

Appendix A



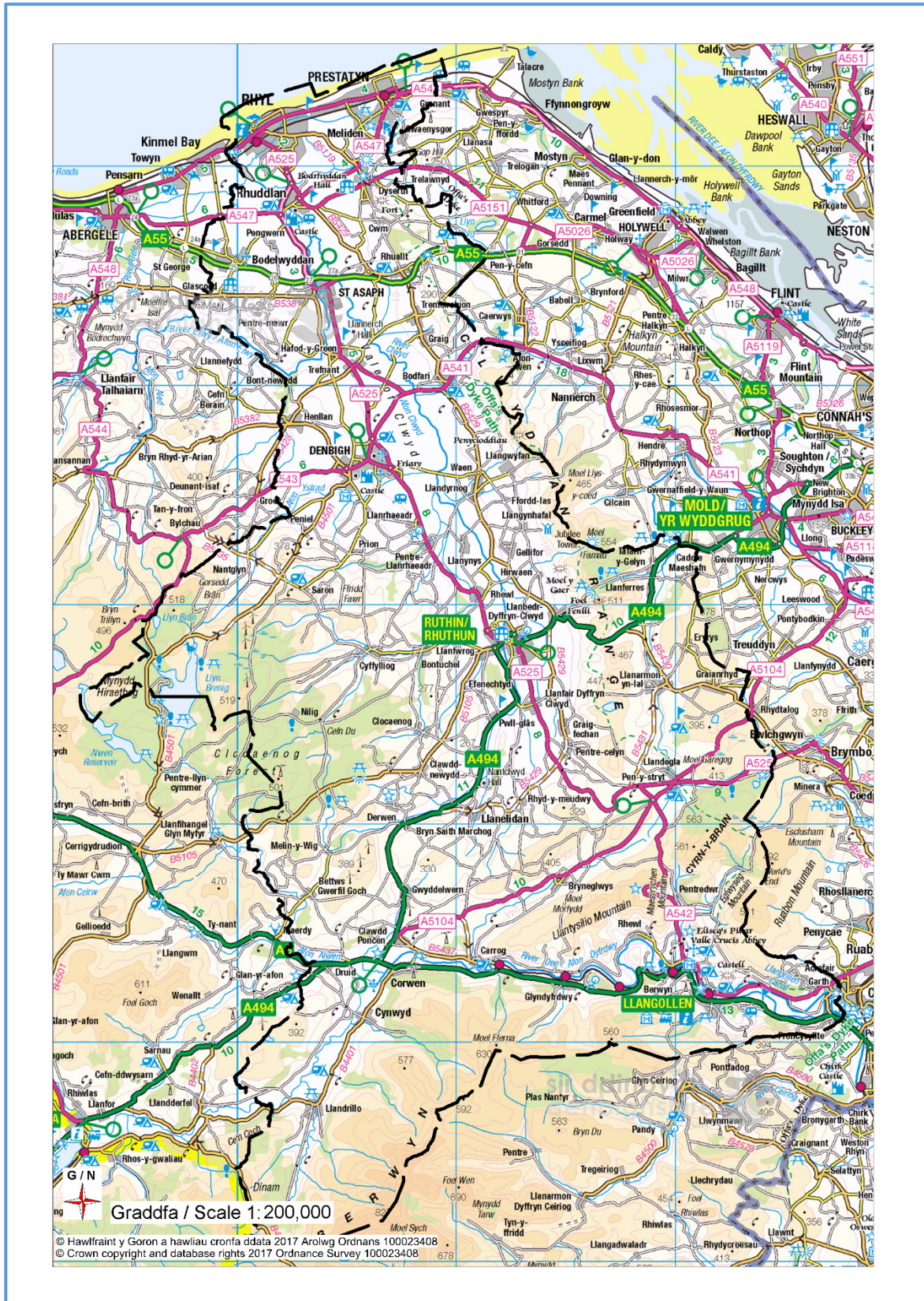
Denbighshire Local Development Plan 2006 - 2021

Information Paper: Respecting Distinctiveness

Strategic Planning and Housing
July 2017

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Map 1 The County of Denbighshire in North Wales



1. Background

1.1 Purpose of the report

1.1.1 Denbighshire County Council (DCC) produced 'Information Papers' (IP) in support of the emerging Denbighshire Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 (LDP) themes in August 2011. The purpose of these documents was to summarise baseline data, evidence and pertinent information regarding the development of the Deposit Local Development Plan. The LDP was subsequently adopted in 2013, containing the following themes:

- Respecting Distinctiveness (RD)
- Building Sustainable Communities (BSC)
- Promoting a Sustainable Economy (PSE)
- Valuing Our Environment (VOE) and
- Achieving Sustainable Accessibility (ASA)

1.1.2 The themes' abbreviation is reflected in the name of local policies to indicate common topics and ease of reference.

1.1.3 The Council is under the obligation to review its adopted land use plan at intervals not longer than four years from adoption in line with Section 69 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This includes the review of LDP Objectives, LDP Themes, and local policies on the basis of significant contextual change, significant concerns from the findings of the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), and other legal responsibilities that have an effect on the performance of the LDP.

1.1.4 The Council has just started the process of reviewing the LDP. At this stage there are no draft revised LDP Objectives, LDP Themes, or local policies. The majority of text is concerned with legislation, strategies and programmes, statistical analyses, and policy performance as identified in the AMR, together with potential impact on adopted LDP policies. The Council's intention is these Information Papers will be 'living documents'; i.e. they are updated with evidence and information as the replacement LDP progresses through the individual stages of Plan production.

1.2 Introduction to the theme 'Respecting Distinctiveness'

This theme is concerned with safeguarding and enhancing the unique character of Denbighshire's City, towns and villages. This theme covers a range of different topic areas, including:

- Building design
- Physical and cultural distinction between settlements
- Protecting historic character
- Welsh language.

2. Policy Context

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 There are a vast number of national policies and frameworks, regional plans, and local strategies that not only informed the production of the LDP but also have an impact on the delivery of individual development proposals. The purpose of this section is to review the document baseline, i.e. identify changes to existing documents, assess the effects of new or emerging documents, and highlight potential discrepancies with adopted local policies. This will be a crucial step before discussing local policy revision in light of changing local circumstances.

2.1.2 Local Development Plans in Wales are expected to integrate with other legislation, strategies, plans etc. without unnecessarily repeating national planning policy. National policy is laid out in Planning Policy Wales, which is supplemented by a number of Technical Advice Notes.

2.2 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

2.2.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 came into force on the 1st of April 2016. It requires public bodies such as Denbighshire County Council to consider not only the present needs of local communities but also how their decisions affect people in the future. The Council is principally challenged to work towards all seven well-being goals contained in the Act: (1) A globally responsible Wales; (2) A prosperous Wales; (3) A resilient Wales; (4) A healthier Wales; (5) A more equal Wales; (6) A Wales of cohesive communities; and (7) A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

2.2.2



Reinforced by the provisions of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Council has a statutory duty to implement the principles of sustainable development in every decision-making process. This is achieved by adhering to locally set 'well-being objectives' to meet the seven nationally defined well-being goals.

