

# Appendix F



## Denbighshire Local Development Plan 2006 - 2021

### Sustainability Appraisal – Scoping Report July 2017

Strategic Planning and Housing  
July 2017

<b>Contents</b>	Page no
<b>1. Non-Technical Summary</b>	3
1.1 Introduction	3
1.2 The Local Development Plan Review Report	3
1.3 Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal	3
1.4 Consultation	5
<b>2. Introduction</b>	6
2.1 Characteristics of Denbighshire	6
2.2 Denbighshire Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 (adopted June 2013)	6
2.3 Sustainability & Planning	7
<b>3. Legislative requirements for Sustainable Development in the Planning system</b>	8
3.1 Introduction	8
3.2 Making sustainable planning decisions	8
<b>4. What is the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal?</b>	9
<b>5. Relevant Plan, Programmes and Policies</b>	11
<b>6. Considerations for the forthcoming Local Development Plan</b>	11

## **1. Non-Technical Summary**

### **1.1 Introduction**

- 1.1.1 This document presents the scoping stage of Sustainability Appraisal (SA), used to inform the Denbighshire Local Development Plan Review Report 2017. In early stages of plan-making it is necessary to outline any potential impacts that may arise as a result of proposals included in an emerging local plan.
- 1.1.2 The Council is required to appraise the sustainability of its proposed land use strategy and policy at each stage of development. This is done through the publication of a Sustainability Appraisal, which incorporates the key themes of the Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- 1.1.3 The scoping report will assess any local challenges based on the current position, and outline the likely issues that may arise as part of any future plan.
- 1.1.4 The document will be consulted on with key stakeholders, including environmental agencies and neighbouring authorities. This will be undertaken as part of a minimum 6 week consultation.

### **1.2 The Local Development Plan Review Report**

- 1.2.1 A full review of a Local Development Plan (LDP) is required every four years from the time of adoption. Denbighshire County Council adopted Local Development Plan (2013) has now reached that threshold. The purpose of plan review stage is to evaluate whether the Plan remains up to date. Revisions are required to take account of changed national and local circumstances and it may also be the case that the Plan has not performed well against the target indicators set out in the original framework.
- 1.2.2 Denbighshire County Council published its 2nd Annual Monitoring Report in October 2016. There will be a 3rd AMR before the LDP Review report is submitted to Welsh Government. Initial results indicate the need to consider a full review of the adopted LDP.
- 1.2.3 Public consultation on the SA Scoping Report will take place in combination with the LDP Review Report 2017 and the Draft Delivery Agreement for a potential replacement LDP.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal**

- 1.3.1 The Council is legally required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Plan to ensure that social, environmental and economic considerations are considered at each stage of document production. The Sustainability Appraisal will be developed in a way that it will be compliant with the

requirements of the European Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, transposing the Directive into UK law.

1.3.2 The following guidance documents have been used when preparing this Scoping Report:

- ODPM et al (2005) A Practical Guidance to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive;
- Welsh Government (2015) Local Development Plan Manual (Edition 2); and
- ODPM (2005) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents.

1.3.3 The main objectives of a full Sustainability Appraisal will be to address the following:

- Ensure that the Local Plan takes account of policies, plans and programmes on an international, national and local scale.
- Establish a baseline assessment of Denbighshire, outlining the environmental, social and economic characteristics and raising any issues that the plan will need to account for.
- Creating a sustainability framework that respects the sustainability of Denbighshire.
- Testing sites and policies as part of the Local Development Plan against the Denbighshire sustainability framework to assess the impact of the policy options, including the preferred option.
- Ensuring that realistic and meaningful alternative options are tested as part of the process, reflecting on potential improvements to the Local Development Plan

1.3.4 The scoping report will need to cover a range of information to demonstrate consistency with the SEA Directive. The stages are outlined in table 1.

1.3.5 Table 1 Stages of Local Development Plan Preparation & Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA)

Local Plan Pre-production – SA Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope		
Replacement LDP Stage	Sustainability Appraisal Stages	Sustainability Appraisal Process
Review Report	A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.	Brings together a range of information to address potential constraints and influence options.
	A2: Collecting baseline information.	Helps identify sustainability problems by creating indicators based on gathered evidence.
	A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.	Opportunity to define key issues for the LP and bring forward any potential tensions or inconsistencies that may

		arise.
	A4: Developing the Sustainability Appraisal framework.	The framework provides a way in which the sustainability effects can be appraised.
	A5: Consulting on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal.	Views sought from statutory bodies in 5 week consultation.

Brings together a range of information to address potential constraints and influence options.

- 1.3.6 The scoping report has been drafted to meet the stages outlined in the ODPM guidance. Each of the Strategic Environmental Assessment topic areas has been 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.

