

# **Pembrokeshire Coast National Park**

## **Replacement Local Development Plan (end date-2031)**

### **Preferred Strategy**

Draft Initial Sustainability Appraisal  
Non-technical Summary

**PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**NPA 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

## 1 Summary and key outcomes

### Context

1.1 European Directives and United Kingdom legislation require that land use plans produced by Local Planning Authorities are subject to an assessment of their sustainability and likely effect on the environment. This is to ensure that the Plan contributes towards the goal of sustainable development. The assessment forms part of plan making through processes typically referred to as *Sustainability Appraisal* and *Strategic Environmental Assessment* or a combination of the two. The sustainability of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Local Development Plan has been assessed through a process of Sustainability Appraisal incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

### Sustainability Objectives

1.2 For the purposes of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Replacement Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy, in accordance with guidance from the Welsh and United Kingdom Governments, sustainability is defined in terms of a sustainability framework made up of Sustainability objectives. These were subject to public consultation and are:

- i. Economically viable agriculture and forestry sectors that are contributing to conserving and enhancing landscape, biodiversity and community well-being.
- ii. Locate developments so as to minimise the demand for travel, especially by private car.
- iii. Conserve and enhance landscapes, townscapes and seascapes, and all their components (including the built environment and archaeology) with reference to the special qualities of the National Park.
- iv. Increase the number of residents and visitors taking part in physical forms of recreation (especially walking and cycling) and volunteering opportunities.
- v. Increase the number of visitors using the National Park outside the peak visitor season.
- vi. Manage the effects of climate change with particular reference to the risk of flooding; the effect on biodiversity; public health.
- vii. Reduce factors contributing to climate change.
- viii. Maximise the contribution of the limited opportunities for development to sustaining local communities.

- ix. Encourage access for all to the National Park, reflecting the social mix of society.
- x. Maintain the cultural distinctiveness of communities.
- xi. The adverse effects of minerals exploitation in the National Park decline from the present level and the potential biodiversity and landscape gains of former minerals sites are realised.
- xii. Reduce the negative impacts of waste.
- xiii. Community facilities (including health & social care facilities, social facilities and retail provision) continue to meet the needs of the National Park population
- xiv. Maintain and enhance biodiversity both within and outside designated sites
- xv. Promote sustainable use of, and maintain and enhance the quality of, inland and coastal waters.

1.3 More information on the development of the Sustainability Objectives is included in section 4 of the Draft Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report.

### **What would happen in the absence of the Local Development Plan**

1.4 Guidelines for Sustainability Appraisal and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive require that the appraisal includes a forecast of the likely sustainability outcomes in the absence of the Plan – the 'business as usual' scenario. Understanding the likely future evolution of the area in the absence of the Plan is important for determining the impact of the Plan. Also, if the Plan outcomes were forecast to be no better, or worse, than the business as usual scenario, this would provide a clear indicator that the Plan needed significant improvement.

1.5 In forecasting the business as usual scenario it is first necessary to determine what that means. The absence of the Plan has been taken to mean a continuation of Adopted Local Development Plan, though as this Plan moves towards and passes its end date (2021), it is likely to become less relevant and useful, and decisions will need to be made according to National policy only (see Section 4, page 21 of the Draft Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report for the predicted sustainability effects).

### **Appraisal of Local Development Plan Objectives, Policies and candidate sites**

1.6 Generally the objectives for the Local Development Plan are found to be compatible with the Sustainability Objectives. Sometimes some uncertainty remains because the Plan will not operate in isolation and it is not possible to determine how the factors that are the subject of the Plan objective will interact with the factors that are the subject of the Sustainability Objective in every circumstance.

- 1.7 The detailed policies of the Local Development Plan were assessed to predict their impacts with regard to the Sustainability Objectives. Where the appraisal raised questions regarding the sustainability of a policy, or where the appraisal identified opportunities to further increase the sustainability benefits of a policy, a recommendation for change was made.
- 1.8 Sustainability Appraisal has been part of the process for creating the Local Development Plan from the start and because of this most policies are, by this stage, as sustainable as they can be. The opportunities for improvement identified were:
- Add criterion “*The new building or land area is comparable in size to that which it is to replace*” to Policy 34C for a more positive effect with regard to Sustainability Objective 3 (landscape/townscape) – **this change has been made.**

### **Appraisal of the Candidate Site Submissions**

- 1.9 A total of 147 candidate sites were submitted to the Authority for potential inclusion as allocations at the next stage of the Replacement Local Development Plan Development (Deposit). Of these sites 80 were found to be compatible with the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives, with a further 5 found to be compatible with suitable mitigation measures. 59 were found to be incompatible with the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives. 3 of the sites submitted will require more detail in order to make an adequate assessment.

### **What will be the cumulative impacts of the Plans' proposals**

- 1.10 It is a requirement of Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment that policy options are not only considered singly, but that their cumulative effects are also assessed. The net impact of all policies was determined against each Sustainability Objective. From this exercise it was found that there are no undesirable cumulative effects on any of the Sustainability Objectives.

### **How will other Plans impact?**

- 1.11 Other Plans are also likely to influence the effects of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Replacement Local Development Plan. Most notable of these are the Wales Spatial Plan, and the Development Plans for Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. The Sustainability Appraisal of the Wales Spatial Plan identified mitigation measures to ensure that any negative effects of the spatial strategy are minimised or avoided and these are incorporated into the Local Development Plan. A further key interaction with neighbouring Authorities concerns the complementarity of their nature, the National Park as a key area for recreation, and neighbouring areas providing greater amounts housing and employment opportunities.