2.2.3 Denbighshire County Council has developed the 'Well-being Impact Assessment' toolkit to comply with the provision of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Planning (Wales) Act 2015. It is designed to assist the decision-maker in evaluating a specific proposal in light of the well-being goals. Accordingly, all elements contained in the replacement LDP will be subject to a

well-being impact assessment and, if required, subject to amendments in line with recommendations derived from the assessment.

2.3 National Planning Policy

- 2.3.1 National planning policy is set out in Planning Policy Wales (PPW), incorporating the previously published Minerals Planning Policy Wales in Chapter 14, and is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes and Minerals Technical Advice Notes. The most relevant Technical Advice Notes which have been updated since adoption of the Local Development Plan in 2013 are outlined below. Welsh Government also publishes ‘Policy Clarification Letters’ that provide advice and guidance on specific topics.
- 2.3.2 Besides providing a framework for decision-making at the local level, national policy may directly be applicable to planning proposals that are determined by Welsh Ministers, by Planning Inspectors in planning appeals, or in the absence of any pertinent local policy.
- 2.3.3 Planning Policy Wales is the most significant source of information when drafting local policies. The Local Development Plan Manual sets out the requirement that LDP’s should not repeat national policy but local planning authorities may wish to supplement them where local circumstances require a specific local policy interpretation. Table 1 identifies those national policies that were considered to be of relevance at the point of producing the LDP theme ‘Respecting Distinctiveness’ and associated local policies. It further serves as a baseline to identify any potential changes in national policy and the potential effects on the adopted local policy.
- 2.3.4 **Technical Advice Note 12: Design** (March 2016) complements Planning Policy Wales by providing further guidance on the role of local planning authorities in delivering good sustainable design. It emphasises that local planning authorities should not repeat national policy but should include clear robust policies on design in development plans which address local issues and set out the authority’s design expectations. It states that plans can incorporate targeted design policies for major areas of change or protection, strategic sites or for certain types of development. Planning authorities are encouraged to explore opportunities to promote Welsh Government objectives of moving towards more sustainable and zero carbon buildings in Wales. Further advice is contained in WG Practice Guidance – Planning for Sustainable Buildings (2014).
- 2.3.5 **Technical Advice Note (TAN) 20: Planning and the Welsh Language** (October 2013) provides clarity regarding how Welsh language considerations should feed into the preparation of Development Plans. It highlights that the Sustainability Appraisal should assess evidence of the impacts of the spatial strategy, policies and allocations on the Welsh language. When producing LDPs it is possible to assess, through the Sustainability Appraisal, the cumulative and in-combination effects of many developments on the Welsh language across the plan area. This

provides an opportunity to consider effects on local communities and the broader plan area together, rather than considering language issues when an individual planning application is determined.

2.3.6 TAN20 is accompanied by Practice Guidance (2014) which provides further guidance on how and when consideration of the Welsh language might be embedded by local planning authorities in the process of preparing LDPs. In January 2016 Welsh Government consulted on draft changes to TAN20, however the final version has not yet been published.

2.3.7 Sites allocated in the Denbighshire LDP for specific land uses were screened with regard to potentially adverse effects on the Welsh language as part of the Sustainability Appraisal. LDP policy RD 5 'The Welsh Language and the social and cultural fabric of communities' lays out thresholds and criteria when the local planning authority expects a Community Linguistic Statement or Community and Linguistic Impact Assessment to be submitted with a planning application. TAN 20, paragraph 4.1.2, clarifies that planning applications should not be accompanied by Welsh language impact assessments to avoid duplication with the site selection process as part of the Sustainability Appraisal during Plan production.

2.3.8 There is a potential conflict between LDP policy RD5 and TAN 20. However, the local policy does not narrowly focus on Welsh language requirements but broadens the assessment to include culture, character and balance of local communities. These matters are not dealt with by the Technical Advice Note. The document further clarifies, in TAN 20 paragraph 3.11.3, that local planning authorities with a local plan adopted prior to October 2013, have to achieve TAN compliance at the 4-year review stage, if supported by evidence. Therefore, the Council will need to review its position with regard to RD 5.

2.3.9 Table 1 Links between national policy and the LDP theme 'Respecting Distinctiveness'

National Policy (with reference to PPW Edition 9)	Where addressed in the LDP?	Any changes required to comply with National Policy	Comments
Green belts (PPW 4.8)	Policy RD 2: Green barriers	A full review of green barriers will be required as part of the LDP review process to comply with PPW paragraph 4.8.1	This policy also overlaps with the theme 'Valuing our Environment'.
Promoting traditional and local distinctiveness	Policy RD 1: Sustainable development & good standard design	A review of policy RD1 will be required to ensure compliance with	This policy also overlaps with the themes 'Building

(PPW 4.7, 4.11 & TAN 12)	Policy RD 2:Green barriers Policies RD 3 & RD4: Extensions, alterations and replacement of existing dwellings Policy RD 5: The Welsh language and the social and cultural fabric of communities	PPW section 4.11 and TAN12.	Sustainable Communities’ and ‘Valuing our Environment’
Design considerations (PPW 4.10 & TAN 12), TAN21 (Waste)	Policy RD 1: Sustainable development & good standard design Policies RD 3 & RD4: Extensions, alterations and replacement of existing dwellings	TAN 21 (Waste) requires that facilities and space for collection, composting and recycling of waste materials should be incorporated into the design of any development. Policy RD1 should be reviewed to ensure appropriate policy framework in place to achieve this.	This policy overlaps with the themes ‘Building Sustainable Communities’ and ‘Valuing our Environment’.
Energy efficiency and conservation (PPW 4.11, 4.12 & TAN 12)	Policy RD 1: Sustainable development & good standard design Policies RD 3 & RD4: Extensions, alterations and replacement of existing dwellings	Policy RD1 should be reviewed to ensure compliance with PPW Section 4.12 and TAN12	This policy overlaps with the themes ‘Building Sustainable Communities’ and ‘Valuing our Environment’.
TAN 12 – Design (Incorporates elements of TAN22, which has been deleted) Also Practice guidance: Planning for	Policy RD 1: Sustainable development & good standard design Policies RD 3 & RD4: Extensions, alterations &	Policy RD1 should be reviewed to ensure compliance with TAN12 and Practice Guidance	This policy overlaps with the themes ‘Building Sustainable Communities’ and ‘Valuing our Environment

sustainable buildings	replacement of existing dwellings Elements of TAN12 are not repeated within the LDP, as they constitute national policy.		
Planning and the Welsh Language (PPW 4.13 & TAN 20 – Planning & the Welsh Language))	Policy RD 5: The Welsh language & the social and cultural fabric of communities The key points contained within the TAN are not repeated within the LDP, as they constitute national policy	Policy RD5 will need to be reviewed to ensure compliance with PPW & TAN20. Likely effects of the LDP on use of Welsh Language must be considered as part of the Sustainability Appraisal.	This policy overlaps with the theme 'Building Sustainable Communities'

2.4 The Wales Spatial Plan

- 2.4.1 Originally published by Welsh Government (WG) in November 2004 and subsequently updated in July 2008, the document aimed to implement WG's overall policy priorities as set out in One Wales: A Progressive Agenda for Wales. The focus was on linking up national, regional, and local activities; providing a national framework for planning. Its objective was to place a strong emphasis on the implementation of the 'sustainable development' principle in all public sector decision-making.
- 2.4.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (section 62) places a duty on Welsh local planning authorities to have regard to the Wales Spatial Plan (WSP) when preparing their respective local development plan. That means that the WSP has served multiple purposes in the Denbighshire plan-making process: (1) it produced evidence; (2) it shaped local policies; (3) it ensured better engagement and governance between bodies; (4) it informed Plans; and hence (5) it aligned prospective investments in the area.
- 2.4.3 The Wales Spatial Plan demarks Wales into six sub-regions; with outlining their cross-border relationships. Individual parts of the County of Denbighshire have accordingly been assigned to the North East Wales region and Central Wales region. It was however recognised that there are also strong relations with the North West (Wales) region. All six sub-regions, i.e. spatial plan areas, are profiled by key settlements, inner-regional population distribution, socio-economic hubs, places of economic activities, etc.

