised or removed? If so, can it be justified? E.g. on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for another protected group.	No negative impacts have been identified.

It is concluded that the RLDP will have an overall long-term positive effect. There may be uncertainties given the strategic nature of the RLDP and that the positive effects will be dependent to some extent on the implementation of proposed development.

While no negative effects have been identified, NPT should seek any opportunities to enhance the predicted positive effects of the RLDP.

## Appendix G Proportionate Health Impact Assessment

Health Area	Score	Description
The walking and cycling infrastructure	++	<p>The RLDP addresses this Health Area through the following strategic policies (SP):</p> <p><b>SP4 Health:</b> It requires the improvement of accessibility within and between communities. This will encourage healthier and more active lifestyles through improvements to the physical and built environment, including maintaining and / or enhancing the extent, quality and connectivity of the Active Travel Network.</p> <p><b>SP7 Sustainable Transport:</b> It enables opportunities to enhance the active travel network, and safeguard and support opportunities to enhance the public transport network. The policy will support the transition from private car usage towards sustainable modes of transport and promote an integrated approach to transport and land use planning through development</p> <p><b>SP8 Retail and Commercial Centres:</b> It requires retail facilities will be accessible for all and prioritise sustainable transport and will be well served by active travel infrastructure and public transport. The policy will support the transition from private car usage towards sustainable modes of transport and promote an integrated approach to transport and land use planning through development</p> <p>Promoting active travel can help improve rates of exercise undertaken by the population of NPT by making it a part of their daily routines through cycling to work or walking from home to the bus stop. This is also likely to positively impact obesity rates, particularly if uptake of active travel in children is increased.</p> <p>Overall, a potential positive health impact in regard to active travel is anticipated.</p>
Open green /blue spaces and green infrastructure	++	<p>The RLDP addresses this Health Area through the following strategic policies (SP):</p> <p><b>SP3 Nature Emergency, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment:</b> It requires development to achieve biodiversity net gain. It should be noted that biodiverse ecosystems provide essential services such as clean air, fresh water and fertile soil, which are crucial for human health. Besides, exposure to biodiverse natural environments has been shown to reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance overall mental well-being.</p> <p><b>SP4 Health:</b> It encourages healthier and more active lifestyles through improvements to the physical and built environment, including maintaining and / or enhancing the extent, quality and connectivity of the Active Travel Network, Green Infrastructure Networks and Recreation space.</p>

Health Area	Score	Description
		<p><b>SP16 Green Infrastructure:</b> It requires the development proposals must: (1) incorporate existing areas of significant green infrastructure into the overall design of the development, taking advantage of opportunities that are presented by existing and potential assets, following the principles of placemaking; (2) maximise connectivity between green infrastructure assets; and (3), create new green infrastructure and employ nature-based solutions wherever possible.</p> <p>Increasing access to open space can also help increase physical activity and reduce obesity by providing people with more convenient opportunities and pleasant spaces to exercise outside. This is particularly beneficial given the incidence of obesity and physical inactivity.</p> <p>A potential positive health impact in regard to open green /blue spaces and green infrastructure is anticipated.</p>
The food growing and retail environment community	++	<p>The RLDP addresses this Health Area through the following strategic policies (SP):</p> <p><b>SP9 Retail and Commercial Centres:</b> it is not anticipated that the RLDP will have a direct impact on food growing given that it is a strategic local development planning document and does not relate to the provision of food. Nevertheless, the SP9 of RLDP has addressed the retail environment community. Under this policy, the vitality, viability and attractiveness of retail and commercial centres will be supported through the identification of a retail and commercial hierarchy within which appropriate retail and complementary uses will be protected and encouraged.</p> <p>Under the SP9, new retail facilities should be directed to the town, district and local centres. Development proposals in Retail and Commercial Centres will apply the Placemaking in Action principles in Policy SP5, ensuring that Centres are attractive, safe and welcoming. Furthermore, the retail facilities will be accessible for all and prioritise sustainable transport; and will be well served by active travel infrastructure and public transport.</p> <p>The strategic policy would influence how and what foods people are able to access. A potential positive health impact is anticipated.</p>
Health and social care services provided from local facilities	++	<p>The RLDP addresses this Health Area through the following strategic policies (SP):</p> <p><b>SP4 Health:</b> It ensures the development and enhancement of sustainable, safe and cohesive communities where people of all ages and backgrounds have access to good quality services and facilities that they need to live full, productive and prosperous lives. This will be achieved through the provision of facilities and services in accordance with the settlement hierarchy.</p> <p><b>SP5 Placemaking in Action:</b> it seeks to retain and protect existing and develop new recreation space and community facilities (including health-care facilities). It also ensures places have access to sustainable transport options. This helps improve access for</p>



