Revised Local 2018-2033 Development Plan

Initial Report - Non Technical Summary

Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA)

Cyngor Sir Gâr Carmarthenshire County Council

December 2018

Contents

1. Revised Local Development Plan

1.1 Carmarthenshire County Council has begun preparing the Revised Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP sets out the Council's vision and objectives for the use and development of land in Carmarthenshire, and its policies and proposals to implement them, for the period up to 2033. It will set out how much growth is needed and where it will be located in the county. It will also seek to protect certain areas from inappropriate development to support the landscape and countryside.

2. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

2.1 When producing an LDP, it is important that its social, economic and environmental impacts are considered. The Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment are tools which allow an objective, evidence-based assessment of the LDP's effects to be made, and aims to minimise and negative effects and maximise positive ones.

2.2 It is a legal requirement that LDP is subject to SA, under the Planning Act Wales (2015) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales). This act also requires that the SA integrates and complies with the requirements of the EU SEA Directive and SEA Regulations.

2.3 The principle of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and in the future, lies at the heart of sustainable development.
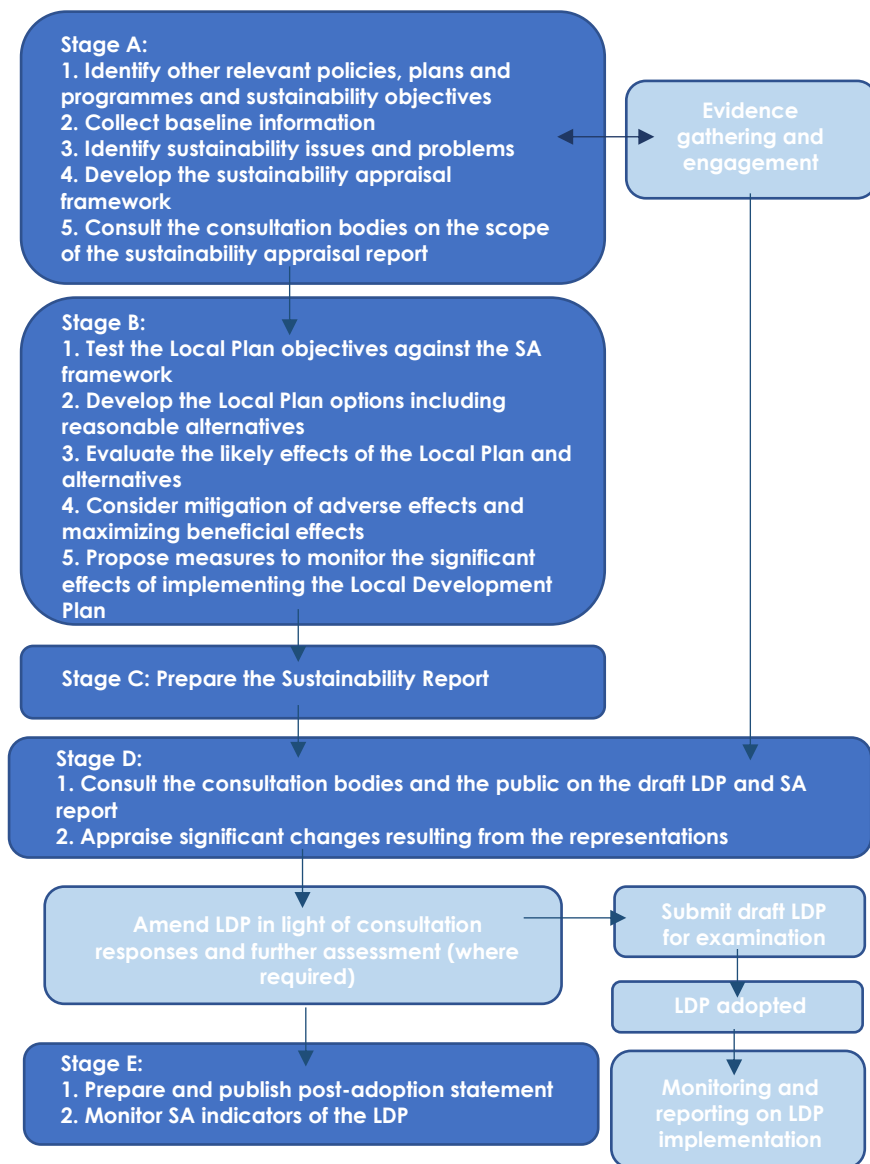
3. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Process

3.1 The SA process requires five main stages to be undertaken, which occur alongside the preparation of the revised LDP, which is outlined in Figure 1. These stages are:

- **Stage A:** Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope. This stage occurs alongside the 'Evidence Gathering' stage of the LDP.

- **Stage B**: Developing and refining alternatives and addressing the effects. This stage occurs alongside the 'Issues and Options' stage of the LDP.

- **Stage C**: Preparing the Environmental Report

- **Stage D**: Consulting on the Environmental Report. This stage occurs alongside the 'Preferred Options' stage of the LDP.

- **Stage E**: Monitoring the implementation of the plan. This stage occurs after the preferred LDP has been submitted and accepted.