- 2.4.4 To align the Denbighshire Local Development Plan with the Wales Spatial Plan, the Council took the decision to structure its land use plan in accordance with the five Wales Spatial Plan themes:
- Respecting Distinctiveness;
 - Building Sustainable Communities;
 - Promoting a Sustainable Economy;
 - Valuing our Environment; and
 - Achieving Sustainable Accessibility.
- 2.4.5 The Welsh planning system is currently in a phase of transition. There has been not only new primary legislation in Planning but also in the closely-related fields of built heritage and environmental protection. This led (and is likely to continue) to the introduction of subordinate regulations, national policy and guidance notes. A major change for strategic planning will be the introduction of a National Development Framework for Wales, which is going to replace the Wales Spatial Plan in about two years. Denbighshire will therefore need to have regard to the soon to be replaced Wales Spatial Plan whilst working towards compliance with the emerging National Development Framework when producing the replacement LDP for the County.
- 2.4.6 The main priorities of the Wales Spatial Plan for the theme ‘Respecting Distinctiveness’ are considered to be maintaining different character of places, encouraging sustainable design that reflects local distinctiveness, developing Wales as a bilingual society and preserving Wales’ historic environment. Detailed priorities are identified within the Wales Spatial Plan updates 2008.
- 2.4.7 Appendix 2 provides a breakdown of National Policy priorities, the LDP vision, objectives and how these have been addressed through policies and allocations.

2.5 National Development Framework for Wales

- 2.5.1 Derived from the provisions of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the National Development Framework for Wales will provide direction for Strategic and Local Development Plans and support the determination of Developments of National Significance. Whilst the Wales Spatial Plan was concerned with the ‘sustainable development’ principle, the National Development Framework for Wales is going further in implementing the provisions of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 2.5.2 Welsh Government envisage that the introduction of a National Development Framework will provide a mechanism for the consideration of strategic issues such as the Welsh language on a wider than local basis, reflecting the patterns of Welsh language use in Wales.
- 2.5.3 The National Development Framework for Wales preparation process has just started with a call from Welsh Government for evidence and potential projects that could be considered for inclusion. Welsh Government are planning to

undertake consultation on the Issues, Options & Preferred Options for the National Development Framework in April 2018, with consultation on a draft Framework in July 2019, consideration by Welsh Government in April 2020 and publication of the final document anticipated in September 2020.

- 2.5.4 It is difficult to outline any effects of the emerging National Development Framework on the replacement LDP with very limited information available to the local planning authority at present.

2.6 Planning (Wales) Act 2015

- 2.6.1 For the first time the Planning (Wales) Act introduced legislative provision for the Welsh language in the planning system. Sections 11 and 13 of the Act refer to the Welsh language. The Planning (Wales) Act requires the Welsh language to be considered as part of the Sustainability Appraisal of all documents with development plan status: the National Development Framework, Strategic Development Plans and Local Development Plans. This aims to strengthen advice provided in existing policy (Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language (2013), which encourages local planning authorities to consider Welsh language issues as part of the Sustainability Appraisal. Section 31 of the Act explains that impacts on the Welsh language should be a consideration in the determination of planning applications, as long as they are relevant to the application.

2.7 Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

- 2.7.1 The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 secured official status for the Welsh language and an independent Welsh Language Commissioner's post was created as a result of this Measure. The Commissioner has a responsibility for promoting and facilitating use of the Welsh language. The Commissioner is also a consultee on LDPs, with the specific role of considering from an early stage the impact of LDP proposals and policies on the Welsh language.

2.8 Other relevant Plans and Strategies

- 2.8.1 There are a large number of plans and strategies which have the potential to impact on the Local Development Plan. The purpose of this section is to demonstrate how key plans and strategies have been taken into account during the development of this theme.
- 2.8.2 The Denbighshire Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 was produced on the basis of national and regional plans, strategies or programmes current at that time. Some may have been superseded, withdrawn or have expired. The following paragraphs refer only to those documents that are of bearing in 2017

2.9 Denbighshire's Corporate Plan (2017- 2021): A Council, Close to the Community

2.9.1 The Corporate Plan sets out the overarching priorities for the term of the Council. Its priorities are supported, implemented and delivered through a number of strategies of which the Local Development Plan is a crucial instrument. The following corporate priorities are of relevance to the LDP theme 'Respecting Distinctiveness':

- Ensuring access to good quality housing;
- Clean and tidy streets;
- Improving our roads; and
- Modernising the council to deliver efficiencies and improve services for our customers.

2.9.2 The Corporate Plan includes a commitment to supporting Welsh language and culture and aims to safeguard and promote the use of the Welsh Language throughout Denbighshire.

2.9.3 The Council will produce a new Corporate Plan for 2017 – 2022. Corporate priorities may be subject to change depending on political programmes, ambitions and the Council's political composition. It is however not expected that the principles will significantly change depending on details. After the new Corporate Plan has been adopted by the Council further work can be undertaken to look at local policy compliance and the likelihood of changes to LDP Objectives and local policies.

2.10 Denbighshire's Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022

2.10.1 The Welsh Language Strategy sets out how the authority will promote and enhance the language over the next five years and was written in direct response to the implementation of the Welsh Language Standards. The strategy has been broken down into key themes – strategic planning of the Welsh language in Denbighshire, children and young people, business and the economy, community and internal administration within the Council.

2.10.2 The intention of the Strategy is to provide a clear statement of the Council's vision and aims for the Welsh Language in the County for the next 5 years:

- Denbighshire is a predominantly bilingual county with a rich culture and heritage. We are proud of this and want this pride to be reflected in our day to day interaction with communities, residents and with our staff.
- We are committed to ensuring that the principles of the Welsh Language Standards underpin the way we deliver services to the public; we want people to be able to access services through the language of their choice naturally, at all stages of their lives.
- We want to enhance the bilingual culture and ethos of the organisation, providing training and social opportunities for our staff to work in Welsh and increase their confidence in using the language in the workplace.

- We want to work with partners and the wider communities to ensure that Welsh is a thriving language in Denbighshire.
- We have an ambition to be sector leaders in the development of the Welsh Language in Wales.

