

REPORT OF PLANNING OFFICER (DEVELOPMENT PLANS)

SUBJECT:
**CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEPOSIT LOCAL
DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Background

Carmarthenshire County Council has published its deposit Local Development Plan for public consultation. The consultation period will end on 19th August 2011.

This Authority responded to Carmarthenshire County Council's Preferred Strategy in December 2009 and raised the following issues:

Affordable housing – It is noted that a new Local Housing Market Assessment is being undertaken. It is also noted that there are concerns with the methodology used for the current Local Housing Market Assessment and that further work was needed.

Minerals – Support was given to the aggregates landbank and minerals safeguarding approach included in the Plan. The Authority also requested an explicit reference within the Plan to recognise that the sub regional minerals group were in discussion about sand and gravel resources being sourced outside of the National Park.

National Park designation – we asked that reference to the special role the neighbouring National Park authorities play and confirmation that the Council will have regard to National Park purposes be included in the Plan.

Waste – a representation of support for the approach taken in the Plan was forwarded.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Appraisal/Habitats Regulations Assessment - The list of neighbouring Plans And Strategies on page 44 that might have effects in combination with the Local Development Plan for Carmarthenshire does not include the Local Development Plan for the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

Response to the Deposit Local Development Plan

In terms of the above issues raised at the previous Preferred Strategy stage of the Plan a review of the Deposit Plan has been undertaken.

Affordable housing – Although provision to meet affordable housing need identified in the Local Housing Market Assessment is limited the Assessment

does not identify any cross boundary issues for this Authority. Therefore no comment is proposed.

Minerals – The deposit Plan includes reference at paragraph 6.11.12 to the potential for sand to be reaching the County from outside Carmarthenshire, and reliance on marine dredged or land won sand from outside the County is not sustainable. It confirms that discussions of apportionment between authorities in respect of sand and gravel will be required in the near future. This is considered to address the concerns of this Authority, as raised at the Preferred Strategy stage and no comment is therefore proposed.

National Park designation – It is disappointing to note that no reference to the National Park or National Park purposes have been included in the deposit Plan. This is of concern as this National Park Authority neighbours Carmarthenshire's area at Amroth, as does Brecon Beacons National Park which is an adjacent planning authority but also partly within Carmarthenshire County Council's local authority area.

The duty to have regard to National Park and AONB purposes applying to activities affecting these areas, whether those activities lie within or outside the designated areas is referred to in national planning policy (Planning Policy Wales, 4th Edition, February 2011, paragraph 5.3.7). National Planning Policy need not be repeated in Local Development Plans, however Carmarthenshire County Council has listed in their Plan other designations protected under this chapter of Planning Policy Wales. The Plan does not acknowledge the proximity of either National Park to its Plan area. It is recommended therefore that a representation be submitted asking for the Plan to include reference to the adjacent National Parks and the duty to have regard to National Park purposes which is also set out at Section 62 of the Environment Act. This would ensure compatibility with the soundness test CE1 which deals with how the plan relates to those prepared by neighbouring authorities. It is proposed that this representation be submitted by written representation.

Waste – there are no specific issues which require a representation.

Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Appraisal/Habitats Regulations Assessment – The content of the appraisals and methodology is best assessed by the Countryside Council for Wales. No comment is proposed.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a representation is submitted on Carmarthenshire County Council's deposit Local Development Plan as outlined in the above report.

Background documents to this report

Carmarthenshire County Council's Deposit Local Development Plan and supporting documentation.

(For further information please contact Sarah Middleton, Planning Officer (Development Plans) on extension 4863 or by e-mailing sarahm@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk)