1. Introduction

The Local Development Plan

1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 provides a framework for a new system of Local Development Plans in Wales to replace Unitary Development Plans.\(^1\)

1.2 The Plan should be seen and read as a whole. Often there will be more than one policy relevant to a proposed development, and all policies will be taken into consideration. In order to make the Plan simple to follow and easily understood, policies have been expressed as directly as possible. Issues such as landscape, amenity, access, and design will arise with practically all applications for development and separate policies are included on each of these aspects.

National Planning Policy

1.3 In producing the Local Development Plan, the National Park Authority has had regard to national planning policies.\(^2\) In accordance with guidance contained in Local Development Plans Wales, Local Development Plans should have regard to national planning policies but not repeat them. The Local Development Plan should therefore be considered in conjunction with the Planning Policy Wales Edition 3 which identifies those areas where clear statements of national development control policy should not need to be repeated in Local Development Plans. It should be noted therefore that the Local Development Plan only provides the policy framework for issues of a locally distinct nature. Development proposals that do not present specific locally distinct issues will be assessed in accordance with the requirements of national planning policy.

How the Local Development Plan was prepared

1.4 The Local Development Plan strategy was prepared in tandem with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's Management Plan.

1.5 The land use planning dimension of the National Park Management Plan is put into effect through the statutory Local Development Plan for each National Park. The National Park Management Plan is of national importance. National Park Management Plan objectives and policies therefore prevail over regional and local policy as it is delivered in the National Parks. The Guidance adds: "Indeed the imperatives of the National Park purposes should be reflected in these other Plans, including the Local Development Plan."\(^3\)

1.6 The strategy has been developed since September 2006. In February 2008 a draft was published for consultation and the strategy reviewed in the light of responses received. The development of the Deposit Plan began in July 2008. It was published for consultation March 2009, with an Alternative Sites consultation in July 2009. As a result of the responses received the Authority published a Focussed Changes document to the Plan which was published for consultation in December 2009. All of the above documents and representations made were considered by an Inspector during an Examination into the soundness of the Plan. Examination hearing sessions took place in April 2010 and the final Inspector's Report was forwarded to the Authority on 1st September 2010. The Plan was adopted by the Authority on 29th September 2010.

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\(^1\) See Glossary of Terms
\(^2\) Includes Planning Policy Wales, Minerals Planning Policy Wales, Circulars and Technical Advice Notes.
\(^4\) See Glossary of Terms
Evidence\(^5\) Gathering

1.7 The wider policy context has been reviewed, for example national policy and in particular the Wales Spatial Plan\(^6\). Regional work as far as it has been developed was also considered. Locally the Community Strategy\(^7\) has been revised and a new version of the plan was published in May 2010. There are a number of plans which have influenced how the community strategy\(^8\) has developed including the Children and Young People's Plan (adopted, September 2008), the Health, Social Care and Well-being strategy (approved April 2008), the Community Safety Strategy (2008-2011) as well as the Local Housing Strategy (approved April 2008). The sustainability appraisal has also been a significant contributor to the baseline information.

1.8 Primary research has also been undertaken, for example, the Landscape Character Assessment and survey of towns and villages for facilities available. Contact has been made with various local organisations about the needs for further community facilities\(^9\) or employment for example.

Engagement\(^11\)

1.9 A variety of means were used to help with the development of the strategy. Internally officers and Members of the Authority worked on a series of papers, primarily through Core Group meetings, to develop the strategy and associated sustainability appraisal.

1.10 An External Key Stakeholder Panel\(^12\) has met to consider the emerging Local Development Plan Strategy and Deposit Local Development Plan along with dealing with key issues from the Preferred Strategy consultation. Background papers were also made available.

1.11 A series of Community Panel\(^13\) meetings also took place during September and October 2008 to consider the emerging Deposit Local Development Plan, and again in September and October of 2009 to consider the emerging Focussed Changes proposed by the Authority.

1.12 Representatives of neighbouring planning authorities have also been met or contacted to discuss the emerging strategy. A Statement of Principles for Local Development Plan preparation has been prepared jointly with Pembrokeshire County Council.\(^14\)

Sustainability Appraisal\(^15\)

1.13 Sustainability Appraisal has been used to select the most sustainable policy option from the alternatives examined. This involved assessing the likely performance of policy options against a

\(^{5}\) See Glossary of Terms
\(^{6}\) Link to the Wales Spatial Plan website: http://wales.gov.uk/about/strategy/spatial/?lang=en Under Section 62(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 a local planning authority must have regard to the Wales Spatial Plan in preparing a local development plan.
\(^{7}\) See Glossary of Terms
\(^{8}\) The Local Development Plan should have regard to the objectives and priorities established by the community strategy that relate to the development and use of land. A Guide to the Examination of Local Development Plans Planning Inspectorate Wales, page 11, no date. Web link: http://www.arolygiaethgynllunio.gov.uk/cymru/wal/appeals/local_development_plans_e.htm
\(^{9}\) See Glossary of Terms
\(^{10}\) See Glossary of Terms
\(^{11}\) Weblink to the Key Stakeholder Panel: www.pcnpa.org.uk/website/default.asp?SID=1231&SkinID=5
\(^{12}\) Weblink to Core Group: www.pcnpa.org.uk/website/default.asp?SID=57
\(^{13}\) Weblink to the Community Panel: www.pcnpa.org.uk/website/default.asp?SID=1311&SkinID=5
\(^{14}\) Weblink to the Statement of Strategic Principles: http://www.pcnpa.org.uk/website/default.asp?SID=1245&SkinID=5
\(^{15}\) link to website for the Sustainability Appraisal: www.pcnpa.org.uk/website/default.asp?SID=1214&SkinID=5
framework of environmental, social and economic sustainability objectives. These sustainability objectives were arrived at through identifying sustainability issues for the National Park as indicated by national policy and guidance, current knowledge and statistics, and the views of government and non-governmental agencies working in the National Park. The development of these objectives was subject to a public consultation as part of the scoping stage of the Sustainability Appraisal.

1.14 The Sustainability Appraisal incorporates a Strategic Environmental Assessment\(^{16}\) and is presented alongside a Habitats Regulations Assessment screening to determine the effects of the Local Development Plan on internationally important wildlife sites.

**Potential Sites** \(^{17}\)

1.15 Externally, developers and agents and organisations submitted sites for consideration. These were assessed as to their suitability for development and suitable sites taken forward in the Deposit Local Development Plan.

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\(^{16}\) See Glossary of Terms

\(^{17}\) link to website for the Potential Sites: [www.pcnpa.org.uk/website/default.asp?SID=1245&SkinID=5](http://www.pcnpa.org.uk/website/default.asp?SID=1245&SkinID=5)