Health Area	Score	Description
		<p>those who are less able bodied or in deprived areas and may require more medical attention and hospital or GP visits. Increased access to social infrastructure can also help reduce the prevalence of social isolation and loneliness (e.g., by enabling elderly people to access community centres and groups) and reduce social exclusion.</p> <p>Overall, the HIA identifies a potential positive health impact in regard to access to healthcare services and other social infrastructure.</p>
Low levels of air pollution	++	<p>The RLDP addresses this Health Area through the following strategic policies (SP):</p> <p><b>SP2 Climate Change:</b> It (1) requires the development be designed in a way that incorporates energy efficiency measures, minimises energy consumption, encourages energy conservation and contributes to achieving low/ net zero carbon targets; (2) ensures the sustainable and efficient use of energy and resources such as land, water and minerals; and (3) facilitates, where appropriate, renewable energy generation. The mitigation measures in climate change will also reduce the air pollution emission.</p> <p><b>SP4 Health:</b> It requires reducing people's exposure to adverse environmental impacts on their health through enhancing local environments and addressing, where possible, all types of pollution.</p> <p><b>SP7 Sustainable Transport:</b> it enables opportunities to enhance the Active Travel network and safeguard and support opportunities to enhance the public transport network. It would reduce the air pollution through encouragement of active travel and public transportation. This will result in mode shift to reduce vehicle trips, which is one of the major sources to air pollution.</p> <p><b>SP18 Environmental Protection:</b> it requires the quality of the environment will be safeguarded and enhanced, and potential adverse impacts of existing or anticipated environmental problems will be addressed (including through de-risking approaches) in relation to air quality. This would improve air quality in particular in areas of poor air quality, where the most vulnerable located.</p> <p>Overall, a potential positive health impact in regard to low levels of air pollution is anticipated.</p>
Building design	++	<p>The RLDP addresses this Health Area through the following strategic policies (SP):</p> <p><b>SP 4 Health and SP 8 Housing:</b> These policies require the provision of good quality and energy efficient housing. Good design by allowing adequate natural light and proper ventilation can reduce stress and enhance overall mental health.</p> <p><b>SP5 Placemaking in Action:</b> The policy requires development positively respond to the unique features and opportunities of its local context by ensuring high quality inclusive design, taking into consideration secured by design principles to reduce <u>crime and the fear of crime</u>. The design of development should be in line with</p>

Health Area	Score	Description
		<p>Secure by Design principles to help to reduce opportunities for crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>Overall, a potential positive health impact in regard to building design is anticipated.</p>

### Proposed Scoring System

Score	Description	Symbol
Significant (Major) Positive Effect	The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the ISA Objective.	++
Minor Positive Effect	The proposed policy contributes to the achievement of the ISA Objective but not significantly.	+
Neutral Effect	The proposed policy contributes is related to but does not have any effect on the achievement of the ISA Objective.	0
Minor Negative Effect	The proposed policy distracts from the achievement of the ISA Objective but not significantly.	-
Significant (Major) Negative Effect	The proposed policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the ISA Objective. Mitigation is therefore required.	--
Uncertain Effect	The proposed policy has an uncertain relationship to the ISA Objective, or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. Additionally, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.	?
No Clear Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed policy and the achievement of the ISA Objective, or the relationship is negligible.	~

## Appendix H Proportionate WLIA

The promotion of the Welsh Language is one of the key planning policy issues that need to be considered in the formation of the RLDP. In formulating the RLDP, the strategy should support, enhance and enrich the Welsh language. The RLDP sets out clear vision and objectives that the Welsh Language should be a consideration as part of the RLDP decision making process for development.