2.10.3 The Council’s ambition is to halt the decline in the number of Welsh speakers in Denbighshire. As a result, the aim is to increase the number of Welsh speakers in Denbighshire by 0.5 % over the next five years, with a view to considering a longer term target to increase the number of Welsh speakers over the next 15 years. The Strategy emphasises that Welsh Language should form a key component of all policy making in all areas of the Council’s work, including planning, regeneration, education and social care.

2.10.4 The Welsh Language Strategy Theme 3: Community includes the vision of ‘Greater use of the Welsh language in Denbighshire communities’. It makes specific reference to the LDP and includes the following action: *‘As part of the review of the Local Development Plan, the Sustainability Appraisal and associated site assessment processes will assess the impacts of the plan’s spatial strategy, policies and allocations on the Welsh language. Where evidence indicates a detrimental impact, amendments to mitigation measures will be identified.’*

2.11 Adjacent Local Authorities

2.11.1 Whilst the Local Development Plan is concerned with Denbighshire, the policies and actions in adjacent local authorities have the potential to impact on the County. It is therefore essential that they are considered during the development of the replacement Denbighshire Local Development Plan. Denbighshire has a number of different neighbouring authorities, including Flintshire, Wrexham, Conwy, Gwynedd, Snowdonia National Park and Powys.

2.11.2 Adjacent authorities are at various stages of LDP preparation as indicated in Table 2 below.

2.11.3 Table 2 Adjacent Local Authority development plan progress

Local Planning Authority	LDP Stage (June 2017)
Flintshire CC	Strategic Options stage
Wrexham CBC	Pre-deposit stage
Conwy CBC	Review to commence 2017
Gwynedd Council	Awaiting Inspector’s report on Joint LDP
Ynys Mon	
Powys CC	Examination
Snowdonia National Park Authority	Review commenced

3. Baseline Review

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Whilst the previous section focussed on policy and strategic documents, the purpose of the following paragraphs is to analyse any changes that have taken place in the County since the Denbighshire Local Development Plan was adopted in June 2013. Both sections will provide crucial evidence for the forthcoming stages of Plan production, when the Council will discuss proposed changes in greater detail.

3.1.2 The baseline information has been split into separate topics such as design, areas of protection, including green barriers, and Welsh language for ease of reference.

3.2 Sustainable development and design

3.2.1 Denbighshire has a number of attractive towns and villages, together with important heritage assets, which requires development design to be of the highest quality. This issue is addressed principally in the information paper which supports the theme 'Valuing our Environment'.

3.2.2 Due to the qualitative nature of assessing design quality current data to inform design policy is limited. Whilst there are examples of good design in recent developments, anecdotal evidence suggest that generally there has been little improvement in standards or quality over recent years. There is also a need to improve the extent to which new developments reflect local distinctiveness. Local Development Plan policies aimed to address this, particularly in light of the existing high quality built environment, the AONB and World Heritage Site designations.

3.2.3 Following adoption of the Local Development Plan, the Council has produced a number of site development briefs and supplementary planning guidance on subjects including: Residential Development, Trees and Landscaping and Open Space. These provide more detailed guidance with the aim of achieving better quality development within the County.

3.3 Areas of protection

3.3.1 Denbighshire has many areas of high quality landscape and biodiversity interest. The County has a high quality natural environment with conservation areas and protected wildlife species and habitats. Many of these have national or international recognition and protected status, such as the Clwyd Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Area of Outstanding Beauty (AOB). There are also several Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) covering parts of Denbighshire. Particularly, the area around the Llangollen Canal in the south east is designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Issues surrounding the protection of these areas are principally addressed in the Information Paper – 'Valuing our Environment'.

- 3.3.2 National planning policy in Wales requires local authorities to consider the need to identify green belts, green wedges or other similar local designations in development plans. The purposes of such designations are various but primarily are to maintain a physical distinction between settlements and to protect open areas of land, whether for recreation, agriculture, landscape or other purposes. The use of such designations is therefore important in contributing towards distinctiveness between settlements and preserving their setting.
- 3.3.3 The previous Denbighshire Unitary Development Plan designated 8 green barriers within the County. These were subsequently reviewed as part of the work on the Local Development Plan. Each green barrier was assessed against several criteria to see if continued designation was justified. As a result of this assessment, amendments were made to two green barriers. A new full review of green barriers will be required as part of the Local Development Plan review process to comply with Planning Policy Wales paragraph 4.8.1. Work has already started on a green barrier review, and the results of this work will inform the emerging replacement Local Development Plan.

3.4 Welsh language

- 3.4.1 The 2011 Census shows that 22,236 people in Denbighshire can speak Welsh, which equates to 24.6% of the population. The total number of Welsh speakers in 2001 was 23,760, which is 26.4% of the population. Over a ten year period there has been a drop of 1,524 in the number and 1.8% in the percentage of Welsh speakers in the County. The data shows that the highest percentages of Welsh speakers are found in the south-west of the county, in the electoral wards of Llandrillo (59.2%), Efenechtyd (53.7%), Llanrhaeadr yng Nghinmeirch (50.0%) and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd (48.3%). The electoral wards with the lowest percentages of Welsh speakers are the coastal areas of Prestatyn North (12.6%), Rhyl West (12.7%) and Rhyl East (13.0%). Further detail is set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.4.2 Table 3 below shows the electoral districts with the highest and lowest percentages of Welsh speakers in Denbighshire.

3.4.3 Table 3 Percentage of Welsh Speakers in DCC Electoral Districts

Electoral District	% Welsh Speakers (2011)
Llandrillo	59.2
Efenechtyd	53.7
Llanrhaeadr yng Nghinmeirch	50.0
Llanfair DC / Gwyddelwern	48.3
Corwen	47.9
Ruthin	41.7
Denbigh Lower	40.2
...	
Rhyl South West	13.7
Prestatyn South West	13.7
Rhyl East	13.0

Rhyl West	12.7
Prestatyn North	12.6

Source: Sbectrwm

3.4.4 Unlike the electoral departments with high percentages – which are mainly rural – the table below shows that the majority of electoral wards with the highest numbers are to be found in the market towns such as Corwen, Ruthin and Denbigh. It therefore appears that these towns are very significant in terms of planning for the future of the language since they have relatively high numbers and percentages of Welsh speakers living in them; similarly wards such as Llanfair DC/Gwyddelwern and Efenechtyd that have fairly high percentages and numbers. Interestingly, there are 1,000 Welsh speakers living in the Rhyl South East ward although the percentage is relatively low (15.5%).

3.4.5 There were 9 electoral divisions that saw an increase in numbers between 2001 and 2011. In addition to those named, the electoral divisions of Bodelwyddan (+3), Llanarmon yn Iâl/Llandegla (+20), Rhyl South East (+5) and Ruthin (+23) saw increases within the space of a decade. Prestatyn North and South West saw the biggest increase, as outlined above.

3.4.6 Table 4 Total number of Welsh Speakers in Electoral Districts

Electoral District	Number of Welsh Speakers
Ruthin	2,195
Denbigh Lower	1,777
Rhyl South East	1,132
Llanfair DC / Gwyddelwern	1,044
Corwen	1,084
Denbigh Upper	998

Source: Sbectrwm

3.4.7 The ability to speak Welsh varies significantly according to age. As shown in the table below, according to the 2011 Census over 40% of 3-15 year-olds can speak Welsh in Denbighshire. Unfortunately this figure drops to 26% for the 15-30 age group and drops even further for the 30-50 age group (21.3%). The 50-70 age group contains the lowest percentage of Welsh speakers of all age groups at 18.3%. The 70+ age group is slightly higher with 22.4% who can speak Welsh. As can be seen, the highest percentages are in the 4-15 age group. This probably reflects the influence of the education system on the linguistic skills of school-aged children. The numbers in the 20-70 age groups are fairly constant and vary from 1,032 to 1,340. The average for all age groups is 1,174 Welsh speakers.

3.4.8 What is encouraging about the data is the significant increase in the percentage and numbers of Welsh speakers in the 3-4 age group, from 19.6% (417 in number) in 2001 to 27.6% (584) in 2011, an increase of 8% and 167 in number. This reflects the fact either that there are more parents or members of the extended family who speak Welsh at home with their children or that there are more children attending Ti a Fi groups or Welsh-medium nursery groups.

3.4.9 It is also worth noting that there is an increase in the proportion of 5-15 year-olds who can speak Welsh since 2001, from 42.8% to 46.25%. In terms of numbers there is a reduction in this group of 309, which reflects the fact that there are fewer children in those year groups compared with a decade earlier.

3.4.10 Table 5

Age Group	% Welsh Speakers 2001	% Welsh Speakers 2011	Number of Welsh Speakers 2001	Number of Welsh Speakers 2011
All those aged over 3 years	26.4	26.4	23,760	22,236
3 – 4 years	19.6	27.6	417	584
5 – 9 years	39.4	45.3	2,273	2,248
10 – 14 years	46.3	47.2	2,865	2,581
15 – 19 years	36.6	32.5	1,990	1,950
20 – 24 years	24.8	23.0	1,115	1,198
25 – 29 years	24.2	22.8	1,174	1,032
30 – 34 years	22.0	23.1	1,295	1,039
35 – 39 years	21.5	22.7	1,425	1,215
40 – 44 years	21.6	20.6	1,271	1,320
45 – 49 years	20.5	19.1	1,202	1,326
50 – 54 years	21.0	18.6	1,471	1,158
55 – 59 years	22.1	17.3	1,283	1,034
60 – 64 years	22.8	18.7	1,212	1,340
65 – 69 years	25.0	18.6	1,175	1,079
70 – 74 years	24.4	20.3	1,109	972
75 – 79 years	24.6	22.4	1,011	832
80+ years	26.9	24.6	1,472	1,328

Source: Sbectrwm

3.4.11 In line with guidance in place at the time, Local Development Plan policy requires smaller development proposals to submit a 'Community Linguistic Statement' and larger proposals to submit a more comprehensive 'Community Linguistic Impact Assessment'. Following adoption of the Local Development Plan, Supplementary Planning Guidance: Planning and the Welsh Language was produced to support this policy and define thresholds for 'small' and 'large' developments, in addition to providing guidance on the production of Community Linguistic Statements and Impact Assessments. The Supplementary Planning Guidance also specifies a variety of mitigation measures to support Local Development Plan policy. A Community Linguistic Impact Assessment was also carried out for Bodelwyddan Key Strategic Site.

3.4.12 Work on the replacement Local Development Plan will need to reflect updated guidance and national policy relating to the Welsh language, together with consideration of the most up to date statistics and data available. The Sustainability Appraisal and site assessment criteria should include the potential impact on Welsh language. The distribution of economic growth can also affect

the social character and sustainability of communities. Policies to ensure that there is a sufficient level and range of economic opportunities, including sites and premises, to support and develop local communities, together with ensuring provision of adequate affordable housing, can also benefit the Welsh language.

4. Previous Annual Monitoring Reports

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Denbighshire County Council Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 (LDP) was adopted on 4th June 2013. It provides a clear vision on how new development can address the challenges faced by the County and where, when and how much new development can take place up to 2021.

4.1.2 Under the obligations of Section 76 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended, and Section 37 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005, the Council is duty bound to produce an annual monitoring report for submission to Welsh Government (WG) by 31st October each year and ensure it is publicised on its website.

4.1.3 This section draws together the findings of local policy performance on the basis of the two annual monitoring reports that have already been submitted to Welsh Government in previous years. Every section below is complemented by a table providing an overview of indicators and trigger level. The last column is labelled 'Performance Summary'. If it contains the text 'Local policy review is not required' that means a local policy review would not be required as a result of the AMR.

4.2 Local policy performance

4.2.1 Subdivided into topics, each section below is supplemented by a table providing an overview of indicators and trigger levels. The last column is labelled 'Performance Summary'. If it contains the text 'Local policy review is not required' that means a local policy review would not be required as a result of the AMR. This does however not neglect a local policy review on the basis of other considerations such as, national policy.

Design

4.2.2 Local policy performance has been in line with the indicators and trigger levels that have been set in the LDP. There may be a need to review policies and indicators to reflect TAN12: Design and following the adoption of the Residential Development Supplementary Planning Guidance.

4.2.3 Table 6 LDP AMR - Design

LDP Policy	Indicator	Trigger Level	Performance Summary
RD 1 – Sustainable Development and Good Standard Design	Average density of residential development permitted	Average density of residential development permitted falling below 35 dwellings per hectare unless justified by policy	Local policy review is not required
	Produce supplementary planning guidance regarding design	Supplementary planning guidance not produced by the end of 2013	Local policy review is not required

Welsh language

4.2.4 Local policy performance has been in line with the indicators and trigger levels that have been set in the LDP. However, there will be a need to review policies and indicators to due to changes in national guidance and legislation and following the adoption of the Planning and the Welsh Language Supplementary Planning Guidance. Review may also be required to reflect forthcoming amendments to TAN 20 – Planning and the Welsh Language.

4.2.5 Table 7 LDP AMR – Welsh language

LDP Policy	Indicator	Trigger Level	Performance Summary
RD 5 – The Welsh Language and the Social and Cultural Fabric of Communities	Results of Community Linguistic Statements or Assessments submitted	Any development permitted where the Community Linguistic Statement or Assessment concludes Welsh character or language would be harmed where such harm is not outweighed by other considerations	Local policy review is not required based on AMR but will be required based on legislative changes
	Use of Welsh or bilingual signage and the use of Welsh place names in new development	Any development where new streets or places are created not including Welsh names or bilingual signage	Local policy review is not required
	Preparation and adoption of SPG	Adoption of SPG within 12 months of the adoption of the LDP	Local policy review is not required

5. Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Appraisal

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The Local Development Plan is a statutory land use plan that has to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA). The Council incorporated both assessments into a single document, i.e. 'The Sustainability Appraisal Report', when producing its first LDP in 2009. This report detailed the social, economic and environmental objectives by which development proposals were assessed and what opportunities for improving plan performance were identified at that point in time.

5.1.2 Whilst the overall sustainability of the Denbighshire LDP is regularly monitored as part of the LDP, this section looks at the greater framework of SA/SEA screening to identify any changes in the criteria that were used to assess individual LDP elements in the first place.