Sustainability Appraisal Process

Local Development Plan Process

4. The Sustainability Framework

4.1 From the baseline information, the Scoping Report identified 15 sustainability objectives. These objectives reflect the issues highlighted in the SA Scoping Report, and also include topics that are listed in Strategic Environmental Assessment regulations. These are:

SA1 Sustainable Development
SA2 Biodiversity
SA3 Air Quality
SA4 Climatic Factors
SA5 Water
SA6 Material Assets
SA7 Soil
SA8 Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment
SA9 Landscape
SA10 Population
SA11 The Welsh Language
SA12 Health and Well-being
SA13 Education and Skills
SA14 Economy
SA15 Social Fabric

4.2 The objectives form a framework against which the sustainability of the Plan's policies and proposals can be measured.

5. Stage B - Initial Sustainability Appraisal

5.1 The Initial Sustainability Appraisal is the second document to be produced as part of the SA/SEA process and addresses Stage B. The aim of the Initial appraisal is to assess the sustainability of the LDP Preferred Strategy, including:

- The Plan's vision and strategic objectives.
- The different options proposed for housing growth
- The different spatial options proposed for the distribution of growth.
- The strategic policies proposed to implement the strategy.

Determining Effects

5.2 Testing the sustainability of the Preferred Strategy includes predicting what changes to the baseline may result from the implementation of the plan. In doing this, the SA considered the following:

- The magnitude of the plans effects
- The sensitivity of the environment being impacted
- The nature of effects including probability, duration, frequency, reversibility and cumulative effects.

Timescales

5.3 It is also important to consider the timescales over which effects may take place. With this in mind, the SA considered effects over the following timescales:

- Short Term (S): 0-5 years
- Medium Term (M): 6-10 years
- Long Term (L): 11-20 years

Impact Matrices

5.4 In order to test the Preferred Strategy against the Sustainability Framework, matrices were used to summarise the appraisal using the criteria below:

Symbol	Predicted Effects	
++	Very Positive Effects	Subject would significantly help in achieving SA objective
+	Positive Effects	Subject would help in achieving SA objective
+/-	Positive and negative effects	Subject would help some elements of the SA, whilst hindering others
-	Negative effects	Subject would be in conflict with the SA objective
--	Very negative effects	Subject would be in significant conflict with the SA objective
I	Effect depends on implementation	Depends on how policy/allocations are implemented
?	Uncertain effect	More information required

6. SA of Vision and Objectives

6.1 The LDP vision and objectives have been assessed against the SA framework in order to identify any significant effects or unsustainable outcomes. This will help to refine the vision and objectives and ensure that they fully reflect the principles of sustainability. The draft vision is below:

One Carmarthenshire

Carmarthenshire 2033 will be a place to start, live and age well within a healthy, safe and prosperous environment, where its rich cultural and environmental qualities are valued and respected.

It will have prosperous, cohesive and sustainable communities providing increased opportunities, interventions and connections for people, places and organisations in both rural and urban parts of our County.

It will have a strong economy that reflects its position as a confident and ambitious driver for the Swansea Bay City Region.

6.2 The SA concluded that the vision performed well against the framework. It was noted that it was difficult to assess what effect the vision would have on environmental objectives as they were not referred to directly, however the vision does support *'environmental qualities [being] valued and respected'*.

6.3 It was noted that there was no specific reference to Welsh Language in the Vision and so at this time there was no link between the LDP vision and Welsh Language SA objective.

6.4 The LDP objectives provide clear statements on how the LDP vision is to be delivered. They provide a framework by which the strategic policies are formed, and will later provide a basis for the more specific strategic policies. The Strategic Objectives are listed on page 8.

6.5 The SA found that the 14 Strategic Objectives performed positively against the Sustainability Framework, with very few potential conflicts highlighted.

6.6 Many of the effects as a result of the LDP were difficult to predict as the outcomes are dependent on the type of development, activity or location. The SA also highlighted some potential conflicts, with regards to Biodiversity, Air Quality, Water and Cultural Heritage. These uncertain and potentially negative impacts should, where possible, be resolved through the detailed LDP policies and appropriate mitigation.

6.7 A summary matrix of the full assessment is shown on page 9.

6.8 The full assessment can be found on pages 10 to 16 of the full Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report.

7. Preferred Strategy Strategic Objectives

Healthy Habits – People have a good quality of life and make healthy choices about their lives and environment

- **SO1** To ensure that the natural environment, including habitats and species, are safeguarded and enhanced
- **SO2** To assist with widening and promoting wellbeing opportunities through access to community, leisure and recreational facilities as well as the countryside
- **SO5** To safeguarded and enhance the built and historic environment and promote the appropriate reuse of redundant buildings.

Early Intervention – To make sure that people have the right help at the right time; as and when they need it

- **SO3** To assist in widening and promoting education and skills training opportunities for all.
- **SO4** To ensure that the principles of equal opportunities and social inclusion are upheld by promoting access to a high quality and diverse mix of public services, healthcare, shops, leisure facilities and work opportunities, as well as vibrant town centres.

Strong Connections – Strongly connected people, places and organisations that are able to adapt to change

- **SO6** To ensure that the principles of spatial sustainability are upheld by directing development to sustainable locations with access to services and facilities and wherever possible encouraging the reuse of previously developed land.
- **SO7** To make a significant contribution towards tackling the cause and adapting to the effect of climate change, including promoting the efficient use and safeguarding of resources.
- **SO8** To contribute to the delivery of an accessible integrated and sustainable transport system, including links to alternative transport methods

Prosperous People and Places – To maximise opportunities for people and places in both urban and rural parts of our county

- **SO9** To protect and enhance the diverse character, distinctiveness, safety and vibrancy of the County's communities by promoting a place making approach and a sense of place.
- **SO10** To make provision for an appropriate mix of quality homes across the County based around the principles of sustainable socio-economic development and equality of opportunities.
- **SO11** To assist in protecting, enhancing and promoting the Welsh Language and the County's unique cultural identity, assets and social fabric.
- **SO12** To encourage investment & innovation in rural and urban areas by making adequate provision to meet employment need and to contribute at a regional level to the delivery of the Swansea Bay City Deal.
- **SO13** To make provision for sustainable & high quality all year round tourism related initiatives.
- **SO14** To reflect the requirements associated with the delivery of new development, both in terms of hard and soft infrastructure (including broadband).