- **Vision:** The important natural, cultural and built heritage, including the Welsh language, across all NPT's communities is supported, enhanced and enriched through the application of placemaking principles.
- **Strategic Objective - NO5:** Support, enhance and enrich the distinctiveness of NPT's communities, including use of the Welsh language, through positive placemaking actions at a local level.

The following proposed strategic policies have been developed to promote and support the use of Welsh Language:

- **SP1: Strategic Placemaking** would require a positive contribution to sustainable places. The Welsh Language forms a significant part of the heritage and culture. Growing the Welsh language is a national ambition for Wales. Use of the Welsh language is promoted within NPT and the design of places can support opportunities for people to engage with, promote and protect the Welsh language and bilingualism. Developments will be assessed to consider their impact on the Welsh language.
- **SP5 Placemaking in Action** would protect and promote Welsh Language and Linguistic heritage. Developments are needed to promote the use of the language and avoid negative impacts on the use of the Welsh language. Technical Advice Note (TAN) 20 highlights a number of potential measures to help manage the impact of development on the Welsh Language and to promote its use. Such measures will be incorporated into detailed policy in the deposit plan and expanded upon through the preparation of revised supplementary planning guidance.
- **SP6 Strategy Areas** would require the Valley Opportunities Area where key tourism, employment and heritage opportunities will be promoted to act as a catalyst for long term improvements. **SP10 Tourism** would encourage high quality sustainable tourism development that contributes to the diversity and quality of accommodation and attractions. It would support opportunities for a variety of tourism developments that do not adversely impact upon the natural and built environment, cultural and linguistic heritage. Through the promotion and development of Tourism, it provides an opportunity to promote the Welsh language as a part of the overall strategy for creating a true sense of place.
- **SP3 Health** would ensure development and enhancement of sustainable, safe and cohesive communities where people of all ages and backgrounds (including Welsh Speakers) have access to good quality services and facilities that they need to live full, productive and prosperous lives. This will be achieved through the provision of facilities and services in accordance with the settlement hierarchy. Along with the protection of existing employment areas and the provision of new employment opportunities. This would help to retain the Welsh Speakers in the NPT and seek to provide services in the Welsh Language areas.
- **SP8 Housing** will seek to deliver housing growth to meet the projected level of economic growth over the plan period taking into consideration economic recovery, homelessness levels and an increased level of young people being unable to access housing. All developments in Welsh Language sensitive areas will need to accord with a detailed Welsh Language Policy

and background paper at the Deposit Plan stage. Land East of Rhos has been identified as a Key Site in a Welsh Language Sensitive area as defined in the current LDP. Development of the site will deliver affordable housing for local needs and therefore to help to retain the Welsh Language and linguistic characteristics of the area.

- **SP11 Economic Recovery:** The RLDP would safeguard existing employment areas, which provide a range of employment facilities within local communities and resist the loss of employment uses both within and outside of the designated areas in order to ensure that there is sufficient land available for new development (including opportunities associated with Green Growth) and existing business expansion. The RLDP would help reduce out-commuting (including the young and working age Welsh Speakers) to neighbouring authorities and increase the likelihood of them living in NPT.

New Welsh medium primary schools would be proposed in the following key sites in the RLDP: Coed Hirwaun, and Land east of Rhos. These would promote people’s opportunities to use the Welsh language.

Overall, the RLDP would not encourage inward migration. More importantly, it would retain young people by reducing out-commuting to neighbouring authorities and increase the likelihood of them living in NPT through supporting economic growth and providing housing provision in Welsh language communities. The RLDP would have positive benefit to the use of Welsh Language.

