



Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan Review

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
Non-Technical Summary
October 2023

On behalf of **Neath Port Talbot Council**



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1 Introduction

The Replacement Local Development Plan

- 1.1.1 Neath Port Talbot Council (NPTC) has started to prepare a new Local Development Plan (LDP). Developed with the local community and stakeholders, the replacement LDP (RLDP) will set out a Vision for how the area is expected to change in land-use terms. It will provide a framework to tackle key sustainability and regeneration issues and help to deliver development opportunities. Showing how and where development will occur, with clear proposals maps, it will provide certainty for developers and the public about the type of development that will be permitted at particular locations. It will cover a wide range of topics, including but not limited to housing land, economic development, regeneration, sustainable design, renewable energy, town centres, tourism, infrastructure provision and transport.
- 1.1.2 The expected date of adoption for the Replacement Plan is April 2027. The Plan will cover a period of 15 years (2023-2038).

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.1.3 Given the importance of the RLDP in shaping the area, when producing the RLDP it is essential to consider its potential impacts on the people of Neath Port Talbot (NPT), their wellbeing, and the environment. A range of supporting assessments will be carried out to ensure this.
- **Sustainability Appraisal (SA)** of the Plan's potential social, environmental, and economic effects.
 - **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** to assess the likely significant environmental effects of implementing relevant plans and programmes and to examine the likely significant environmental effects of reasonable alternatives to the plan.
 - Demonstrating how the Plan will deliver sustainable development for future generations and achieve national and local wellbeing goals and objectives in line with **The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act**.
 - **Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)**. This will meet statutory requirements to avoid discrimination and to assess the likely equalities impacts.
 - **Health Impact Assessment (HIA)**. The SEA and EqIA each partly consider health impacts, but HIA brings these together to ensure the RLDP best supports improved health outcomes in the area.
 - **Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)**, to consider how the RLDP could affect the use of the Welsh language in the area.
- 1.1.4 These are all tools that will enable an objective, evidence-based, assessment of the RLDP's effects. Combining these into a single **Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA)** will enable a clearer, more accessible, and rounded assessment of the RLDP.

2 Scoping Report

2.1.1 The Scoping Report is the first document to be produced for the ISA. It describes the current situation in the NPTC area and sets up a framework for testing how NPTC will deliver sustainable development through future stages of RLDP preparation. The Scoping stage:

- Identifies other relevant policy documents to ensure that the RLDP is consistent with the current international, UK, Welsh, and local government policy context
- Describes the environmental, social, and economic situation of Neath Port Talbot
- Discusses key environmental, social, and economic issues affecting Neath Port Talbot
- Sets out the objectives and indicators that will be used to test the RLDP's effects

Policy Context

2.1.2 The RLDP will need to take account of a range of new Acts, policy frameworks, initiatives, evidence and spatial issues at national, regional and local levels since the adoption of the current LDP.

- In 2019 the Welsh Government declared a climate crisis and a nature crisis. Urgent action is needed to deal with the loss of species and habitats and the rise of storms and floods that threaten communities. New targets have require a 95% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 with an ambition to reach net-zero. Wider environmental legislation continues to set targets for water quality, waste recycling, nature conservation protection and other topics.
- The economic and social fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing impacts of the Brexit process has changed the context in which the RLDP is being prepared. The Welsh Government's Economic Action Plan (2019), Future Wales The National Plan 2040 ; the Swansea Bay City Deal (SBCD); and the designation of the Port Talbot Waterfront Enterprise Zone and the work of the Valleys Taskforce will all shape the RLDP. These aim to achieve stronger and more inclusive growth than has been experienced over the course of the existing LDP.
- The Welsh Government's Planning Policy Wales (11th Edition) now sets out principles to build better places for people through a low carbon, resilient society, providing secure and well-paid jobs, and building well-connected healthier environments. The RLDP must take account of the wellbeing objectives within the Neath Port Talbot Well-being Plan (2023-2028): To ensure all children get the best start in life; to ensure all communities are thriving and sustainable; To ensure the local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations; and to ensure there are more secure, green and well paid jobs and that skills across the area are improved.
- The ISA will show how these sustainability objectives and policies have been considered in preparing the RLDP.