8. Summary Matrix of SA of Strategic Objectives

Vision and objectives	SA1 Sustainable Development	SA2 Biodiversity	SA3 Air Quality	SA4 Climatic Factors	SA5 Water	SA6 Material Assets	SA7 Soil	SA8 Cultural Heritage	SA9 Landscape	SA10 Population	SA11 The Welsh Language	SA12 Health and Well-being	SA13 Education and Skills	SA14 Economy	SA15 Social Fabric
Vision	+	+	?	?	?	+	?	?	?	+		+	+	+	+
SO1	+	+	+	+	+							?			
SO2	+	?		?		+				+		+			+
SO3	+									+	+				+
SO4	+		+	+		+			+	+	+			+	+
SO5	+						+	+	+		+	+			
SO6	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+			+	+		+
SO7	+		+	+	+	+									
SO8	+			+		+				+		+			+
SO9	+	+							+	+	+				+
SO10	+								+	+	+				+
SO11	+									+	+		+		+
SO12	+	-	-	?	-	?				+	?	+	+	+	+
SO13	+	-	-		-			-		+	?	+	+	+	
SO14	+		+	+	+	+				+		+	+	+	+

9. Sustainability Appraisal of Growth Options

9.1 The revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan will need to consider population, housing and economic growth within the County over the fifteen year plan period. The Preferred Strategy assessed eight growth options based on different demographic and employment trends. For each of the options, the number of houses that would be required to support the growth was also estimated.

Growth Option	Number of houses required annually
1. Welsh Government 2014 (based on Welsh Government projections)	224
2. Welsh Government (based on 10 year trends)	436
3. Short Term (based on 5 year trends)	470
4. Medium Term (based on 10 year trends)	482
5. Long Term (based on 16 year trends)	659
6. Pre-Recession (based on pre-2008 trends)	939
7. Employment Fixed (based on fixed rate of commuting)	1,160
8. Employment Reduced Commuting (based on reducing commuting rate)	1,313

9.2 The SA concluded that Options 4 and 5 were the most sustainable of the Growth Options as they best balanced the socio-economic benefits associated with higher growth against the potential for negative environmental impacts.

9.3 Options 1 and 2 saw low growth that performed better in terms of environmental impacts but did not sufficiently address existing socio-economic issues in the County, such as population balance, affordable housing and access to health facilities.

9.4 Options 7 and 8 had the highest potential for negative impacts on the environment but performed well against socio-economic sustainability objectives, such as economy and population.

9.5 A summary of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Growth Options is shown on page 11.

9.6 The full assessment can be found on pages 17 to 38 of the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report.

10. Summary Matrix of SA of Growth Options

Growth Option	SA1 Sustainable Development	SA2 Biodiversity	SA3 Air Quality	SA4 Climatic Factors	SA5 Water	SA6 Material Assets	SA7 Soil	SA8 Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	SA9 Landscape	SA10 Population	SA11 Welsh Language	SA12 Health and Well-being	SA13 Education and Skills	SA14 Economy	SA15 Social Fabric
Option 1 224 dwellings a year	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+		+	I	I	--	-	--	?	--	--
Option 2 436 dwellings a year	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+		+/-	I	I	-	-	-	?	-	-
Option 3 470 dwellings a year	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+		+/-	I	I	-	-	-	?	-	-
Option 4 482 dwellings a year	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+		+/-	I	I	-	-	-	?	-	-
Option 5 659 dwellings a year	+	+/-	+/--	+/-	+		+/-	I	I	+	+	?	?	+	+
Option 6 939 dwellings a year	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	-		+/-	I	I	+	+	?	?	+	+
Option 7 1,160 dwellings a year	-	-	-	-	-		-	I	I	+	+/-	+	?	++	+
Option 8 1,313 dwellings a year	-	-	-	-	--		-	I	I	+	+/-	+	?	++	+

11. Sustainability Appraisal of Spatial Options

11.1 The Preferred Strategy has identified and developed a range of spatial options which demonstrate different ways that growth can be distributed spatially across the County.

11.2 Six spatial options were identified and tested against the sustainability framework:

- **Option 1**: Sustainable Distribution (Current LDP option)
- **Option 2**: Infrastructure and Transport Network
- **Option 3**: Dispersal
- **Option 4**: Community Led
- **Option 5**: Swansea Bay City Region Influence and Ripple
- **Option 6**: Market Led

11.3 Overall, the SA concluded that **Options 1 and 4** were the most sustainable of the spatial options as they performed well in terms of economy, improving social fabric and addressing the needs of both rural and urban areas of the County. Positive effects were also predicted on the Welsh Language as supporting vibrant communities in both rural and urban areas is likely to encourage the retention of young welsh speakers in the County.

11.4 This was in contrast to **Options 2 and 3** which performed poorly against the sustainability framework as they do not specifically address rural economy or needs and did not perform well against improving social equality across the County.