#### 1.4 Consultation

- 1.4.1 In accordance with the regulations, environmental reports produced by the local planning authority should be subject to a 5 week consultation with the relevant environmental bodies. In Wales, these organisations are:
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW) - NRW has subsumed the experience of both the former CCW and EAW and, as such, bring expertise in the fields of biodiversity, landscape, national forestry management, access to the countryside and coast, urban green space, air quality, climatic factors, soil and water.
  - Cadw - Cadw bring expertise in the fields of cultural heritage, archaeology and architecture.
- 1.4.2 This document will be published on Denbighshire County Council’s website, and made available in Council offices throughout the authority. Members of the public and interested organisations will be able to comment on the content of the scoping report in accordance with Denbighshire’s Statement of Community Involvement. In addition to the statutory consultees, other organisations will also be written to inviting comments.
- 1.4.3 Following the receipt of consultee comments, Denbighshire will continue with the preparation of the replacement LDP. The Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) will assess the revision options and make recommendations to the local planning authority 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.

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1 Characteristics of Denbighshire

- 2.1.1 Denbighshire is a rural authority situated in the North East of Wales which borders with five (5) other local authorities and the Irish sea. It has an area of 844sq.km. In 2011, the population of Denbighshire was 93,734, an increase from the previous Census which was 93,065. A high proportion of the population is clustered around the two main coastal towns of Rhyl (25,000) and Prestatyn (20,000) the remainder are scattered throughout small towns and villages across a rural area. More than 60% of the population live to the north of St Asaph.
- 2.1.2 The County has a high quality built and natural environment with numerous listed buildings, conservation areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, and protected wildlife species and habitats. Many of these have national or international recognition and protection status, such as the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the River Dee which is designated as Special Area of Conservation (SAC) by the European Union. In particular, the area around the Llangollen Canal in the south-east of Denbighshire is designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.
- 2.1.3 Welsh culture and language is an integral part of the make-up of Denbighshire. More than 24.6% of the population speak Welsh (Census 2011), and this proportion rises to over 60% within many rural communities.
- 2.1.4 There are excellent road transport links running east / west along the A55 trunk road and north / south via the A525 and A494 (T), however given the rural nature of the county, many residents are reliant on car use for commuting and accessing services. The North Wales Coast Mainline provides direct rail links to Holyhead (Dublin) to the west and Manchester/ London to the east.

### 2.2 Denbighshire Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 (adopted June 2013)

- 2.2.1 'The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015' set out the legal requirements for producing a Local Development Plan (LDP), including procedural steps. LDP reviews are specifically referred to in Regulation 41, which requires a LDP review all four years and enables a choice between a 'full review' and a 'selective review'. Notwithstanding the chosen approach, the production of an amended or replacement LDP must be preceded by an LDP Review report that details the reasons and evidence for proposing changes to individual Plan elements.
- 2.2.2 Welsh Government has provided further guidance on how to follow the provisions of the Regulations in form of the LDP Manual. The document defines three principal triggers for reviewing an adopted LDP and the production of a report to document the process.

2.2.3 Regulation 41 (as amended) stipulates that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) must commence a review of its LDP every four years from the date of its initial adoption. The Denbighshire Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 was adopted in June 2013 which means that the Council is obliged to start carrying out the review in 2017. Besides hitting this trigger, the following chapters focus on significant contextual change and any concern from the findings of the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

## 2.3 Sustainability & Planning

2.3.1 There is a statutory requirement to prepare a Sustainability Appraisal of a Local Development Plan, to ensure that social, economic and environmental considerations are accounted for throughout all stages of plan preparation. There are different definitions of sustainable development, however the most commonly adopted was defined by the Brundtland Report in 1987. The report called for a rethink of how politics could work towards development “that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

2.3.2 This was the first definition, which considered the balance between the limits of growth and understanding the limitations of the environment in meeting social and environmental needs.

2.3.3 On a national level, the UK launched a sustainable development strategy in 2005, with the aim of meeting the following objectives:

- Living within the planet’s environmental limits;
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- Achieving a sustainable economy;
- Promoting good governance; and
- Using sound science responsibly.

2.3.4 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act provides a clear definition of sustainable development in Wales.

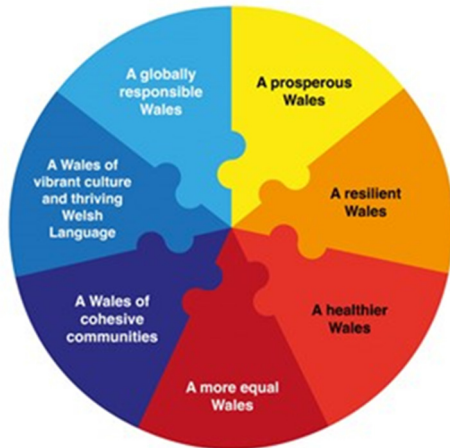
2.3.5 *“Sustainable development” means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.*

2.3.6 *Acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle means that a body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

2.3.7 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.