Environmental, social, and economic situation and issues

2.1.3 Section 4 and Appendix A of the Scoping Report bring together information about NPT's environmental, social, and economic situation using a range of indicators.

Environmental Factors

2.1.4 Welsh CO₂ emissions have shown some decline between 1990 and 2018. Within Wales by far the biggest emitting sector is business and industry. Total CO₂ emissions in NPT are the highest in Wales and some of the highest in the UK mainly due to the Port Talbot integrated steel plant. The plant is the largest in the UK, a national industrial asset, and a regional employer. Per capita emissions within the scope of the local authority are around the national average. NPT is identified as having the highest renewable energy generation in Wales.

- 2.1.5 NPT hosts a number of designated sites at international, national and local levels for biodiversity conservation and value. There are also undesignated areas which contain a wide range of habitats and species that have important functions and roles. While there have been some improvements, overall biodiversity loss continues in NPT and South-West Wales.
- 2.1.6 Pressures on biodiversity include changes in land use and climate change. Several waterbodies within NPT are at risk of having poor water quality owing largely to agricultural, utilities, and industrial activity and impacts. There are large areas of contaminated vacant and derelict land as well as unstable land. These issues often relate to the legacy of heavy industry in the area. Flood risk is an ongoing issue due to the valley and coastal setting of NPT. Impacts of climate change mean more intense rainfall, more flooding, as well as hotter, drier summers. The projections are also for more extremely warm days, and milder and wetter winters. This will impact people, their homes and communities directly and put pressure on existing sewage and drainage infrastructure and transport infrastructure. Air quality must improve, there is one Air Quality Management Area located in the heart of NPT's industrial area on the M4 corridor. The diversity and distinctive landscape are a significant part of NPT's natural and cultural heritage and there is a need to protect this from inappropriate development.

Social and Economic Factors

- 2.1.7 NPT's population is expected to increase to 144,238 by 2028 (around 1%), the younger population will decline, while the older population (65 years +) will increase by 13%. This will impact the scale and type of housing that needs to be provided in NPT. Like many other parts of Wales and the UK, the overall level of demand for affordable housing is currently not being met across NPT. NPTC has identified shortfalls in the provision of extra care housing and smaller dwellings. This means NPTC must find new sites for housing in the RLDP. Like the rest of the UK, most housing needs are to be met by the development sector rather than the public sector, but the delivery of market housing by the development industry has been difficult in NPT. Over the course of the current LDP, in difficult circumstances, the Council's own monitoring shows that there has been disappointing delivery of land for both housing and economic development. It has proved difficult to draw development to regeneration areas allocated in the LDP, and at same time there have been continued pressures for development on land that is less sustainable.
- 2.1.8 Unemployment rates are around the Welsh average, but disposable income per household is lower than average and there are areas of persistent deprivation in NPT. Job density (the number of jobs compared to the working age population) is relatively low and this shows the need to continue focusing on creating more jobs within the area rather than residents having to commute to work. Related to this, there are large differences in life expectancy between well-off and deprived residents, and differences between male and female life expectancy are very large.
- 2.1.9 There is a need to improve access to services and facilities, and promote walking, cycling, and public transport when journeys are required. Shifting from private car use to active travel and public transport will have multiple environmental, social, and economic benefits. Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe are key hubs for services, employment, housing, and retail for their surrounding communities and they will remain sustainable locations for essential and discretionary services. However, the role of retail is changing dramatically across the country, impacting the character and function of towns. The Welsh language needs to be protected, 22.6% of the resident NPTC population speak Welsh and the planning system can play a part in protecting the language. The area's many and varied historical sites are unique and irreplaceable - inappropriate development is a key pressure on the historic environment and cultural heritage.