5.1.3 Whilst not applicable in 2013, the revised LDP will need to comply with the requirements provided by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This may have an effect on how future SA/SEA assessments are conducted in support of the Plan. Further information will be made available as the revised Plan progresses towards adoption.

5.2 Sustainability Appraisal

5.2.1 The Sustainability Appraisal incorporates the Strategic Environmental Assessment in Wales. Its purpose is to appraise the impacts of emerging plans against a number of thematic objectives, responsible for the environmental, economic and social effects of development. Annex 1 of the SEA Directive classifies areas which sustainability appraisals should pay regard to in order to meet the requirements of the Directive.

5.2.2 The scoping report has been drafted to meet the stages outlined in the ODPM guidance. Each of the Strategic Environmental Assessment topic areas will be addressed in a separate section, which introduces the legislative framework and the local context related to that topic. Any notable sustainability issues that arise in each section will be noted, and indicators will be defined which will assist in testing proposals in the Local Development Plan to understand likely impacts.

5.2.3 Following the receipt of consultee comments, Denbighshire will continue with the preparation of the replacement LDP. The SA / SEA will assess the revision options and make recommendations about how the sustainability performance of the plan could be enhanced. The output from the process will be an initial Sustainability Appraisal Report that will be consulted upon alongside the draft replacement plan at Pre-Deposit LDP stage.

5.3 Habitat Regulations Assessment (Update July 2017)

- 5.3.1 The purpose of the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening exercise was to re-visit previously conducted HRAs with regard to the Denbighshire Local Development Plan 2006 -2021 (LDP); identify changes to individual European sites; and look at the effectiveness of previously suggested avoidance, cancellation or mitigation measures. It was not aimed at compliance with HRA methodology and legislative requirements but at setting the framework for future work.
- 5.3.2 None of the local policies and planning proposals contained in the LDP have caused significant effects on any European site since Plan adoption. Proposed measures to offset their occurrence are (where necessary) operational and effective. Nevertheless, further investigations must be carried out to explore opportunities to improve the air quality in the south of the County; especially the reduction of nitrogen depositions.
- 5.3.3 It was concluded that forthcoming HRAs will additionally have to have regard to the proposed extension of the 'Bae Lerpwl / Liverpool Bay' SPA and new information on 'Coedwigoedd Dyffryn Alun / Alyn Valley Woods' SAC. These changes may have an effect on local policy and the potential forms of land use.

6. References

Welsh Government (2016) Planning Policy Wales (Edition 9).

Welsh Government (2008) People, Places, Futures – The Wales Spatial Plan 2008 Update.

Welsh Government (2016) Technical Advice Note 12 – Design.

Welsh Government et al (2005) Planning and the Welsh Language: The Way Ahead.

Welsh Government (2013) Technical Advice Note 20 – Planning and the Welsh Language.

Welsh Government (2014) Technical Advice Note 20: Practice Guidance

Denbighshire County Council: Denbighshire's Corporate Plan (2017- 2021)

Denbighshire County Council: Welsh Language Strategy (2017 – 2022)

Appendix 1 Information on Welsh language speakers in Denbighshire

Census Data – Population Numbers and Welsh Language Speakers by Community

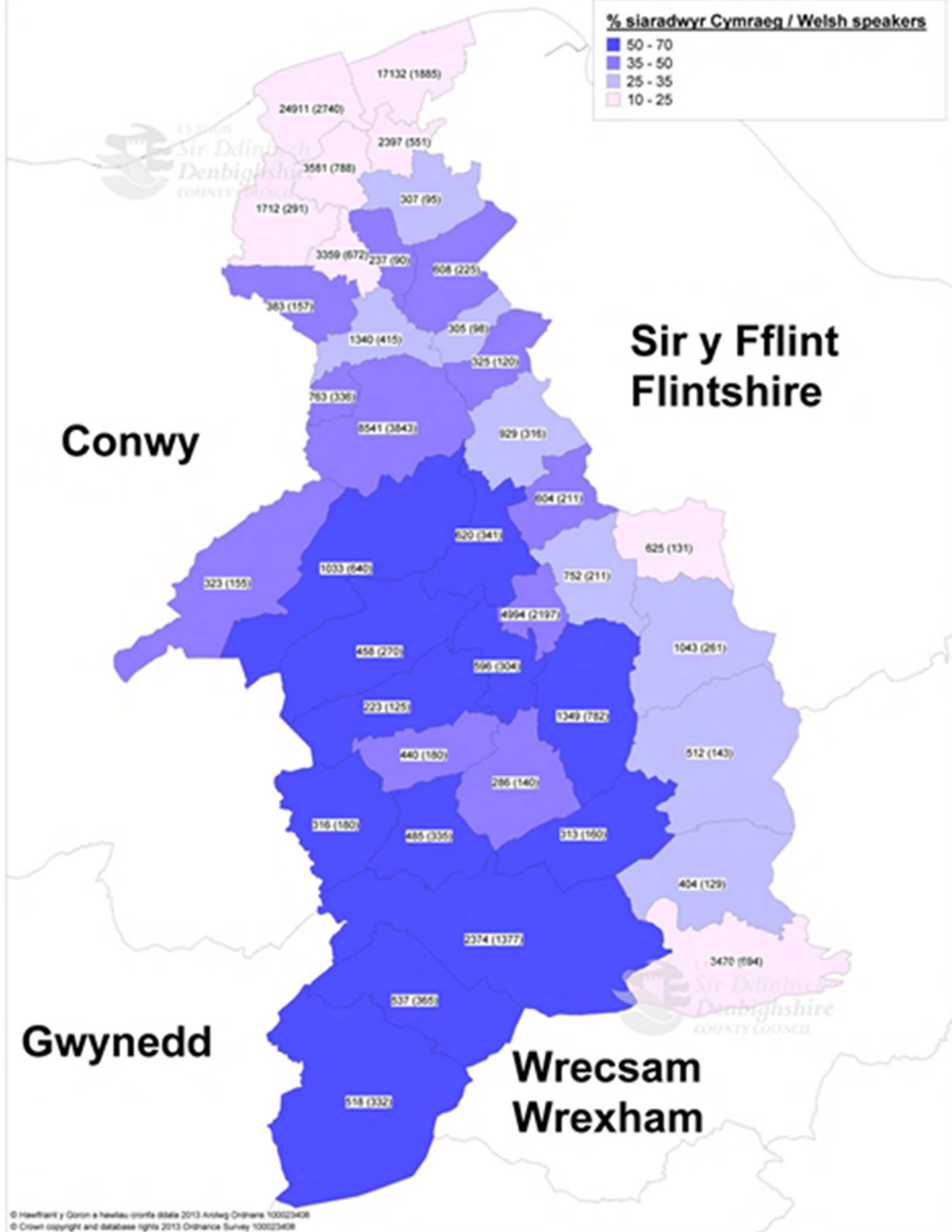
Community Council	0-3	0-14	15-64	65+	Total Population 2011	Total Population 2001	% Born in Wales 2011	% Welsh Speakers 2011	% Welsh Speakers 2001	% Welsh Speakers 1991
Aberchwiler		22	176	100	298	332	52.7	27.6	33	37
Betws Gwerfil Goch		77	224	50	351	364	59.3	59.8	60	57
Bodelwyddan		411	1404	332	2147	2,103	57.4	17.9	18	17
Bodfari		43	197	87	327	334	51.4	21.7	27	32
Bryneglwys		47	254	68	369	351	50.7	36.0	50	51
Cefnmeiriadog		47	259	83	389	437	60.7	30.4	33	41
Clocaenog		53	167	34	254	232	64.6	54.4	49	56
Corwen		340	1525	460	2325	2,397	64.7	47.9	51	58
Cwm		79	244	55	378	387	65.6	27.5	31	31
Cyffylliog		83	316	96	495	489	58.8	52.9	61	59
Cynwyd		78	348	116	542	536	66.1	59.1	68	68
Denbigh		1568	5877	1541	8986	8,808	72.9	35.3	40	45
Derwen		71	261	94	426	456	58.0	46.7	43	41
Dyserth		470	1622	445	2537	2,565	60.3	20.2	21	23
Efenechtyd		132	403	120	655	610	66.0	54.6	54	51
Gwyddelwern		70	332	98	500	501	65.0	60.8	69	69
Henllan		136	560	166	862	743	66.7	42.4	45	44
Llanarmon yn Ial		167	638	257	1062	1,078	49.0	25.5	25	25
Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd		78	502	207	787	847	46.0	31.0	32	28
Llandegla		97	378	92	567	508	49.7	27.1	34	28
Llandrillo		80	355	145	580	584	61.2	59.2	61	64
Llandyrnog		199	691	206	1096	971	62.6	33.1	35	34
Llanelidan		47	219	39	305	317	53.4	44.9	44	49
Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd		150	666	237	1053	1,058	60.0	47.7	50	58
Llanferres		111	577	139	827	678	40.7	20.1	21	21
Llangollen		473	2263	922	3658	3,404	59.3	19.5	19	20
Llangynhafal		86	387	161	634	660	59.9	37.2	37	35
Llanrhaeadr yng Nghimeirch		177	600	261	1038	1,095	69.7	51.2	61	62
Llantysilio		47	278	96	421	476	52.0	24.7	26	32
Llanynys		157	488	117	762	779	68.4	47.8	52	55
Nantglyn		38	240	45	323	335	57.3	41.7	50	48
Prestatyn		3082	10912	4587	18,581	18,497	48.7	15.1	16	11
Rhuddlan		542	2213	954	3709	5,220	63.8	19.8	22	22
Ruthin		933	3333	1195	5461	4,298	67.8	41.7	43	44
St Asaph		528	2060	767	3355	3,492	63.8	22.9	24	20
Trefnant		245	906	430	1581	1,386	60.7	28.0	33	31
Tremeirchion		111	459	133	703	633	59.6	32.0	31	37
Waen		31	160	50	241	254	62.2	24.4	34	38
Rhyl		4651	15793	4705	25,149	24,887	54.7	14.2	15	11
Denbighshire		15757	58287	19690	93734	93,102	58.1	24.6		