11.5 **Options 5 and 6** were similar in terms of their impacts as they both saw highest growth in areas that have historically taken growth, such as Llanelli, Cross hands and Carmarthen. Option 5 in particular performed well in terms of the economy

and education and skills due to the ripple effect that inward investment from the Swansea Bay City Deal will have across the County.

11.6 However, they did not perform well against the environmental SA objectives such as air quality, water and climatic factors due to these options distributing growth to areas that currently have air quality issues and are already at a flood risk.

11.7 For all of the Spatial Options, their performance against Sustainability Objectives such as cultural heritage, biodiversity and landscape is largely dependent on site selection and implementation due to the site specific nature of these impacts.

11.8 A summary of the Sustainability Appraisal for each of the spatial options is shown on pages 13 to 18.

11.9 The full assessment can be found on pages 39 to 71 of the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report.

SA of Spatial Option 1 – Sustainable Distribution

OPTION 1
Current LDP Strategy - Sustainable Distribution

Legend:
- URBAN GROWTH AREAS
- SECONDARY SETTLEMENTS
- TERTIARY SETTLEMENTS
- VILLAGE CLUSTERS AND KEY RURAL SETTLEMENTS
- SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREA

This option focusses growth proportionally across a hierarchy underpinned by the principles of sustainability. In doing so, this option:

- Encourages the dispersal of employment, housing and other types of development to identified settlements and village groups or clusters in a manner reflective of their existing scale, population and availability of facilities and services.
- Reflects the diversity of the County and growth is apportioned appropriately to urban and rural use areas.
- Focusses the majority of employment growth in larger towns and villages.

SA Objective	Timescale	1. Sustainable Development	2. Biodiversity	3. Air Quality	4. Climactic Factors	5. Water	6. Material Assets	7. Soil	8. Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	9. Landscape	10. Population	11. The Welsh Language	12. Health and Wellbeing	13. Education and Skills	14. Economy	15. Social Fabric	Overall
	S	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+
SO1	M	+	I	-	+	+/-	+	I	I	I	++	+	+	+	+	+	+
	L	+	I	-	+/-	+/-	++	I	I	I	++	+	+	+	+	+	+

SA of Spatial Option 2 – Infrastructure and Transport Network

OPTION 2
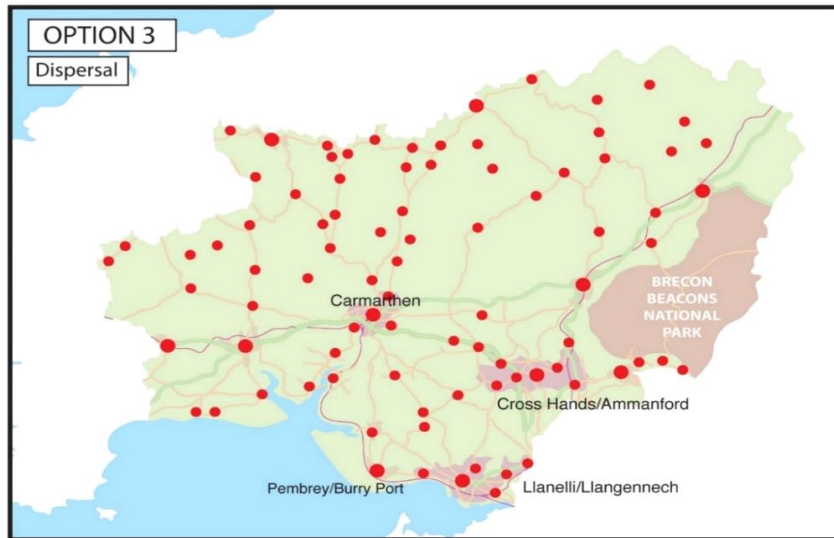Infrastructure and Transport Network
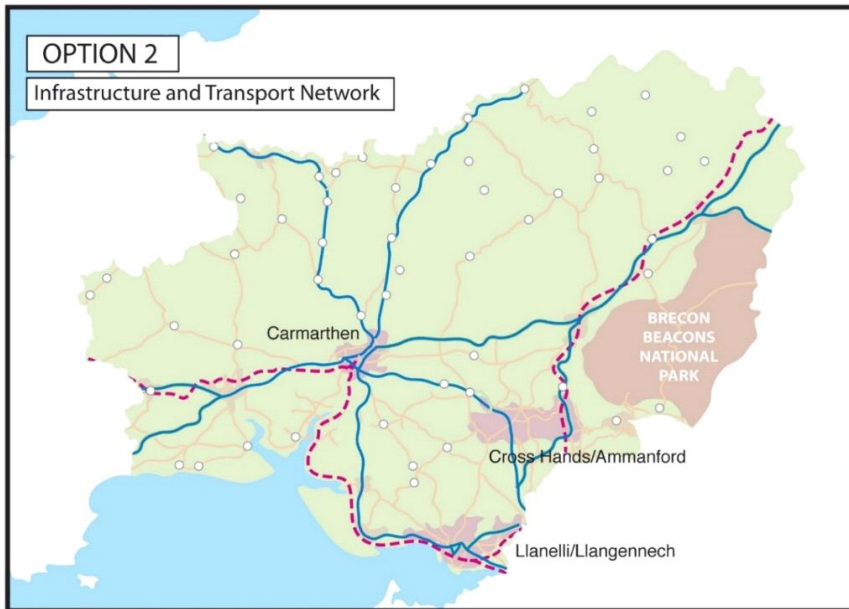
This option looks at the existing provision of utility infrastructure and the highway network across the County and aims to focus the majority of growth in areas with the capacity for growth. This option seeks to encourage growth in areas which it can most feasibly be accommodated by:

- Encouraging growth along the key transport routes and junctions of the M4, A40, A48, A484, A474 and A485, as well as in locations accessible to other modes of transport including the rail network, cycle network and pedestrian linkages.
- Encouraging growth in areas where there is either current or planned capacity for the supply and treatment of water and waste water.
- Encouraging growth in areas where there are sufficient services and facilities to support communities.