Interlinked issues

- 2.1.10 The environmental, social, and economic situation and issues demonstrate that factors are inter-related in most cases. Climate change is a cross cutting theme and the differences in people's health across NPT are the outcomes of multiple factors. For example, the link between health

and the condition and accessibility of the natural environment has been recognised and reflected in NPTC's Well-Being Plan. The RLDP offers the chance to achieve multiple benefits in managing the use of land and improving the lives of people, communities, and the local environment.

Objectives and Indicators

- 2.1.11 A key output of the Scoping Report is the development of an appraisal framework of objectives and indicators that will be used to assess and monitor the RLDP's effects. This is called the ISA Framework. As the RLDP is developed, at each stage, the ISA Framework in [Table 1](#) below and its ISA Objectives will be used to assess each element from the RLDP Vision through to the detailed policies and proposals.
- 2.1.12 The proposed ISA Framework includes thirteen environmental, social, and economic objectives to ensure that the RLDP's impacts are fully assessed. It aims to provide an integrated approach to deliver sustainability and improved wellbeing through the RLDP. It reflects the cross-cutting nature of environmental, social, economic, cultural, equalities and health issues within the NPT area.
- 2.1.13 To further understand how the ISA Framework will be applied a more detailed version with specific criteria and questions which will guide its use and application in [Appendix 1](#).

Table 1: Proposed ISA Objectives for the LDP Review

No.	Proposed ISA Objective Topic	Proposed ISA Objective
1	Health and Wellbeing	Improve the health and wellbeing of the population, including with respect to physical and mental health, social wellbeing and community safety.
2	Equality and Social Inclusion	Reduce poverty and inequalities, advance equality of opportunity, reduce socio-economic disadvantage, tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.
3	Transport and Communications	Enhance the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets through improving infrastructure and creating a sustainable transport network, whilst also ensuring access to high quality communications and utilities.
4	Inclusive Economic Growth	Increase the number and quality of employment opportunities and improve educational and skill levels while maximising the economic contribution of the NPTC area to the Swansea Bay City Region, including through diversifying and strengthening the local economic base
5	Housing	Provide a sufficient quantum and range of good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations to meet identified local needs.
6	Air Quality	Prevent and reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and minimise exposure to poor air quality.
7	Climate Change	Adopt appropriate mitigation and adaption measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climate change.
8	Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil	Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests, including through safeguarding important sites and species, improving green infrastructure provision and safeguarding important soil resources.

No.	Proposed ISA Objective Topic	Proposed ISA Objective
9	Water and Flood Risk	Conserve, protect and enhance water and coastal environments, water quality and water resources, whilst reducing the risk of flooding.
10	Materials and Waste	Contribute to the implementation of the circular economy, manage waste with minimal environmental impacts and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including for energy generation and the provision of an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.
11	Sustainable Placemaking	Maximise the efficient use of land and enhance design quality to create great places for people.
12	Cultural Heritage (inc. Welsh Language)	Conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets, including the use of the Welsh language.
13	Landscape	Protect and enhance the landscape character, visual amenity, distinctive sense of place and legibility of settlements in NPT.

Methodology

2.1.14 The ISA Framework will be used to assess all the main components of the RLDP, as well as any identified reasonable alternatives to these proposals. In general terms, the ISA will therefore need to include appraisals of a proposed RLDP vision, RLDP objectives, a spatial strategy (and potential sub-area strategies), strategic policies, development management policies (the policies which guide development) and site allocations. The proposed approach to undertaking a proportionate ISA of each of these components is broadly:

- For higher level elements of the RLDP e.g. the RLDP Vision and Objectives, an assessment of compatibility with commentary on how this part of the RLDP is or is not compatible with the ISA Objectives
- For detailed elements of the RLDP including policies and allocations, an assessment of likely significant and other identified effects.