Scale: 1: 160000
Date: 22/10/2013
Map Sheet:

1991

Cyfanswm Poblogaeth (Poblogaeth Siaradwyr Cymraeg)
Total Population (Welsh Speaking Population)



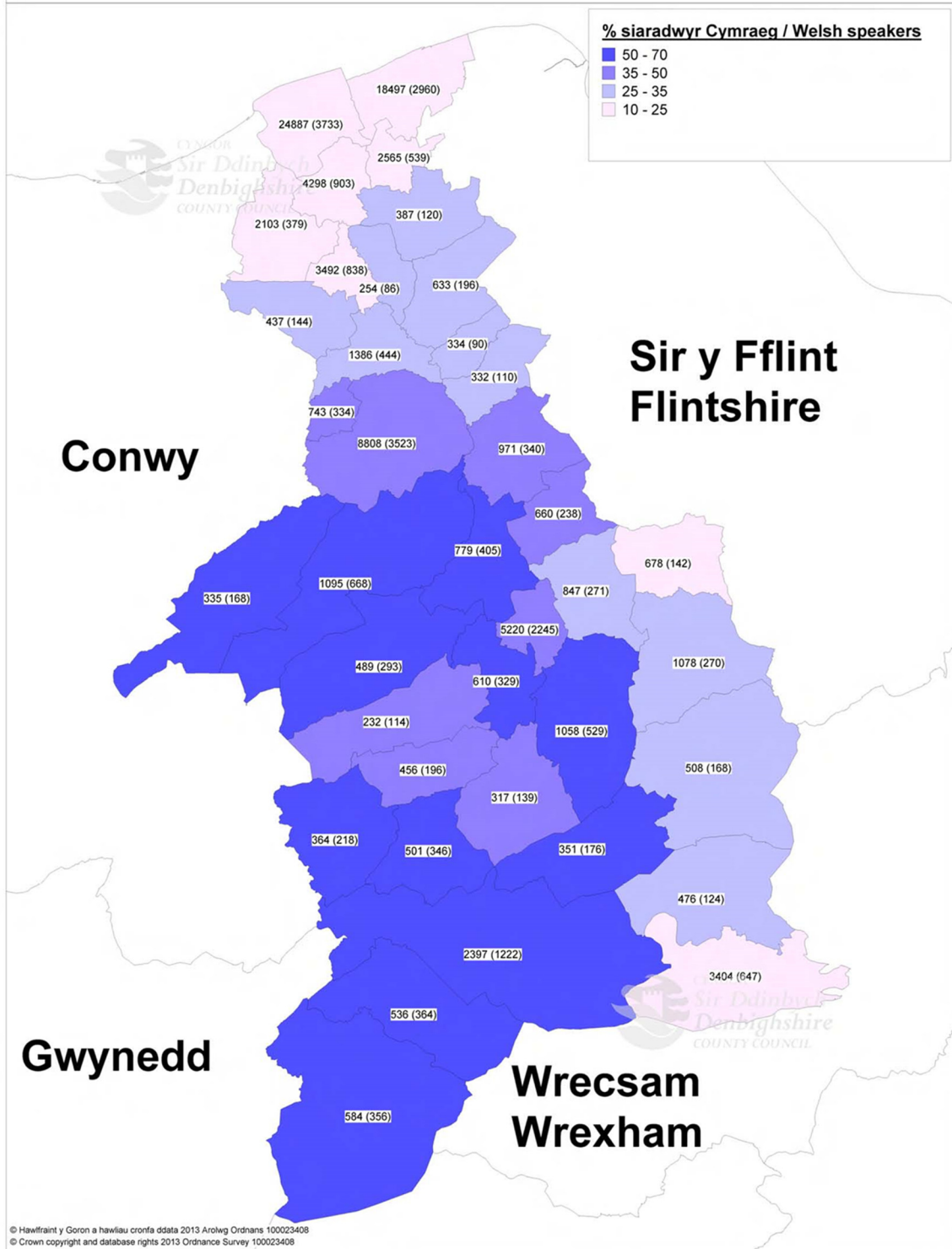
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Scale: 1: 160000
Date: 23/10/2013
Map Sheet:

2001

Cyfanswm Poblogaeth (Poblogaeth Siaradwyr Cymraeg)
Total Population (Welsh Speaking Population)