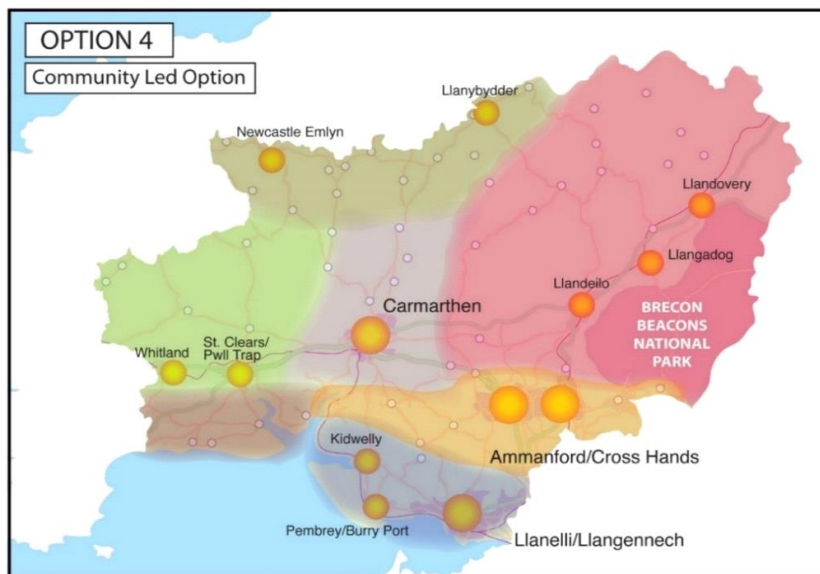| SA Objective	Timescale	1. Sustainable Development	2. Biodiversity	3. Air Quality	4. Climactic Factors	5. Water	6. Material Assets	7. Soil	8. Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	9. Landscape	10. Population	11. The Welsh Language	12. Health and Wellbeing	13. Education and Skills	14. Economy	15. Social Fabric	Overall
	S	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+/-	+	+	+	-	+
SO2	M	-	+	-	+/-	+	-	+	I	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	L	-	-	--	-	-	-	I	I	I	--	-	-	-	-	-	-

SA of Spatial Option 3 – Dispersal

This option distributes housing, employment and other forms of development on a broad basis between settlements within the County, both urban and rural. It allows settlements to grow incrementally without necessarily taking account of the availability of services or facilities nor the impact which growth could have upon the existing communities and their capacity to accommodate and absorb growth.

This option would see a higher proportion of the County's growth being directed to the rural areas and a lower proportion to the existing urban areas.

| SA Objective	Timescale	1. Sustainable Development	2. Biodiversity	3. Air Quality	4. Climactic Factors	5. Water	6. Material Assets	7. Soil	8. Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	9. Landscape	10. Population	11. The Welsh Language	12. Health and Wellbeing	13. Education and Skills	14. Economy	15. Social Fabric	Overall
	S	-	I	-	+/-	+/-	-	I	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SO3	M	-	I	-	+/-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	L	+	-	+	+/-	-	+	-	I	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+

SA of Spatial Option 4 – Community Led

This option focusses on the role of settlements within their wider locality and community, acknowledging the relationships and interdependency between settlements and considers how the local communities work and live.

This option will encourage growth in areas which play a significant role in the wider community; through the provision of facilities and services seeking to reflect the needs of communities, including their demand for housing.

This option should reflect an understanding of local communities and focus growth in areas where it is needed to support communities and their aspirations for future growth and ongoing sustainability of facilities and services. This is likely to result in the allocation of smaller sites and a higher proportion of growth being directed to smaller settlements.

SA Objective	Timescale	1. Sustainable Development	2. Biodiversity	3. Air Quality	4. Climactic Factors	5. Water	6. Material Assets	7. Soil	8. Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	9. Landscape	10. Population	11. The Welsh Language	12. Health and Wellbeing	13. Education and Skills	14. Economy	15. Social Fabric	Overall
SO4	S	?	-	-	+/-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	?
	M	+	I	-	+/-	+	+	I	I	I	++	+	++	+	+	++	+
	L	+	I	+	+/-	+	++	I	I	I	++	+	++	+	++	++	++