2.1.15 ISA findings will be reported in a suite of assessment matrices, with assessment scores and a commentary which will:

- Justify the assessment scoring for each assessed policy or allocation;
- Identify any likely significant environmental effects within the context of the SEA Regulations;
- Identify any likely different or disproportionate effects on demographic groups with protected characteristics or those vulnerable to social exclusion or poverty; and,
- Identify any mitigation or enhancement measures considered necessary. This would be to either avoid significant adverse environmental effects (which would otherwise be expected to occur) or to enhance the sustainability performance and overall effectiveness of the RLDP.

3 ISA Scoping Consultation Responses & Next Steps

The ISA and the Neath Port Talbot Replacement Local Development Plan

3.1 ISA Scoping Consultation Responses

- 3.1.1 NPTC has recognised the value and opportunities for an integrated assessment approach to preparing the Neath Port Talbot LDP Review. The integration of SA(SEA) along with statutory and key non-statutory plan-making elements including the WBFGA 2015 requirements, Equalities Act, Welsh language, and Health Impact Assessment (HIA) into a single Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) will enable a more transparent, holistic and rounded assessment of the sustainability implications of growth options, objectives, policies and proposals.
- 3.1.2 The ISA will be used as a plan-making tool used iteratively at each stage of the LDP Review process. This approach will be key to ensuring that the sustainability issues identified in this ISA Scoping Report are addressed. To achieve this, the ISA Scoping report defined a proposed ISA Framework and assessment methodology for use in undertaking the ISA in respect of the RLDP.
- 3.1.3 The changes to the proposed ISA Framework and methodology have been incorporated into the updated version of the NPT ISA Scoping Report in response to the ISA Scoping Consultation responses received from Cadw (Welsh Government Historic Branch), Mineral Products Association, Natural Resources Wales and the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd. These changes comprised minor wording and policy updates, proposed additional guide questions forming the proposed ISA Framework (see Appendix A of this NTS) and updates to the key sustainability issues as set out in the updated version of the ISA Scoping Report. A further consultation on the updated NPT ISA Scoping Report prepared alongside the revised RLDP Delivery Agreement in 2023 did not receive any responses.

3.2 Next Steps

- 3.2.1 To enable this ISA to be undertaken in a proportionate and targeted manner an ISA Framework will be used, comprising:
- The proposed ISA Objectives (see **Table 1**);
 - A suite of relevant Guide Questions relating to each ISA Objective. Requested changes from SEA Consultation Bodies to the guide questions have been made and are set out in Appendix A of this NTS. These will be used in a qualitative assessment of each emerging substantive component of the RLDP, and any identified reasonable alternatives, to proportionately identify their Likely Significant Effects; and,
 - A suite of sustainability indicators to be considered in the assessment of candidate sites being carried out by NPTC are set out in the Scoping Report. These indicators are designed to guide NPTC in the site assessment process. The indicators will support a legally compliant ISA that identifies statutory impacts assessment requirements. An integrated site selection and ISA site assessment process will be possible through the framework to avoid assessment duplication.
- 3.2.2 The Call for Sites period will commence in November 2023.

Appendix A Detailed ISA Framework

Proposed ISA Framework for the LDP Review

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
<p>1. Health and Wellbeing: Improve the health and wellbeing of the population, including with respect to physical and mental health, social wellbeing and community safety.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and improve access to healthcare services and facilities? ▪ Reduce health inequalities and improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of communities? ▪ Improve accessibility to green active travel routes, high quality accessible recreational open spaces and sports facilities, in particular for those facing structural inequalities and/or socio-economic disadvantage? ▪ Facilitate or encourage active travel for all communities? ▪ Increase access to nature? ▪ Provide clean air and high- quality bathing beaches and rivers? ▪ Protect against noise pollution, delivering context appropriate soundscapes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proximity to existing active travel networks; ▪ Proximity to Health Facilities ▪ Proximity of New Health Facilities and/or Active Travel Routes