Scale: 1: 160000
Date: 23/10/2013
Map Sheet:

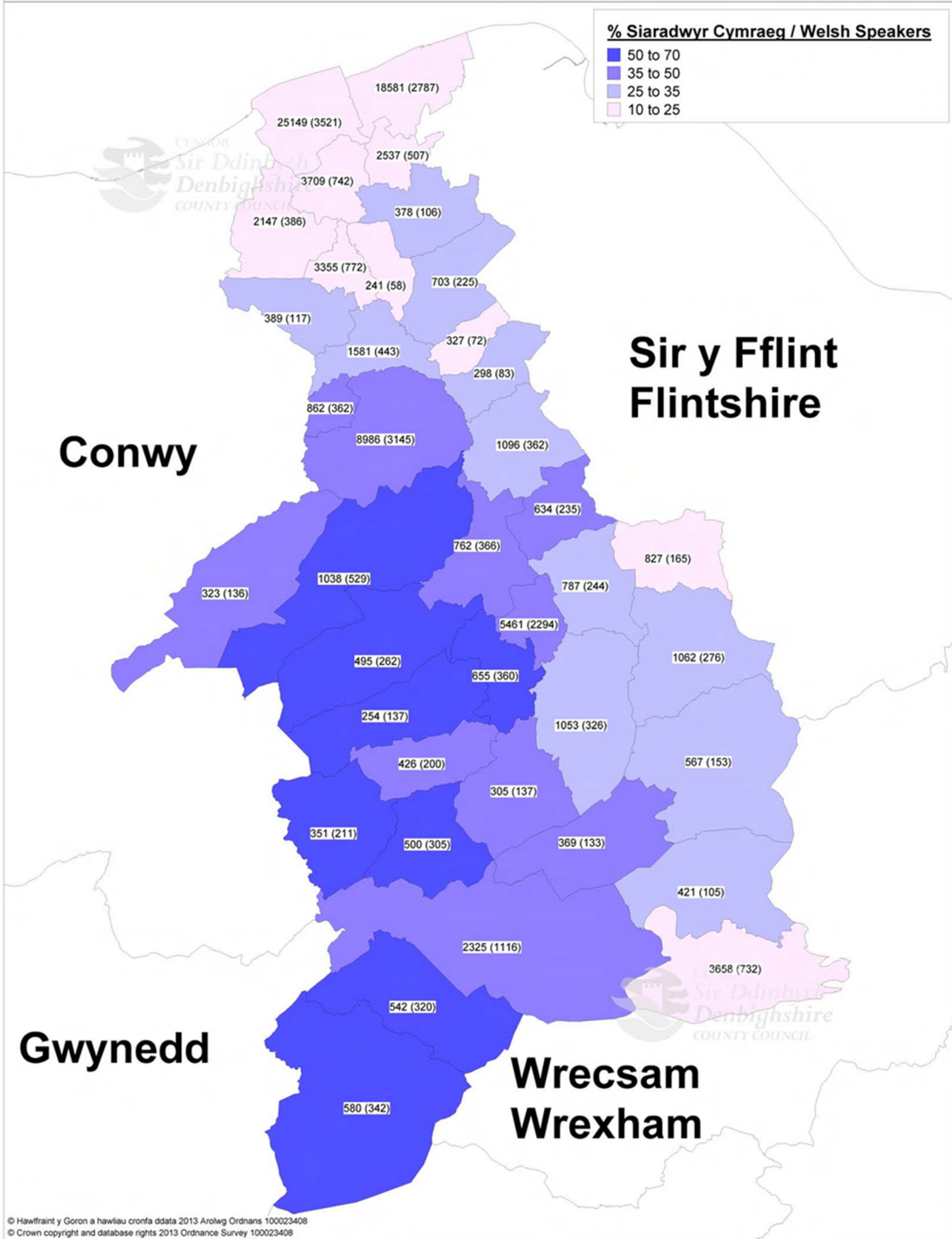
2011

Cyfanswm Poblogaeth (Poblogaeth Siaradwyr Cymraeg)
Total Population (Welsh Speaking Population)



% Siaradwyr Cymraeg / Welsh Speakers

- 50 to 70
- 35 to 50
- 25 to 35
- 10 to 25



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Appendix 2 Links from Wales Spatial Plan and National Policy to Denbighshire LDP – Respecting Distinctiveness

<i>Wales Spatial Plan Priority</i>	<i>National Policy (PPW Edition 9 and Technical Advice Notes (TANs))</i>	<i>LDP Vision</i>	<i>LDP Objective</i>	<i>Local policy</i>	<i>Land allocations</i>
Area: All Wales					
Conserving and nurturing built heritage and spaces to promote sense of identity	PPW 4.8 – Green barriers PPW 4.7 – Locating new development PPW 6.4, 6.5 – Historic environment PPW 4.12 – Planning for sustainable buildings PPW 4.11 – Good design TAN 12 – Design	“...the high quality environment will continue to have been protected and enhanced through directing development towards existing centres...design standards will have been improved, enhancing the high quality natural and built environment..”	Objective 14: Design Objective 16: Areas of protection	RD 1 – Sustainable development & good standard design RD 2 – Green barriers RD 3 – Extensions, alterations & replacement of existing dwellings	Green barriers
Promote the Welsh language to achieve bilingual communities	PPW 4.13 – Supporting the Welsh TAN 20 – Planning and the Welsh Language	“...full recognition that we have a strong Welsh language and culture that should be maintained and protected throughout the County	Objective 7: Welsh language	RD 5 – Welsh language & social and cultural fabric of communities	N/A
Promote distinctiveness through sustainable	PPW 4.12 – Planning for sustainable buildings	“...the high quality environment will continue to have been protected	Objective 14: Design	RD 1 – Sustainable	N/A

and good design initiatives	PPW 4.11 – Good design TAN 12 – Design	and enhanced...new development sites will demonstrate high levels of sustainable development...design standards will have been improved, enhancing the high quality natural and built environment..."		development & good standard design RD 3 – Extensions and alterations to dwellings RD 4 - Replacement of existing dwellings	
Area : North East Wales					
Building upon a diverse nature, historic environment and high quality landscape	PPW 4.8 – Green barriers PPW 4.7 – Locating new development PPW 6.4, 6.5 – Historic environment PPW 4.12 – Planning for sustainable buildings PPW 4.11 – Good design TAN 12 – Design	"...the high quality environment will continue to have been protected and enhanced...new development sites will demonstrate high levels of sustainable development...design standards will have been improved, enhancing the high quality natural and built environment..."	Objective 14: Design Objective 16: Areas of protection	RD 1 – Sustainable development & good standard design RD 2 – Green barriers RD 3 – Extensions and alterations to dwellings RD 4 - Replacement of existing dwellings	Green barriers
Foster and capitalise on the Welsh language as an element of cultural heritage	PPW 4.13 – Supporting the Welsh language TAN 20 – Planning & the Welsh language	"...full recognition that we have a strong Welsh language and culture that should be maintained and protected throughout the County."	Objective 7: Welsh language	RD 5 – Welsh language & social and cultural fabric of communities	N/A