2.3.8



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.

2.3.9 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.

### 3. Legislative requirements for sustainable development in the planning system

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Section 62 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that every local planning authority in Wales must prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP) for its area. Section 2 of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 makes it clear that authorities must when exercising their plan-making function, carry out sustainable development in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and must take into account guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers.

3.1.2 LDPs are also subject to Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires Public Service Boards to produce a Local Well-being Plan which sets objectives and actions as to how the well-being goals will be achieved in a particular area. Regard has to be paid to this Plan in developing an LDP.

#### 3.2 Making sustainable planning decisions

3.2.1 Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that, if regard is to be had to the development plan for the purposes of any determination



to be made under the Planning Acts, the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

#### **4. What is the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal?**

4.1 The Sustainability Appraisal is required 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 the following areas as issues which sustainability appraisals should pay regard to in order to meet the requirements of the Directive.

- 4.2
- Air Quality
  - Biodiversity
  - Climate Change Mitigation
  - Community & Well-being
  - Economy & Employment
  - Housing
  - Landscape & Cultural Heritage
  - Soil
  - Transport & Accessibility
  - Waste
  - Water (including flood risk)

##### **What is the plan trying to achieve?**

4.3 The relationship between the production of the Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal is represented in figure 1, see next page.

##### **What is our current position?**

4.4 The flow diagram above indicates the different stages involved in the production of the Sustainability Appraisal, which is to be developed alongside the replacement Local Development Plan. This document represents the pre-production stage of the Local Plan, which gathers evidence of the area and determines the likely sustainability issues related to the plan.

4.5 In preparing the scoping report, information will be represented thematically, rather than following tasks for each section. This will ensure clarity in relation with the SEA Directive and will still be consistent with the stages of Sustainability Appraisal development.

##### **Habitats Regulations Appraisal**

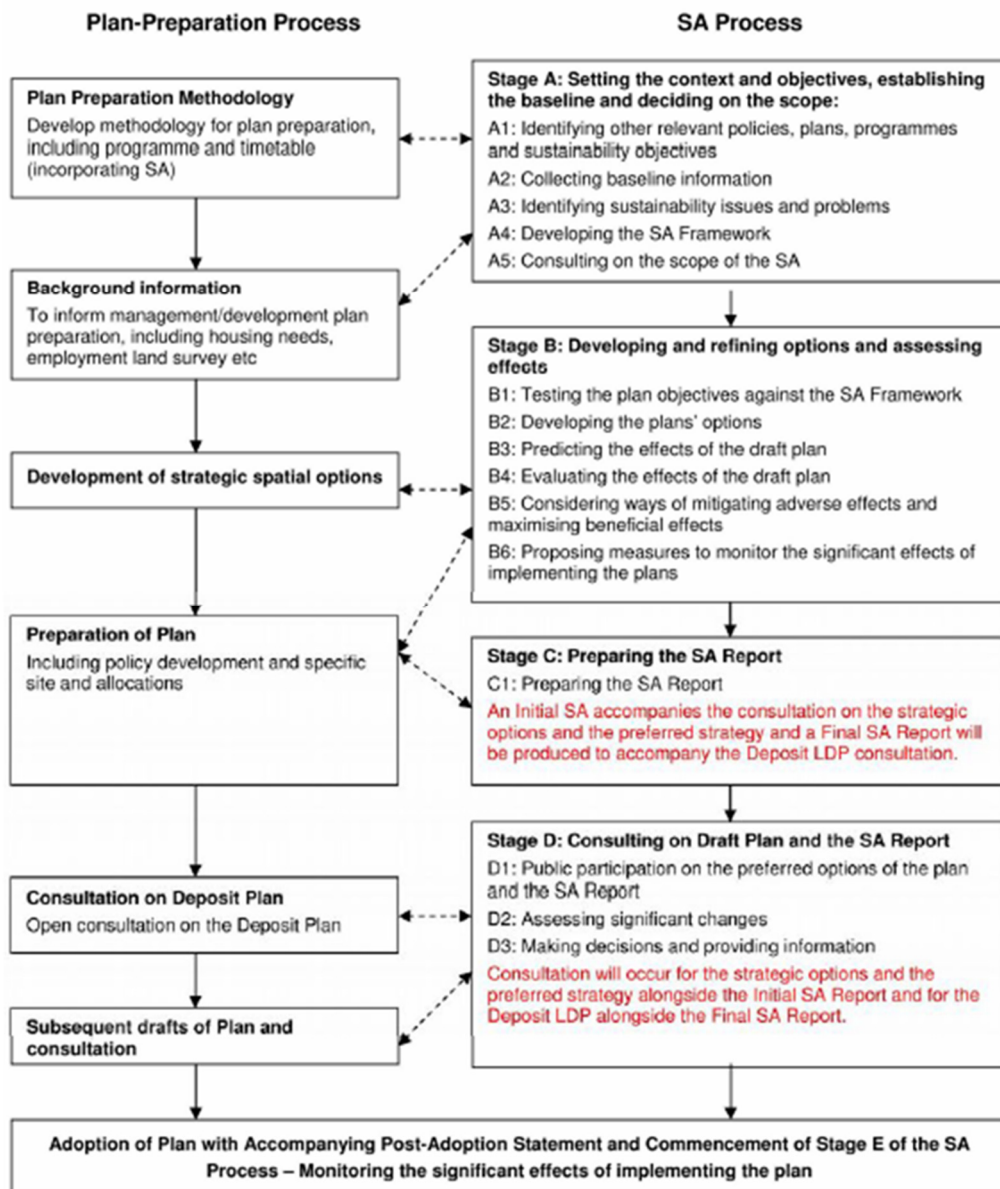
4.6 The Habitats Directive requires that plans and programmes produced by local authorities are assessed regarding the likelihood of significant adverse effects on