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Protect communities from environmental risks such as flooding using nature-based solutions? ■ Protect against light pollution? ■ Create urban communities that feature a network of high quality, well connected green infrastructure? 	
<p>2. Equality and Social Inclusion: Reduce poverty and inequalities, advance equality of opportunity, reduce socio-economic disadvantage, tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reduce poverty and social exclusion? ■ Result in differential impacts (beneficial or adverse) on different demographic groups or persons with protected characteristics? ■ Result in differential impacts (beneficial or adverse) on communities (of place or interest) facing inequality of outcome due to socio-economic disadvantage? ■ Result in differential impacts (beneficial or adverse) on individuals vulnerable to social exclusion or poverty? ■ Provide fair and impartial protection from environmental hazards (such as air quality, flooding)? ■ Protect and enhance access to high quality community facilities, public services and key amenities to meet the diverse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Proximity to Community Facilities/ Public Services ■ Provision of New Community Facilities/ Services

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
	<p>needs of different demographic groups, vulnerable members of the community and those facing socio-economic disadvantage?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance access to natural resources, including good quality public green and blue spaces? ▪ Help to reduce levels of absolute and relative income poverty, inequality in the distribution of household wealth, and levels of multiple deprivation affecting communities? ▪ Promote social cohesion and integration? ▪ Reduce fuel poverty? 	
<p>3. Transport and Communications: Enhance the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets through improving infrastructure and creating a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets? ▪ Improve connectivity within the NPTC area and to other areas? ▪ Reduce car dependencies and encourage a shift to more sustainable forms of travel, including for people and freight? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proximity to the public transport network (bus stops and train stations); ▪ Proximity to the strategic road network (motorways and trunk roads); ▪ Proximity to existing active travel networks; ▪ Proximity to congestion pinch points;

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
<p>sustainable transport network, whilst also ensuring access to high quality communications and utilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support the increased uptake of active travel by providing integrated active travel routes? ▪ Improve the accessibility, capacity and safety of the transport network? ▪ Reduce traffic flows and congestion? ▪ Enhance the quality and integration of public transport? ▪ Enhance the provision of high-quality communications infrastructure? ▪ Improve utilities infrastructure to support economic growth and meet population needs? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Availability and the capacity of Transport & Utilities infrastructure (Water and Sewage); ▪ Drainage Management and Site Capacity; and ▪ Provision of New/ Upgraded Transport or Communications Infrastructure
<p>4. Inclusive Economic Growth: Increase the number and quality of employment opportunities and improve educational and skill levels while maximising the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance access to and diversify employment opportunities for local residents? ▪ Provide equal access to high equality employment opportunities, social and cultural activities, and public services and amenities for all? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employment capacity ▪ Mixed use Suitability; ▪ Proximity to key employment locations; ▪ Proximity to Primary Education Infrastructure; ▪ Proximity to Secondary Education Infrastructure;

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
<p>economic contribution of NPT to the Swansea Bay City Region, including through diversifying and strengthening the local economic base.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve access to employment for all demographic groups and communities, in particular for those facing structural inequalities and/or socio-economic disadvantage? ▪ Enhance opportunities for education, lifelong learning and the retention of skills within the local economy? ▪ Support the growth of further and higher education institutions? ▪ Deliver the right type of development and economic activities in the accessible locations to maximise economic competitiveness? ▪ Help to diversify and regenerate the local economy? ▪ Encourage inward investment and innovation? ▪ Promote the co-location of synergistic economic activities, industries and land uses? ▪ Support social and environmental wellbeing in NPTC and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education Infrastructure Capacity; ▪ Provision of New Education Infrastructure; ▪ Suitability of Industrial / Economic Use; ▪ Neighbouring Uses & Potential Agglomeration Effects; and ▪ Proximity to Strategic Road and Rail Network