SA of Spatial Option 5 – Swansea Bay City Region Influence and Ripple

OPTION 5

Swansea Bay City Region Influence and Ripple Option
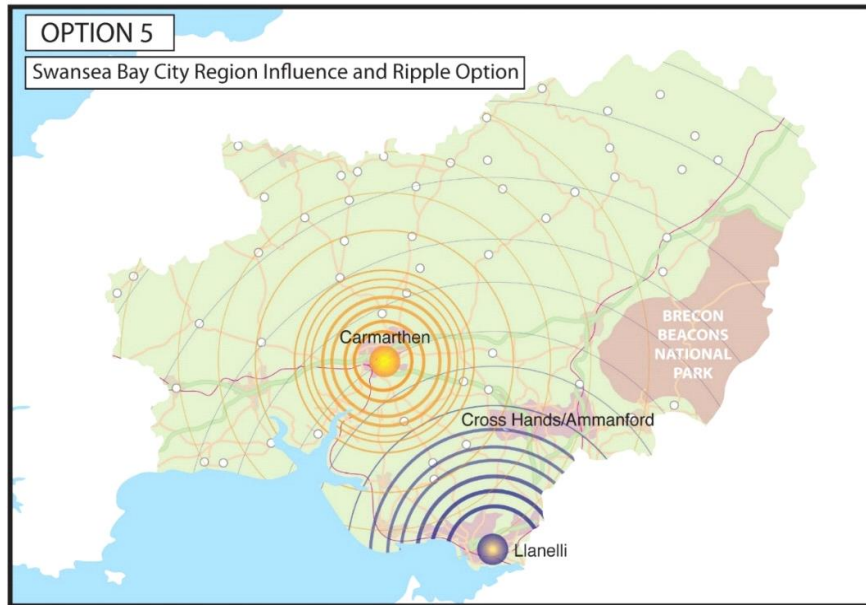
This option is focussed on the projects and investment planned as part of the Swansea Bay City Deal and channels growth to align with these geographical areas. The projects proposed for Carmarthenshire are:
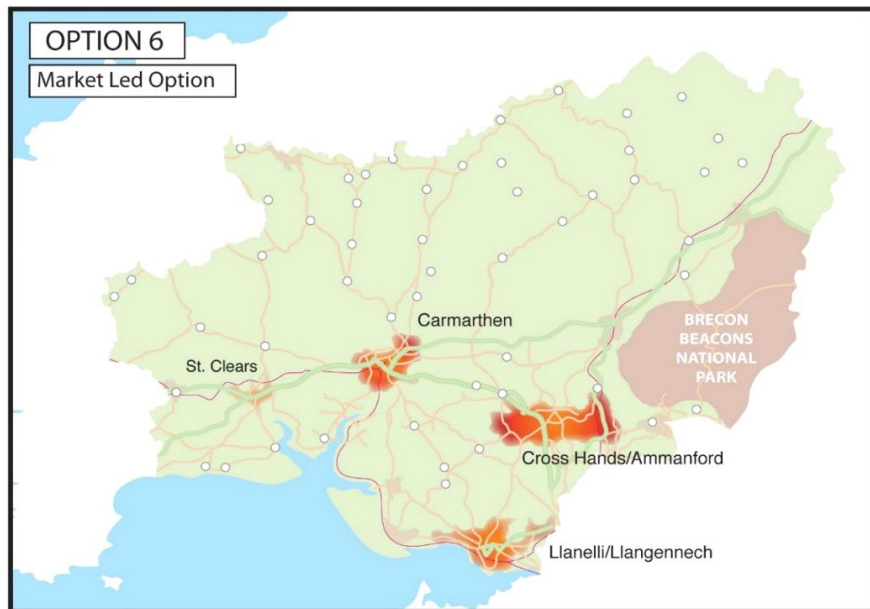
The Life Science and Well-being Village, Llanelli. This facility is a village providing facilities and services which promote and improve well-being. It is proposed to be a multi-faceted facility integrating business development, education, healthcare, leisure, tourism, wellness support and research into life sciences in one location; and,

Yr Egin, Carmarthen. This facility would be a new creative, digital and media hub to be based at the University of Wales, Trinity St David.

This option is likely to see the majority of growth focussed in Carmarthen and Llanelli and the surrounding areas. This will see some growth focussed in the areas between these two areas, however, settlements further away from Carmarthen and Llanelli will see very little growth but could nevertheless benefit from the inward investment

SA Objective	Timescale	1. Sustainable Development	2. Biodiversity	3. Air Quality	4. Climactic Factors	5. Water	6. Material Assets	7. Soil	8. Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	9. Landscape	10. Population	11. The Welsh Language	12. Health and Wellbeing	13. Education and Skills	14. Economy	15. Social Fabric	Overall (Median)
	S	+	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	+
SO5	M	-	I	-	-	-	-	+	I	I	+/-	-	+/-	?	?	-	-
	L	-	I	--	-	-	-	I	I	I	+/-	-	+/-	?	-	-	-

SA of Spatial Option 6 – Market Led

This option will aim to meet the aspirations and requirements of the development industry by identifying sites and areas which are the most economically attractive to develop. This option looks at the market success of settlements within the county since 2008 and apportions growth in accordance with past delivery rates.

The past delivery rates indicate that the majority of growth took place in the Llanelli and Hendy areas with a significant amount of development also being directed to the Carmarthen and the Ammanford/Cross Hands growth areas.

This approach could be construed as 'planning based on numbers'. It would seek to direct growth in accordance with the highest delivery rates of the past and where developers would build.

SA Objective	Timescale	1. Sustainable Development	2. Biodiversity	3. Air Quality	4. Climactic Factors	5. Water	6. Material Assets	7. Soil	8. Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	9. Landscape	10. Population	11. The Welsh Language	12. Health and Wellbeing	13. Education and Skills	14. Economy	15. Social Fabric	Overall (Median)
	S	+	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	+
SO6	M	-	I	-	-	-	-	+	I	I	+/-	-	+/-	?	?	-	-
	L	-	I	--	-	-	-	I	I	I	+/-	-	+/-	?	-	-	-

18

12. Hybrid Option – Balanced Community and Sustainable Growth

12.1 As a result of the conclusions of the SA and other stakeholder engagement, it was recommended that a hybrid spatial option be considered as the preferred option, to take forward to the full LDP. This hybrid brings together the strongest elements of each of the spatial options, to form a new spatial option.