Natura2000 sites. These are internationally important wildlife sites and species, which are afforded a high level of protection through the EU Directive. Collectively known as Natura2000, the EU Directive refers to:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); and
- Special Protection Areas (SPA).

4.7 For the purpose of conducting HRAs, Ramsar sites are also included in the assessment in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

4.8 Figure 1 Relationship between Plan production and SA



4.9 The Regulations require that a scoping report for the Denbighshire Local Plan be undertaken at the earliest opportunity to appraise emerging proposals, to determine whether any of the proposals are likely to give rise to significant impacts

on the qualifying features. If this is the case, alternative strategies should be pursued or suitable mitigation measures identified to avoid impacts on them.

- 4.10 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) should be undertaken alongside the individual stages of Plan-preparation. This will offer an opportunity to review the policies and sites that are proposed in the Local Plan. The HRA screening will build upon work undertaken to date in the screening reports for the preferred housing and employment sites.

#### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 4.11 Under the 2010 Equality Act, Local Authorities have an obligation to demonstrate how they are contributing towards the act through considering the potential impact on different groups in society. To this end, the sustainability appraisal will incorporate equality impact assessment, to ensure that all groups affected by the Local Plan are accounted for and represented through plan production. Equality implications are also going to be address as part of the Well-being Impact Assessment.

#### **Community Linguistic Impact Assessment**

- 4.12 Under the Welsh Government policy, where the Welsh language is determined to form part of the social and cultural fabric of the community, Local Authorities are requirement to assess the impact of the newly-emerging Local Development Plan and report through the Sustainability Appraisal. This will be done prior to submitting the document for Deposit LDP consultation.

### **5. Relevant Plans, Programmes and Policies**

- 5.1 There are a hierarchy of documents which will affect the Replacement Local Development Plan, including at the international, national and local levels. There are a range of international plans and programmes which influence the LDP, most of which have now been interpreted at the national level and incorporated as guidance at this level.
- 5.2 One of the main influences on the content of the Local Development Plan is national planning guidance, Planning Policy Wales, Technical Advice Notes (TANs), the Wales Spatial Plan (soon to be replaced with the National Development Framework for Wales) which set out the Government's strategy for development on a wide range of issues, including housing, the economy, transport and the environment.

### **6. Considerations for the forthcoming Local Development Plan**

- 6.1 The following table provides an overview of key issues identified in the County with the help of an updated SA Baseline and outlines potential ways forward on how the next LDP can address those matters.

Table 2: Key sustainability issues to be considered by the replacement Local Development Plan for Denbighshire

**SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES**

**COMMUNITY & WELL-BEING**

**POPULATION**

Key Issues	Current Status and Trends	Source	Considerations for the SA Framework
<p>Population is expected to increase at a rate of between 120 – 410 people a year , with a projected household growth of between 100 – 220 new households a year.</p> <p>Although there has been out-migration by young people (ages 20-24) and reduced birth rates this has not resulted in a reduced population. In-migration by older working groups accompanied by their families has resulted in the net effect of population growth.</p>	<p>The County currently has a population of 93,734 (Census, 2011). As population increases and household size decreases, there is a trend to increased households, particularly lone pensioner households. This has the impact of increasing demand for housing.</p>	<p>DCC Building Sustainable Communities Information Paper.</p> <p>2011 Census</p>	<p>Requirements for healthcare / extra-care facilities</p> <p>Use number, type and range housing to attract younger population to improve demographic profile</p>

