

Guidance on the Sustainability Appraisal of Additional Candidate Sites

Sustainability Appraisal is a process that considers the likely social, economic and environmental impacts of a proposal, including alternative development sites, against local sustainability objectives.

The Council is required to undertake Sustainability Appraisal of the Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP 2).

Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process and hence will evolve and be updated as review of the LDP progresses. The Sustainability Appraisal of the new Plan incorporates the regulatory requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment.

At present, the Council has reached the pre-Deposit stage of Replacement Plan preparation. This includes consultation on a Preferred Strategy for the new Plan. An Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Preferred Strategy has been prepared to accompany the Preferred Strategy. This should be read in conjunction with the SA Scoping Report and its associated appendices. These documents are available to view on the LDP 2 pages of the Council's website:

<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/local-development-plan-review/sustainability-appraisal-strategic-environmental-assessment>

(Scroll down to find the links to the SA Scoping Report and to the Initial SA Report Preferred Strategy)

The Council advertised for Candidate Sites for the Replacement Local Development Plan between 22nd March and 14th August 2018. This provided an opportunity for the public to put forward proposals for development or other use of land within the Plan area, for consideration by the Council in conjunction with Plan review. In consequence, the Council received various proposals relating to more than 450 locations across the Plan area. These are set out in the Candidate Sites Register, which has also been published on the LDP 2 pages of the Council's website and includes an initial consideration of compatibility of each suggestion with the draft Preferred Strategy.

During 2019, the Council will evaluate each Candidate Site submission in more detail, to determine whether the proposed uses should be included in the Deposit version of the Local Development Plan (a full public consultation draft of the new Plan). Where the Council considers that a Candidate Site should be identified in the new Plan for development or other purposes, it will carry out the Sustainability Appraisal for that site itself.

In conjunction with publication of the pre-Deposit documentation, including the Preferred Strategy, the Council is providing an opportunity for submission of Additional Candidate Sites. This further opportunity runs until 4.30pm on 4th February 2019. A standard form is available for responses and a guidance note has been prepared. While for the initial tranche of Candidate Sites, the Council will carry out Sustainability Appraisal (if required), for the Additional Candidate Sites, the site proposer will be required to undertake this work. This approach is consistent with

advice from Welsh Government, set out in paragraph 6.5.1.5 of the Local Development Plan Manual Edition 2 (August 2015).

The Sustainability Appraisal for each Additional Candidate Sites should include evidence regarding:

- The site's compatibility with the Plan's strategy;
- Any substantial physical, ecological, environmental and geological constraints to development of the site and the potential for mitigation measures to overcome or reduce these;
- The sustainability of the site in relation to availability and accessibility of infrastructure, community facilities and services, public transport and the use of brownfield land.

Appendix 1 of this document identifies the type of information that should inform a response to each Sustainability Appraisal objective.

A completed Candidate Site Sustainability Appraisal form should accompany each Additional Candidate Site.

The Candidate Site Sustainability Appraisal form commences by asking for basic information about the site, including address details, the relevant Town or Community Council area and the proposed use.

A colour-coded table then sets out six categories that provide options to explain the degree of association between the proposal being put forward and the new Plan's Sustainability Appraisal Objectives. It will be for the site proposer to determine which of the categories best fits the use being proposed. This process needs to be completed for each of the 21 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives for the new Plan. Each of these objectives is set out on the Sustainability Appraisal form. The Sustainability Appraisal Objectives were established in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. You may find it useful to read this Report and the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Preferred Strategy, before completing the Sustainability Appraisal form for your Additional Candidate Site.

Below the table of categories is the main table for completion by the site proposer. For each Sustainability Objective, the proposer must select the appropriate code (to be inserted into the summary box) and then provide a short commentary explaining why that particular category has been selected.

Once the table has been populated with information relating the proposal to each of the 21 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives, the site proposer should then provide the Overall Sustainability Appraisal for the proposal. This should take the form of a succinct narrative setting out the key conclusions from the foregoing work.

Finally, the site proposer is requested to conclude whether the site is acceptable for development, based on the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken. If, having undertaken this work, the conclusion is that the site is not acceptable for

development, the proposer should consider whether the proposal could be modified in a way that would make it acceptable. If this is not feasible, further consideration should be given on whether the site should be put forward at all.