## Annex 1

The following high-level analysis draws from the recommended template and 18-point high level impact assessment commissioned and published in ‘Welsh language and planning: the way ahead’ (2005). More details on WLIA will be provided in the deposit plan stage. As part of the ISA the Vision, Key Issues, Objectives, Spatial and Growth options and all Sites and Policies have been appraised to take into consideration their impact on the Welsh Language in Neath Port Talbot.

Topic	High Level Appraisal
Baseline	<p>The population size of NPT has increased by 1.8%, from around 139,800 in 2011 to 142,300 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for Wales (1.4%). However, there has been a significant decrease in the number and overall percentage of Welsh speakers between the 2011 (15.3%) and 2021 (13.5%). Mortality rates, immigration/migration and the subjective nature of language skills all are likely to contribute to the decrease in the number of people identifying as able to speak Welsh</p> <p>Population in NPT is anticipated to grow over the next 15 years. The RLDP seeks to make provision for 4,176 including a 20% flexibility to meet the housing need of 3,480.</p>
<p>1. Is the strategy likely to lead to a population increase / decrease that might:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affect the balance of English / Welsh speakers (in a negative / positive way)?</li> <li>• Lead to an absolute or proportional decline in the number of Welsh speakers?</li> </ul>	<p>The RLDP is not likely to lead to increase the population, whilst there may be some effect on the inward migration. Therefore, the main housing needs of the RLDP is to cater for the local economic aspirations of the Authority (so to take into account economic changes post Tata, Freeport potential, and development opportunities such as GCRE and Afan Valley Adventure Resort), help to meet local homelessness, and adjusted to take into account the fact that a number of local 18-35s who are living at home).</p>

Topic	High Level Appraisal
	<p>Key Sites have been identified in the RLDP to cater for the housing and employment need. One of the proposed Key Sites - Land east of Rhos will be inside the existing Welsh Language Sensitive Area. It is going to provide 10% Affordable Housing on this site. Viability in any of the other Welsh Language Sensitive Areas is marginal. The RLDP would require developments to promote the use of the language and avoid negative impacts on the use of the Welsh language. Technical Advice Note (TAN) 20 highlights a number of potential measures to help manage the impact of development on the Welsh Language and to promote its use. Such measures will be incorporated into detailed policy in the deposit plan and expanded upon through the preparation of revised supplementary planning guidance.</p> <p>It is unlikely that the RLDP would affect the balance of English / Welsh speakers.</p>
<p>2. Is the strategy likely to lead to increased in-migration?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Might this result in a permanent increase in the proportion of non- Welsh speaking households?</li> <li>• Will the change be permanent or temporary?</li> </ul>	<p>Overall, the goals of the RLDP would not encourage in-migration. Because of the Strategy detailed above, it is unlikely to increase in the proportion of non-Welsh speaking households from outside the NPT area. Whilst there may be some effect on the inward migration, the RLDP would require developments to promote the use of the language and avoid negative impacts on the use of the Welsh language. Please refer to appraisal in Item 1.</p>
<p>3. Is the strategy likely to lead to increased out-migration?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the process of out-migration likely to result in a loss of Welsh speaking households?</li> <li>• Will any change be permanent or temporary?</li> </ul>	<p>The RLDP would support economy recovery. New housing and employment will help to recover post Tata transition. There will be an increase in jobs opportunities associated with the Freeport. Within the Valleys, rural regeneration opportunities will be embraced as a catalyst for new development to maximise employment opportunities. NPTC will also seek to enable the development of complementary facilities such as training and working hubs in order to provide training and re-skilling opportunities. This will help to retain a vibrant economy and therefore provide job opportunities for local residents.</p> <p>The RLDP would ensure development and enhancement of sustainable, safe and cohesive communities where people of all ages and backgrounds have access to good quality services and facilities that they need to live full, productive and prosperous lives. Creating accessible, vibrant, and diverse communities also reduces social isolation and provides opportunities for social interaction.</p> <p>As a result, these would reduce out-commuting to neighbouring authorities and increase the likelihood of them living in NPT.</p>