<p>With an increasing elderly population there is the increasing demand on suitable housing, social and health care services. The dependency ratio is likely will have implications for service providers within the County.</p>	<p>To consider the impact of new developments on existing health care and education facilities. This is closely linked to changes in population and growth scenarios and the location of new development. This could have a cumulative impact on the capacity and quality of health care services provided.</p>		<p>Improve accessibility to education, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community through modes of transport other than the private car</p>
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## HEALTH

Key Issues	Current Status and Trends	Source	Considerations for the SA Framework
<p>The general distribution of primary health care facilities is basically contained in / around the main settlements.</p> <p>Geographical access to services is poor in the south of the County.</p>	<p>Baseline data on Primary Health Care provision in the County includes delivery of services from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>~ 16 General Practices</li> <li>~ 12 dental practices</li> <li>~ 24 pharmacies</li> <li>~ 14 ophthalmic opticians</li> </ul> <p>The general practitioners in the County have an average list sizes higher than the Wales average .</p> <p>Given the rural nature of the County and the clustering of facilities around major centres, the trends are likely to remain in the future. There are likely to be cumulative impacts on these services, closely linked to changes in population / demographics.</p>	<p>Denbighshire Building Sustainable Communities Information Paper</p> <p>Denbighshire Well-being Assessment</p>	<p>Improve accessibility to education, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community through modes of transport other than the private car.</p> <p>Consideration of need for future health care related developments</p>

<p>In Denbighshire, life expectancies are below both the Welsh national and England &amp; Wales figures for males and females at birth and at age 65. The gap between male and female life expectancies narrows to only 2.0 years at age 65 (at birth = 3.5). Overall, the number of years spent in good health for males is comparable to the Wales average, and slightly lower for females</p>	<p>There is health inequality within the area. People living in the areas in the most deprived fifth of Denbighshire not only have a shorter lifespan, but also spend less of it in good health compared to those living in the least deprived fifth. There is a difference of over 17 years of healthy life expectancy for females in Denbighshire's most deprived areas when compared to the least deprived. There has been a mixed picture with regard to life expectancy for men (- 0.4 years) and women (+0.1) years between 2011- 13 and 2012 – 14</p> <p>Child Measurement Programme for Wales Report 2014-2015 (Public Health Wales) notes that 26.9% of 4-5 year old children in Denbighshire were obese or over weight (approx. 287 children), higher than the all-Wales percentage of 26.2%</p>	<p>Public Health Wales</p> <p>Denbighshire Well-being Assessment</p>	<p>Improve accessibility to education, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community through modes of transport other than the private car.</p>
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<p>Denbighshire has areas with high levels of multiple deprivation. Five most deprived areas are identified within the County which are Rhyl East; Rhyl West; Rhyl South West; Meliden; Denbigh Upper/ Henllan. It is likely that there will continue to be a geographical variation in the ranking for Wards in Denbighshire which may affect the opportunities for development.</p>	<p>Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation: updated figures were published by Welsh Government in August 2015. The total number of Denbighshire wards in the 10 most deprived areas has fallen from 2 in 2011 to 1 in 2014.</p>	<p>Welsh Government WIMD  Denbighshire Well-being Assessment</p>	<p>Improve accessibility to education, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community through modes of transport other than the private car.</p> <p>Enhance existing and promote the development of high quality recreation, leisure and open space and provide opportunities for people to experience and respect the value of the natural environment</p>
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## CRIME

Key Issues	Current Status and Trends	Source	Considerations for the SA Framework
<p>Crime and the fear of crime can be exacerbated by the design of the built environment.</p> <p>North Wales is an increasingly safe place to live, work and visit; with levels of victim based crime steadily reducing. Recorded crime in the region has fallen by 13% between 2008/9 and 2012/13, and by 43% when compared to the levels experienced in 2002/03. Victim based crime in the current year 2013/14 is showing a reduction of 3.3%.</p>	<p>There are significant regional variations in these levels.</p> <p>Approximately 30% of all recorded crime in the County is located in West Rhyl.</p> <p>Denbigh Central has the 2nd highest levels of crime.</p> <p>Elsewhere in the County crime levels are low, particularly in Rhuddlan, Ruthin, St Asaph and Corwen.</p>	Denbighshire Well-Being Assessment	<p>Encourage developments and buildings methods to 'design out crime'.</p> <p>Consult with key stakeholder on individual planning applications and development briefs.</p>