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide the infrastructure and workspace required for new and existing businesses? ■ Promote the principles of green recovery? ■ Support the aims of the Swansea Bay City Region City Deal, including enhanced digital connectivity? ■ Promote the sustainable use and consumption of natural resources (eg utilising the DISRUPT Framework)? 	
<p>5. Housing: Provide a sufficient quantum and range of good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations to meet identified local needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Help to facilitate the increased delivery of housing to meet a range of identified needs? ■ Improve the quality of the housing stock? ■ Provide energy efficient housing stock which operates at close to zero emissions? ■ Reduce homelessness and overcrowding? ■ Increase the mix, range and affordability of housing? ■ Provide housing that encourages a sense of community? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Housing capacity of the site; ■ Deliverability of affordable housing; ■ Mixed Use Suitability; ■ Neighbouring Uses; ■ Proximity to COMAH (control of major accident hazards) sites; and ■ Proximity to Sites Designated in National Site Network (vulnerable to recreational pressures)

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delivery adequate pitches and plots required for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people? ▪ Maximise benefits of new development using appropriate housing locations and good design? 	
<p>6. Air Quality: Prevent and reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and minimise exposure to poor air quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain or improve air quality? ▪ Reduce exposure to poor air quality? ▪ Prevent and reduce emissions of harmful pollutants? ▪ Prevent and reduce poor air quality which is in proximity to international, national and local level for reasons of biodiversity, conservation, ecological or geological importance? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proximity to AQMA; ▪ Proximity to congestion pinch points; and ▪ Potential operational emissions.
<p>7. Climate Change: Adopt appropriate mitigation and adaption measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from key economic sectors? ▪ Support the minimisation of energy use? ▪ Support the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy and reduce dependency on non-renewable sources? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On-site provision of low / aero carbon energy generation; ▪ Proximity to the public transport network; and ▪ Incorporation of Climate Change Adaptation Measures.

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Facilitate investment in and promote the use of low carbon and sustainable infrastructure? ■ Implement adaptation measures to address the likely effects of climate change, including increased flood risks? ■ Promote sustainable design that minimises GHG emissions and is adaptable to the effects of climate change? ■ Restore or create a network of natural carbon capture environments including peatlands, grasslands, woodlands and within 'blue carbon' sinks? 	
<p>8. Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil: Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests, including through safeguarding important sites and species, improving green infrastructure provision and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure appropriate safeguards for the integrity and conservation objectives of sites designated at international, national or local levels for reasons of biodiversity or geodiversity value or species protection? ■ Protect and enhance valued species and habitats? ■ Safeguard Resilient Ecological Networks (RENs)? ■ Safeguard against habitat loss or fragmentation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Proximity to National Site Network Sites (SAC/SPA) ■ Proximity to SSSI; ■ Proximity to ancient woodlands; ■ Proximity to NNR; ■ Proximity to RIGS; ■ Proximity to LWS/SINC/LNR;

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
safeguarding important soil resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain and enhance urban green infrastructure? ▪ Protect or enhance protected trees or important woodland areas? ▪ Improve access to nature? ▪ Remediate known contamination of land and groundwater? ▪ Safeguard the best quality and locally important agricultural land? ▪ Protect and enhance important soil resources? ▪ Outline more direct consideration/reference to the condition of designated sites? ▪ Provide a clearer definition of ‘valued’ habitats and species. ▪ Provide a means for assessment of green infrastructure? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential Effects on Designated Sites; ▪ Presence of Important Trees, Hedgerows or Tree Protection Orders (TPOs)? ▪ Presence of Valued Habitats and Species; ▪ Standardised Ecological Summary (incorporating NRW Scoring & other information); and ▪ Agricultural land classification.