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<p>4. Is the strategy likely to lead to a changing age structure of the community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead to young / middle-aged / older Welsh speaking people leaving / moving into the area, leading to:</li> <li>• Changes in traditional activity patterns, resulting in an increasing desire to move away?</li> <li>• Social tensions / break-up of traditional social networks</li> </ul>	<p>The RLDP would provide an appropriate balance of homes and jobs. It has been planned for 4176 homes to meet a need of 3,480 homes and 3,555 jobs. The Strategy would ensure development and enhancement of sustainable, safe and cohesive communities where people of all ages and backgrounds have access to good quality services and facilities that they need to live full, productive and prosperous lives. This would help to retain young people by reducing out-commuting to neighbouring authorities and increase the likelihood of them living in NPT.</p> <p>The strategy is unlikely to lead to a changing age structure of the community.</p>
<p>5. Is the strategy likely to have an impact on the health of local people?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the risk of illness, therefore reducing the desirability to live in the community?</li> <li>• Potentially make life more expensive, therefore increasing the risk of financial problems / stress of the local Welsh speaking population</li> </ul>	<p>The RLDP would ensure all new developments provide a healthy local environment that encourages more active and healthier lifestyles for all age groups. This could increase the desirability of living in NPT.</p> <p>The RLDP would promote recreation spaces and green infrastructure. These are likely to contribute positively to health and well-being. In line with Cymraeg 2050 and The Well-being of Future Generations Act, the RLDP and wider planning processes should support and promote the well-being of the Welsh language and its culture.</p>
<p>6. Is the strategy likely to have an impact on the amenity of the local area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deteriorate the environmental quality, therefore reducing the desirability to live in the community</li> </ul>	<p>The RLDP is seeking to encourage and support the retention and provision of a mix of community, retail, employment and recreational facilities in appropriate locations across the county borough to support the creation of vibrant and sustainable communities.</p> <p>Active travel opportunities will be provided within new developments and opportunities will be explored to improve the accessibility between communities across the County Borough more generally. Existing green infrastructure networks will be protected, and new networks will be developed in order to encourage more active and healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>The aim is to ensure development and enhancement of sustainable, safe and cohesive communities where people of all ages and backgrounds have access to good quality services and facilities that they need to live full, productive and prosperous lives.</p> <p>The plan is unlikely to deteriorate the environmental quality, thus reducing the desirability to live in the community</p>
<p>7. Is the strategy likely to lead to the threat of increased crime or violence in the community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the risk of crime or violence, therefore reducing the</li> </ul>	<p>During the period of the RLDP, there is an estimated growth in the population and around 4,176 homes are being proposed for development. While there might be some impact on policing, the RLDP requires the design of development will be in line with Secure by Design principles to help to reduce opportunities for crime,</p>