## HOUSING

Key Issues	Current Status and Trends	Source	Considerations for the SA Framework
<p>Significant under provision of new housing. Discussions with developers and landowners have indicated that development viability and that completion rates reflect this demand and also the wider economic downturn experienced nationally</p> <p>Average house price (April 2016) .in Denbighshire was £139,900, 5.8 times the average household income of £23,900 and 10.4 times the lower quartile household income of</p>	<p>Housing completion rates have not reached the 500/annum required to meet the growth target in the current LDP in any year prior to, or since adoption in 2013. A total of 2,243 dwellings have been completed since 2006 at an average of 204 per annum. A total of 2,243 dwellings have been</p>	<p>DCC Building Sustainable Communities Information Paper.</p> <p>Denbighshire Housing Strategy</p>	<p>Consideration of how the housing needs of the community are met, including different types of housing and the need for smaller accommodation and</p>



<p>£13,500. Prices have been rising since 2009 but have not recovered to 2007/8 levels (pre-recession)</p> <p>There is an identified unmet need for affordable housing throughout the County.</p>	<p>completed since 2006 at an average of 204 per annum.</p> <p>As population increases and household size decreases, demand for housing will grow. There is a trend to increased households, particularly lone pensioner households.</p> <p>The provision of affordable housing is an important issue for the County and previous trends showed that such provision has been poor. There has been improved delivery since the adoption of the LDP, Housing Strategy and available external resources to Registered Social Landlords.</p> <p>A total of 691 affordable housing units have been delivered in Denbighshire since 2006.</p>	<p>Denbighshire Well-being Assessment</p> <p>2011 Census</p> <p>Joint Housing Land Availability Studies.</p>	<p>suitable provision for the elderly.</p> <p>The type, capacity and location of housing land supplied should be appropriate to meet the needs of population.</p> <p>Provision of affordable housing, in both urban and rural areas.</p>
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## LANDSCAPE & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Key Issues	Current Status and Trends	Source	Considerations for the SA Framework
<p>Continued pressure on Denbighshire's high quality landscape from human related factors and certain natural processes</p>	<p>Denbighshire has a high quality landscape which includes features of both national and local landscape importance. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>~The Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</li> <li>~ Area of Outstanding Beauty (AOB)</li> <li>~Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)</li> </ul>	<p>DCC Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2016</p>	<p>Consideration of how best to safeguard and enhance the County's heritage assets and preserve and enhance landscape character across the County, particularly the AONB</p>

	<p>~Coastal Landscape Areas</p> <p>~Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIG)</p> <p>Historic Landscapes (</p> <p>~Areas of high quality open countryside. These account for approximately 45% of the total land area of the County and provide an attractive setting to many settlements.</p>		
Continued pressure threatening the condition of cultural heritage sites and monuments	<p>There are very few Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Denbighshire compared to listed buildings and there is no evidence of deterioration. Guidance has been produced for the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site providing advice &amp; guidance for potential developers</p>		<p>Aim to prevent any future deterioration in the quality of the built environment including listed buildings, Conservation Areas and Historic Parks and Gardens through appropriate policies and proposals</p>
Pressure to reduce the number of Listed Buildings at high risk.	<p>There are no figures available for buildings that have been removed from at risk category and no figures of buildings that might have been added. The last building at risk survey was carried in 2011. Cadw will be resurveying Denbighshire.</p>		

## WELSH LANGUAGE

Key Issues	Current Status and Trends	Source	Considerations for the SA Framework
Decline in proportion of Welsh speakers in Denbighshire	<p>Figures from the Census 2011 have shown a decline in the number of Welsh speakers in Denbighshire from 26.7% to 24.6% since 2001.</p> <p>Similarly, the number of people with Welsh language skills has decreased from 36% to 35.4. However, Welsh Government's annual survey estimates figures (see StatsWales, 'Annual Population Survey) estimates of persons aged 3 and over who say they can speak Welsh by local authority and measure') indicate that the % of persons aged 3 who say they can speak Welsh in Denbighshire has fallen marginally from 35.8% to 34.8% over the period 2006 to 2015.</p>	<p>DCC Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2016</p> <p>DCC LDP Information Paper – Respecting Distinctiveness</p> <p>DCC Welsh language Strategy</p>	<p>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</p>

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

### AIR QUALITY

Key Issues	Current Status and Trends	Source	Considerations for the SA Framework
Identification of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)	The current air quality for Denbighshire is good, and there is a need to maintain these high air quality standards. There are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Denbighshire	Denbighshire County Council Air Quality Review and Assessment (2016) Welsh Air Quality Forum (2004)	Protect and improve air quality Consideration of the impact of new development and site location air quality and the potential designation of AQMAs in Denbighshire and Wales's air quality objectives.
Potential increases in carbon emissions which are associated with new development and increases in population and therefore car use.	The Key Strategic Site at Bodelwyddan with the largest allocation of housing development in the County is yet to be developed	DCC	The SA will need to appraise the cumulative impact of new proposals against the air quality baseline.  Ensure new development is not located close to sources of air pollution
Carbon Dioxide emissions production due to reliance on car and van use to travel to work	67% of the employed workforce travels to work by driving a car or van with the A55 dual carriageway being a main source of carbon emissions.	DCC, Highways Department, (2017) DECC (2013)	Encourage Active Travel and other forms of sustainable transport