12.2 The hybrid option is based on Option 4 – Community Led with the aim of retaining an approach which reflects the role and function of settlements. The hybrid will also incorporate elements of Option 5, recognising the investment and economic benefits to the County of the Swansea Bay City Deal.

12.3 It also acknowledges the focus of Option 2; that sustainable growth needs to be supported by a range of appropriate infrastructure. In line with Option 6, it also recognises that growth must be deliverable and orientated to community need and market demand.

12.4 The hybrid option was assessed against the SA framework and a summary is shown on page 20.

12.5 The SA concluded that the Hybrid Option performed very well against the socio-economic sustainability Objectives, maximising opportunities for education and skills, population, economy and health and wellbeing.

12.6 The Hybrid Option also performed well in terms of Welsh Language as it would provide a vibrant and attractive economic and social climate for young Welsh speakers in the County.

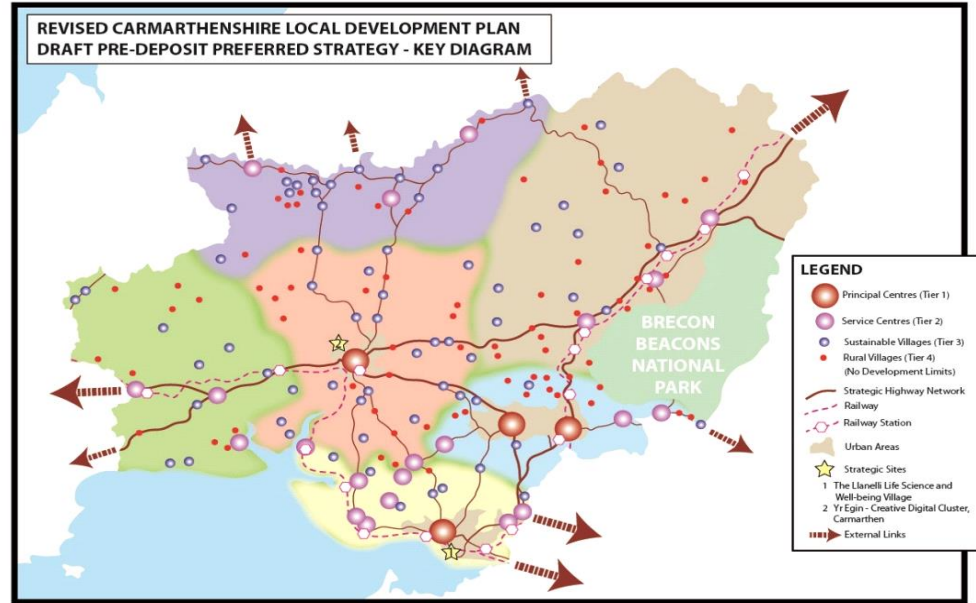12.7 The Hybrid option minimised impacts on air quality and climatic factors due to growth being sustainably located where sufficient infrastructure exists, minimising private car use. It also went some way to reducing the risks associated with flooding as less growth is directed to areas at high risk.

12.8 The full assessment can be found on pages 67 to 71 of the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report.

SA of Hybrid Spatial Option

REVISED CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
DRAFT PRE-DEPOSIT PREFERRED STRATEGY - KEY DIAGRAM

SA Objective	Timescale	1. Sustainable Development	2. Biodiversity	3. Air Quality	4. Climactic Factors	5. Water	6. Material Assets	7. Soil	8. Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	9. Landscape	10. Population	11. The Welsh Language	12. Health and Wellbeing	13. Education and Skills	14. Economy	15. Social Fabric	Overall (Median)
	S	+	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	++	+	+	+
SO7	M	+	I	+	+/-	+	+	I	I	I	++	+	++	++	++	++	+
	L	+	I	+	+	+	++	I	I	I	++	+	++	++	++	++	+

13. Sustainability Appraisal of Strategic Policies

13.1 The LDP Strategic Policies are high level policies which look to deliver the Vision and Strategic Objectives. These policies will be accompanied by more detailed Specific Policies at the Deposit stage of the LDP.

13.2 The draft Strategic Policies are set out below (excluding their supporting text):

- **SP1** Strategic Growth
- **SP2** Retail and Town Centres
- **SP3** Providing New Homes
- **SP4** Affordable Homes
- **SP5** Strategic Sites
- **SP6** Employment and the Economy
- **SP7** Welsh Language and Culture
- **SP8** Infrastructure
- **SP9** Gypsy and Traveller Provision
- **SP10** The Visitor Economy
- **SP11** Placemaking, Sustainability and High Quality Design
- **SP12** Rural Development
- **SP13** Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment
- **SP14** Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment
- **SP15** Climate Change
- **SP16** Sustainable Distribution – Settlement Framework
- **SP17** Transport and Accessibility
- **SP18** Mineral Resources
- **SP19** Waste Management

13.3 The full detail of these policies can be found in chapter 11 of the revsied LDP Preferred Strategy.

13.4 A summary of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Strategic Policies is shown on page 22. The full appraisal can be found in the Initial Sustainability Appraisal of the Preferred Strategy on pages 72 to 102.

13.5 The SA found that the 19 Strategic Policies performed positively against the Sustainability Framework, with very few potential conflicts highlighted.