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<p>desirability to live in the community?</p>	<p>disorder and antisocial behaviour. It is thus not anticipated that threats of increased crime or violence in the community that could directly affect the Welsh language and/ or Welsh speakers.</p>
<p>8. Is the strategy likely to have a detrimental impact on local businesses?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potentially lead to local – Welsh speaking – businesses closing down, due to</li> <li>• A decline in overall local population? An increase in harmful / helpful competition?</li> <li>• An increase of – non-Welsh speaking residents?</li> </ul>	<p>This RLDP seeks to support economic recovery through the allocation of employment land, safeguarding existing employment areas which provide a range of employment facilities within local communities and resisting the loss of employment uses both within and outside of the designated areas in order to ensure that there is sufficient land available for new development (including opportunities associated with Green Growth) and existing business expansion.</p> <p>Therefore it is unlikely that the strategy would have detrimental impact on local business.</p> <p>There is an opportunity through the RLDP to encourage and support training for local people to gain employment in the areas being targeted for growth e.g. tourism. Through Tourism, it would provide an opportunity to promote the Welsh language as a part of the overall strategy for creating a true sense of place.</p>
<p>9. Is the strategy likely to have a detrimental impact on local jobs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create jobs for the local – Welsh speaking– population (perhaps by virtue of local Welsh speaking people having the rights skills)?</li> <li>• Threaten jobs of the local – Welsh speaking – population (perhaps by causing the closure of local businesses)</li> </ul>	<p>The RLDP seeks to support economic recovery through the allocation of employment land, safeguarding existing employment areas which provide a range of employment facilities within local communities and resisting the loss of employment uses both within and outside of the designated areas in order to ensure that there is sufficient land available for new development (including opportunities associated with Green Growth) and existing business expansion.</p> <p>It will also bring forward proposed regeneration in the Valley Opportunity Area by maximising the key heritage, tourism and employment opportunities that are coming forward. The promotion of heritage, tourism and smaller scale enterprises could provide a positive impact on Welsh speaking communities in rural areas.</p>
<p>10. Is the strategy likely to lead to greater economic diversity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potentially lead to a greater number of different jobs for the local</li> <li>• Welsh speaking – population due to economic diversification?</li> <li>• Lead to increased in-migration of non-Welsh speakers?</li> </ul>	<p>The RLDP would encourage and enable the establishment and growth of new clean green technologies and industries to promote and maintain a leading role for NPT in the national and international renewables and industrial economies. In the Valleys, the spatial strategy is for growth associated with natural resources, heritage and tourism. There are a number of developments coming forward including Wildfox, and GCRE. There are also a number of others in the background such as Rheola and East Pit. Waterfall country is a massive attraction, and the Valleys are in very close proximity to the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>The strategy would lead to greater economic diversity and more job opportunities to retain the locals in the</p>