## BIODIVERSITY

Key Issues	Current Status and Trends	Source	Considerations for the SA Framework
<p>The County has a high quality natural environment which includes both statutory and non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance.</p>	<p>Within/close to the county there are 12 internationally designated sites, 32 national sites and over 250 local sites. Biodiversity within the county has been declining over the last century.</p>	<p>Natural Resources Wales</p>	<p>Protect and enhance all designated, nature conservation sites and species and avoid their damage or fragmentation.</p>
<p>The Environment Act (Wales) and Denbighshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan identifies key species and habitats which will require protection through the planning process.</p>	<p>Denbighshire LBAP has identified a number of priorities and measures to address the decline of biodiversity, including the identification of priority species and habitats.</p>	<p>DCC Local Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>Protect and enhance all designated, nature conservation sites and species and avoid their damage or fragmentation.</p> <p>Aim to meet the requirements and targets contained within the LBAP.</p>

**CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION**

Key Issues	Current Status and Trends	Source	Considerations for the SA Framework
<p>Moving towards a low carbon economy</p>	<p>The provision of renewable energy is supported through national policy and has identified a Strategic Search Area (TAN 8) within Denbighshire where large scale wind turbine development will be considered acceptable.</p>	<p>Tan 8</p>	<p>Consider the distribution of new growth and location and accessibility to services encouraging active travel and sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>Encourage waste reduction, reuse and recycling</p> <p>Encourage the provision of renewable energy technologies</p> <p>Provide infrastructure for electric car use.</p>

<p>Provision of renewable energy technologies and associated challenges</p>	<p>Wind Farm total operational and consented capacity at 31/03/2016 = 189.45MW which has exceeded the TAN 8 target of 140MW.</p>	<p>DCC, Annual Monitoring Report 2016</p>	<p>The SA should include objectives relating to emissions, carbon reduction, and adaptation to climate change.</p>
<p>A need to reduce Carbon Dioxide Emissions and reduce societal contributions to climate change</p>	<p>Carbon Dioxide emissions are low for Denbighshire, the highest concentrations being in the urban areas of Rhyl and Prestatyn and along transport routes.</p>	<p>National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI)</p>	<p>Encourage Active Travel and other forms of sustainable transport including car sharing initiatives and electric car usage.</p> <p>Encourage energy efficiency and conservation in development and encourage behavioural change to use less energy. Support increased provision and use of renewable energy</p> <p>Encourage waste reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery and regional self sufficiency</p>

## SOIL

Key Issues	Current Status and Trends	Source	Considerations for the SA framework
Development of upland forests could increase soil erosion	The Strategic Search Area allocated in TAN 8 is located in the Clocaenog Forest. Development has not yet commenced on the Clocaenog Wind Farm.	TAN 8	Ensure soil conservation and management are considered in large scale renewable energy developments
Pressure from industry soil pollution	There is no major soil polluting industry operating in Denbighshire.	No data currently available on soil for Denbighshire	Protect and conserve soil through land management
Impact on soil in terms of greenfield site development	Bodelwyddan Key Strategic site is allocated on greenfield land but development has not commenced yet.	No data currently available on soil for Denbighshire	<p>The SA should consider the sequential use of land, promoting brownfield sites with little biodiversity value for redevelopment.</p> <p>Reduce the encroachment of development on greenfield land</p>
Impact on agricultural land quality from physical factors including climate and soil composition.	Increased flooding occurrences due to climate change. St. Asaph and Ruthin floods of 2012 .	<p>No data currently available on soil for Denbighshire or the impact from flood events</p> <p>TAN 15: Development and Flood Risk</p>	Incorporate the safeguarding of soil quality and function and maintain long term productivity of agricultural land



## MINERALS AND WASTE

Key Issues	Current Status and Trends	Source	Considerations for the SA framework
There is a need to ensure waste arisings are reduced and sufficient infrastructure capacity is provided to enable recycling, recovery and disposal of waste.	Waste arisings have seen a slight decline since adoption of the LDP. Denbighshire has met it's landfill allowance targets each year but there is a continuing reduction of landfill capacity available.	TAN 21 Regional Waste Monitoring Report (2013/4)	Encourage waste reduction and re-use and ensure sufficient capacity is available for waste facilities.
The distribution of minerals resources within the County tend to correlate with areas of high landscape quality and extraction can negatively impact on communities and environment.	The LDP identified preferred areas for sand and gravel extraction but no applications have been received.	Denbighshire County Council	Protection of areas where mineral extraction should not occur and limitation of their environmental impacts.
Minerals are a finite resource and must be safeguarded.	The LDP identified preferred areas for sand and gravel extraction but no applications have been received.	Denbighshire County Council	Protection of mineral resources from development that would preclude extraction.