13.6 The main conflicts between the Strategic Policies and the sustainability framework were with regards to biodiversity, air quality and climatic factors. However all policies performed well against population, education and skills, health and wellbeing and economic objectives.

13.7 The SA made a number of recommendations as part of the appraisal to improve the sustainability of the policies and mitigate against identified impacts. Where issues may remain, these should be address in the formulation of the detailed policies for the Deposit stage of the LDP.

14. Summary matrix of the SA of the Strategic Policies

Strategic Policy	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15
SP1	+	-	-	-	+	+	I	I	I	++	+/-	+	+	++	+
SP2	+	I	+/-	+/-	I		I	I	+	+				++	
SP3	+	-	-	-	+	+	I	I	I	++	+/-	+	+	++	+
SP4	+									++	+	+	+	+	++
SP5	+	-	+/-	+/-	?	+	I	I	I	++	+	++	++	++	++
SP6	+	-	+/-	+	?	+	I	I	I	++	+/-		+	++	+
SP7	+							+		+	++		+	+	++
SP8	++	+/-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	++		+	+	+	++
SP9	+	I			?		I	I	I	+					+
SP10	+	I	+/-	+/-	I	+	I	I	I	+	+/-	++	+	++	+
SP11	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+		+		+	+
SP12	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	I	-	+	+/-	+	+	++	++
SP13	+	++	+	+	+		+		+			+		+	
SP14	+							++	+			+		+	
SP15	++	+	+	++	+	+						+	?		
SP16	++	-	+	+	?	++	I	I	I	++	+/-	+	+	++	++
SP17	++	+	++	+		++				+		+	+		+
SP18	I	-	-	-		?	-	I	-					+	
SP19	I	-	I	I		+	-	I	-				I	+	

15. Overall Effects and Mitigation

15.1 Overall, the Sustainability Appraisal found that the Preferred Strategy would have significant benefits in term of providing the housing and employment land required to support sustainable growth in Carmarthenshire.

15.2 It performs well against the socio-economic objectives of the sustainability framework, with strategic options that look to improve access to good quality jobs, services and supporting infrastructure across the County, with a view to addressing some of the disparity between rural and urban areas. The Preferred Strategy also aims to improve health and well-being across the County, with better housing, access to open space and active travel facilities.

15.3 As is the case with any development, some potential negative impacts remain, in particular with regards to biodiversity, air quality and climatic factors. However, with suitable mitigation in place, this negative impact can be reduced.

15.4 Some mitigation measures have already been implemented within the Strategy as a result of the SA appraisal, such as the selection of a Hybrid spatial option that looked to combine the best aspects of the existing alternatives. The Sustainability Appraisal has also suggested some changes to the wording of the Strategic Policies.

15.5 A summary of the SA of the whole Preferred Strategy is shown on page 24.

16. Summary Matrix of the SA of the Preferred Strategy

SA Objective	SA1 Sustainable Development	SA2 Biodiversity	SA3 Air Quality	SA4 Climatic Factors	SA5 Water	SA6 –Material Assets	SA7 Soil	SA8 Cultural heritage and Historic Environment	SA9 Landscape	SA10 Population	SA11 The Welsh Language	SA12 Health and Well-being	SA13 Education and Skills	SA14 Economy	SA15 Social Fabric
Vision	+	+	?	?	?	+	?	?	?	+		+	+	+	+
Objectives	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	++
Growth Option 4	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	?		+/-	I	I	+	+	?	?	+	+
Spatial Option Hybrid	+	I	+	+/-	+	+	I	I	I	++	+	++	++	++	++
Strategic Policies															
SP1	+	-	-	-	?	+	I	I	I	++	+/-	+	+	++	+
SP2	+	I	+/-	+/-	I		I	I	+	+				++	
SP3	+	-	-	-	+	+	I	I	I	++	+/-	+	+	++	+
SP4	+									++	+	+	+	+	++
SP5	+	-	+/-	+/-	?	+	I	I	I	++	+	++	++	++	++
SP6	+	-	+/-	+	?	+	I	I	I	++	+/-		+	++	+
SP7	+							+		+	++		+	+	++
SP8	++	+/-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	++		+	+	+	++
SP9	+	I			?		I	I	I	+					+
SP10	+	I	+/-	+/-	I	+	I	I	I	+	+/-	++	+	++	+
SP11	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+		+		+	+
SP12	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	I	-	+	+/-	+	+	++	++
SP13	+	++	+	+	+		+		+			+		+	
SP14	+							++	+			+		+	
SP15	++	+	+	++	+	+							+	?	
SP16	++	-	+	+	?	++	I	I	I	++	+/-	+	+	++	++
SP17	++	+	++	+		++						+	+		+
SP18	I	-	-	-		?	-	I	-					+	
SP19	I	-	I	I		+	-	I	-				I	+	

17. Contact Information

17.1 Copies of the full Initial Sustainability Appraisal are available from the Forward Planning Section or can be viewed on the Authority's website (www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk).

17.2 The report can also be inspected at the Council's Customer Service Centres, public Libraries and at Planning Offices in Carmarthen, Llanelli and Llandeilo.

17.3 Response forms may be downloaded from the website and are also available from the above locations or by contacting the Forward Planning Section directly.

17.4 Your views on the Initial SA should be sent in writing to:
Forward Planning Section,
Environment Department,
7/8 Spilman Street,
Carmarthen,
Carmarthenshire,
SA31 1JY

17.5 or e mail: forward.planning@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
or online at www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk by the closing date of Friday 8th February 2019