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	<p>area. Through Tourism, it could provide an opportunity to promote the Welsh language as a part of the overall strategy for creating a true sense of place.</p>
<p>11. Is the strategy likely to have an impact on local wage / salary levels?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potentially increase / decrease wage / salary levels due to increase work force / business competition?</li> </ul>	<p>The RLDP recognises that significant economic restructuring is currently taking place following the announcement by Tata Steel in September 2023 to replace the existing two blast furnaces at Port Talbot with an electric arc furnace. It will also bring forward proposed regeneration in the Valley Opportunity Area by maximising the key heritage, tourism and employment opportunities that are coming forward.</p> <p>The Plan would encourage new opportunities in more diverse employment sectors, it is possible that the wages/ salaries could increase. However, this high-level impact assessment has not identified neither positive nor negative impacts on the wages of Welsh speakers in NPT.</p>
<p>12. Is the strategy likely to have an impact on the average cost of housing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Force local – Welsh speaking – people to leave the community?</li> <li>• Prevent local Welsh speaking people from returning to the area / community?</li> <li>• Potentially lead to an increase in homelessness / housing stress amongst local – Welsh speaking – households?</li> </ul>	<p>House prices and need for housing could be increasing. The RLDP has included a requirement of 4,176 dwellings over the plan period, with a 20% flexibility allowance. The intention is to provide a sufficient supply of housing to meet the economic aspirations of the Authority, help to meet homelessness and an increased level of housing for 18-35s who are still living at home because there aren't enough homes being built in NPT.</p> <p>The RLDP has identified four key housing sites in Coed Hirwaun, Land east of Rhos, Land adjacent to Blaenbaglan and Fforest Farm to help deliver affordable housing. Within the Deposit RLDP, affordable housing targets will be identified building upon the work already undertaken through the high-level viability report.</p> <p>By providing the housing accommodation, the RLDP would ensure an appropriate housing mix to help support the Authority's housing needs. The aim of is to ensure development and enhancement of sustainable, safe and cohesive communities where people of all ages and backgrounds have access to good quality services and facilities that they need to live full, productive and prosperous lives. By providing more affordable homes and good access to services within Welsh Language speaking communities there are more opportunities for Welsh Language families to stay in existing Welsh speaking communities.</p>
<p>13. Is the strategy likely to have an impact on local schools?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threaten / secure local schools due to an increase / decrease of student rolls?</li> </ul>	<p>NPT now has 51 primary schools, 3 middle schools, 5 secondary schools and 2 special schools. Amongst them, 10 primary schools and 1 middle school are Welsh medium schools.</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alter the balance between Welsh speaking and non-Welsh speaking students?</li> </ul>	<p>To promote the use of Welsh language in the area, new Welsh medium primary schools have been proposed in the following Key Sites in the RLDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coed Hirwaun,</li> <li>Land east of Rhos</li> </ul> <p>NPT's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan provides a clear commitment to increasing Welsh medium provision and for all pupils in the county to be fluent in Welsh. The Plan states:</p> <p><i>"all children should benefit from the opportunity to learn, appreciate and shape their lives through the medium of Welsh and so Welsh medium education is an integral and essential part of the learning offer in Neath Port Talbot. The implementation of the WESP will enable all learners, families and carers to develop their Welsh language skills and to use the language confidently in everyday life."</i></p> <p>The planned school sites proposed in the RLDP would support NPT's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). Overall, the RLDP would not jeopardise NPT's WESP.</p>
<p>14. Is the strategy likely to have an impact on health care provision?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threaten / secure local – Welsh medium facilities / services?</li> </ul>	<p>Due to the growth in population expected during the RLDP period, as well as the ageing population, it is likely that there will be increased demand for health and social care provision. The RLDP will ensure development and enhancement of sustainable, safe and cohesive communities where people of all ages and backgrounds have access to good quality services and facilities that they need to live full, productive and prosperous lives. Hence, this would not threaten the health care provision of Welsh Language communities.</p>
<p>15. Is the strategy likely to have an impact on the provision of local services, such as shops / post offices / banks / pubs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threaten/secure local shops / post offices / banks / pubs in Welsh speaking communities, therefore forcing certain sections of the population out of the area / community e.g. the elderly or disabled, or the young?</li> </ul>	<p>Due to the projected growth in the population, there is likely to be a growth in demand for businesses and services in NPT as a result. This could potentially be positive for existing businesses. The strategy would direct new retail facilities to the town, district and local centres. Under the strategy, the retail facilities will be accessible for all and will be well served by active travel infrastructure and public transport. The strategy is likely to have positive benefit on the provision of local services within Welsh Language communities.</p>
<p>16. Will the strategy potentially lead to social tensions, conflict or serious divisions within the – Welsh speaking - community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a significant uneven effect on different parts of the local</li> </ul>	<p>Under the strategy, existing recreational space and community facilities will be protected, and new recreational space will be sought as part of new developments. Increased opportunities for recreation are likely to have a positive impact on the community.</p>

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<p>community, potentially advantaging some groups and disadvantaging others?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violate traditional values of certain parts of the community?</li> </ul>	<p>Hence, it is unlikely the plan will lead to social tensions, conflict or serious divisions within the Welsh speaking community.</p>
<p>17. Will the strategy potentially lead to changes in local – Welsh– traditions / cultures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Result in local – Welsh speaking households moving away from the areas?</li> <li>• Lead to an erosion of family ties or other social networks?</li> <li>• Impact on local – Welsh speaking households by introducing / accelerating social change?</li> <li>• Lead to significant increase of nonlocal– non-Welsh speaking – households?</li> <li>• Lead to significant changes to the economic or social context, threatening traditional lifestyles?</li> </ul>	<p>The RLDP is unlikely leading to changes in local Welsh traditions / cultures through encouraging in-migration into the area. Instead, it would help to retain local people and promote people’s opportunities to use the Welsh language through the Placemaking and Tourism policies.</p>
<p>18. Is the strategy likely to have a potential impact on local voluntary / activity / youth groups?</p> <p>Force local people active in local groups to move out of the community, due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drive an increase in unemployment / economic stress?</li> <li>• Drive an increase in house prices / housing stress?</li> </ul>	<p>The RLDP is unlikely to have a potential impact on local voluntary / activity /youth group.</p> <p>Based on the above high-level appraisal, the RLDP would not force local people active in local groups to move out of the communities.</p>