## WATER AND WATER QUALITY

Key Issues	Current Status and Trends	Source	Considerations for the SA framework
No significant issues relating to water quality generally in the County.	The quality of surface and bathing water in the County is good/very good.	NRW	Ensure new development does not have a negative impact on water quality in the County.
Several areas of the County are at risk from coastal, river and surface water flooding.	Much of the County's urbanised coast is within areas of flood risk, along with other inland settlements. Climate change will increase the severity and frequency of flood events and new development must avoid or mitigate against these risks where appropriate.	TAN 15: Development & Flood Risk  NRW Development Advice Maps  Denbighshire Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment (2014)	Prevent development in areas of high flood risk, minimise the vulnerability to flooding and ensure new development does not increase flood risk.

## ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

### ECONOMY

Key Issues	Current Status and Trends	Source	Considerations for the SA Framework
<p>The percentage of new business registrations are below the Wales average, with the percentage of de-registrations being higher than the Wales average.</p>	<p>The key statistics for economic inactivity, unemployment and claimant rates for Denbighshire are all below the average for Wales which suggest the County is performing well economically.</p> <p>Although County wide Job Seekers Allowance claimant rates are low, there are regional variations in this.</p> <p>~ Rhyl West has an exceptionally high percentage of claimants (8.8%) – this is over 3 times higher than the Wales average. In contrast to this the majority of Denbighshire’s electoral wards have less than 2% of claimants.</p> <p>Since January 1996 there has been a general declining trend in the % of claimants within the County</p>	<p>Denbighshire Promoting Sustainable Economy Information Paper</p> <p>Denbighshire Economic and Community Ambition Strategy</p> <p>2011 Census</p>	<p>To consider methods of retaining, expanding and creating employment sites in the County</p> <p>Ensure that there is adequate provision of a range / of types, sizes and locations of employment land within the County</p> <p>Consider methods of promoting and attracting inward investment and indigenous company expansion in the County by providing attractive conditions and attractive premises.</p>

<p>Seasonal nature of employment within Denbighshire with marked variations between the winter and summer months</p>	<p>This trend is likely to continue in the future with a gradual levelling off of the overall percentage of claimants.</p>		<p>Diversification and regeneration of the economy in the County, i.e. to overcome seasonal variations in employment. This includes rural diversification and tourism diversification.</p>
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## EMPLOYMENT LAND

Key Issues	Current Status and Trends	Source	Consideration for the SA Framework
<p>The take up of employment land within Denbighshire has been relatively low. From 2007-2015 there has been an annual take up of approximately 3.0ha / annum.</p> <p>Based on the adopted LDP policy a total of 112.1ha is vacant and potentially available for development. However, many sites are being retained by landowners for their own expansion, or are being held for non-employment use or are located in areas of low demand.</p>	<p>The employment development that has taken place within the County has been in the North and in close proximity to the A55 transport corridor, particularly on St Asaph Business Park.</p> <p>This trend is likely to remain in the future however recent planning application indicating higher activity in the south of the County and the take up of employment land.</p>	<p>Denbighshire Annual Employment Land Availability Report</p>	<p>Ensure that important Employment land can be protected from alternative forms of development.</p> <p>Consider methods of encouraging development of employment land, i.e. the scope for cross subsidy from other forms of development.</p>

Demand for employment land in the future is likely to remain near to the A55 and in the North of the County.			<p>Consider removing policy constraints on vacant existing employment land.</p> <p>Have regard to the North Wales growth strategy/bid.</p>
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## TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

Key Issues	Current Status and Trends	Source	Considerations for the SA Framework
<p>Given the rural nature of the county Denbighshire residents are likely to remain reliant on the car. 67% of the County's working population travel to work by car.</p> <p>There is a need to promote a modal shift to more sustainable forms of transport</p>	<p>Denbighshire does not suffer from serious traffic congestion problems. This is in line with the Wales national average.</p> <p>No data is currently available for Traffic Flow trends, the proportion of new development within 500m of public transport or the proportion of new development within 500m of cycleway and footpaths. It is anticipated that this information will be collected and used in the future monitoring of the SEA.</p> <p>It is likely that travel by car is likely to remain at the current levels, given the predominantly rural nature of the County.</p>	Denbighshire County Council, Highways Department, 2017	<p>To provide opportunities for active travel by sustainable transport, i.e. walking, cycling and public transport, in new developments.</p> <p>To aim to reduce traffic congestion where possible</p> <p>To promote sustainable mixed development which reduces the need to travel by car and increase travel by walking and cycling.</p> <p>To undertake traffic demand management and to encourage a switch from the car to other means of transport.</p>