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
<p>9. Water and Flood Risk: Conserve, protect and enhance water and coastal environments, water quality and water resources, whilst reducing the risk of flooding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improve the quality of waterbodies helping to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive? ■ Maintain or enhance the ecological and chemical status of the water environment? ■ Affect the volume of surface water runoff into or abstraction from water bodies? ■ Provide a means to assess the condition of waterbodies and degree of physical modification (WFD)? ■ Protect and assess the number of properties at risk from flooding (taking account of the climate change scenarios outlined in the new Flood Map Wales)? ■ Support improvements to water infrastructure (water supply and sewerage)? ■ Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources of flooding to all people, property, infrastructure and environmental assets? ■ Manage residual flood risks appropriately and avoid new flood risks? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Proximity to Flood Risk Zones; ■ Proximity to Main Rivers and Lakes, and ■ Utilities Capacity (Power, Water Supply and Drainage).

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review average water usage per household? ▪ Avoid new development in areas prone to flood risk or mitigate the potential for such risk? ▪ Promote the deployment of sustainable urban drainage systems and promote nature-based solutions for better management of surface water? ▪ Maintain and restore natural river processes to safeguard river habitats and help to mitigate the effects of climate change including flooding and droughts? ▪ Conserve water resources and promote water efficiency? 	
<p>10. Material assets and Waste: Contribute to the implementation of the circular economy, manage waste with minimal environmental impacts and ensure the sustainable use of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimise the production of waste? ▪ Promote the principles of circular economy? ▪ Treat and process waste with minimal environmental impact? ▪ Minimise the demand for raw materials and the need for minerals extraction? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proximity to Community Recycling Centres, and ▪ Locational need for minerals extraction.

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
<p>natural resources, including for energy generation and providing an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote the use of local resources and minimise the importation of minerals? 	
<p>11. Sustainable Placemaking: Maximise the efficient use of land and enhance design quality to create great places for people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote high quality architecture and design which strengthens local distinctiveness, linked to historic and cultural protections, and fosters a sense of place? ■ Create and maintain a safe and attractive public realm which encourages people to walk and cycle? ■ Ensure appropriate siting, scale, massing and density of development? ■ Make the best use of land, including through prioritising the redevelopment of brownfield sites and locating high footfall uses close to the public transport network? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Previously Developed Land or Greenfield Land, and ■ Proximity to existing active travel networks.

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reduce opportunities for crime and antisocial behaviour through the siting and design of new development? ■ Provide public realm which feels safe to all users at all times? ■ Consider nature-based solutions in sustainable placemaking? ■ Make space for and integrate green infrastructure as intrinsic part of design and function of new places? ■ Facilitate well connected spaces for people and nature? 	
<p>12. Cultural Heritage and Welsh Language: Conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets, including the use of the Welsh language.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increase availability and accessibility of culture, leisure and recreation activities/venues? ■ Conserve, protect and enhance the integrity, character and setting of historic assets? ■ Protect and enhance the qualities of areas of historical or cultural significance? ■ Promote the sensitive re-use of historic or culturally important buildings? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Proximity to Scheduled Monuments; ■ Proximity to Listed Buildings; ■ Impacts on Important Archaeological Site; ■ Effect on Designated Sites; ■ Re-Use of Historic or Culturally Important Buildings; and ■ Effect on Welsh Language.

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Guide Questions – <i>Will the RLDP...</i>	Proposed Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserve and, where appropriate, enhance important archaeological resources? ▪ Safeguard and increase the use of the Welsh language? 	
<p>13. Landscape: Protect and enhance the landscape character, visual amenity and legibility of settlements in NPT.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance landscape character, local distinctiveness and sense of place? ▪ Safeguard important landscape and townscape features? ▪ Protect visual amenity and valued views? ▪ Prevent urban sprawl? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proximity to SLA or Heritage Coast; ▪ Proximity to Brecon Beacons National Park Boundary/ Dark Skies Area; ▪ Visual Amenity Impacts; ▪ Individual Site Integration/ Coalescence/ Separation Impact; and ▪ Spatial Development Effect (incl. cumulative impact).