

**Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales)
Regulations 2004
Regulation 16(4)**

Pembrokeshire County Council

Pembrokeshire Local Development Plan: Adoption - 2021

Adopted 28 February 2013

SA/SEA Statement

1.0 Introduction

Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 requires the production and publication of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement as part of the LDP adoption process. The SEA was incorporated into a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report as advised by guidance (A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, 2005¹). Note that where reference is made to the SA Report throughout this document this incorporates the SEA. This document is structured to address the specific requirements of section 16 (4) of the legislation.

Copies of the adopted LDP, the Inspector's binding report, the finalised Sustainability Appraisal Report (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report), the Habitats Regulations Appraisal², the Consultation Report, the Adoption Notice and this Adoption Statement are available for inspection free of charge at County Hall, Haverfordwest, Libraries and others. They are also available on the Council's website at www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk.

2.0 SA/SEA Statement

Regulation 16 (4) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations) requires publication of a statement, accompanying adoption that addresses

- a. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
- b. How the Environmental Report has been taken into account;
- c. How opinions expressed in response to statutory public consultations have been taken into account;
- d. How the results of any transboundary consultations have been taken into account;
- e. The reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted, in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and

¹ Practical guidance on applying European Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment" produced by Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government, Department of Environment, Northern Ireland and Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: London Paragraph 5.C.3

² The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)

- f. The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan.

This document addresses each of the requirements in turn and does not duplicate information presented in existing documents³; the published LDP, the LDP Consultation Report (2012), the LDP SA Report and the Inspector's Report. Appropriate cross-references are made to the relevant documents.

The LDP was also subject to Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA), this document is provided separately.

This Statement should be read in conjunction with the LDP Adoption Notice.

3.0 How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan

Regulation 16 (4) (A)

The LDP has been subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in order to consider the potential impact of the Plan on the environment and to ensure that social, environmental and economic elements of sustainable development were integrated into the Plan from the outset. The SA Report and LDP were developed in parallel, with each stage of the SA informing and influencing the LDP. A Habitats Regulations Appraisal was also undertaken. The relevant information is contained within existing published SA and HRA documents listed below.

SA/SEA Scoping

SA Screening Report (2007)

HRA Screening (2008)

SA of Objectives and Options (2008)

SA Scoping Report (2009)

Pre-Deposit Consultation Stage

Initial SA Report - Preferred Strategy (2009)

HRA Screening of Preferred Strategy (2009)

Deposit Consultation Stage

SA Report & SA Report Appendices – Deposit Plan (2011)

HRA Report Non-Technical Summary (2011)

HRA Report (2011)

HRA Report Appendices (2011)

Submission Stage

SA Report Deposit Plan Incorporating Post Deposit Changes & Appendices (2012)

HRA Report – Deposit Plan Incorporating Post Deposit Changes (2012)

HRA Review of Consents Addendum (2012)

³ In accordance with the Local Development Plan Manual (June 2006, paragraph 8.5.2)

Examination Stage

SA Screening of Matters Arising Changes (2012)

SA of Matters Arising Changes (2012)

HRA Screening of Matters Arising Changes (2012)

HRA of Matters Arising Changes (2012)

Adoption Stage

SA Screening of Inspector's Binding Recommendations and Additional MACs (2013)

HRA Screening of Inspector's Binding Recommendations and Additional MACs (2013)

SA Report of the Pembrokeshire Local Development Plan

HRA Report of the Pembrokeshire Local Development Plan

4.0 How the environmental report has been taken into account

Regulation 16 (4) (B)

The SA process has been fully integrated into the plan process and the LDP has been appraised against the SA framework at key stages in its preparation. The findings of the appraisals have been documented in the published reports and have informed and influenced the final LDP.

The iterative approach to the SA ensured that sustainable development was at the forefront throughout the LDP process. Appendix 8 of the SA Report details where changes were made to policies throughout the process. The LDP also evolved as a result of consultations. All changes were assessed in relation to the SA framework.

The SA of Objectives and Options and Initial SA Report were prepared alongside the LDP Preferred Strategy. This report included an assessment of the compatibility of the LDP objectives with the SA objectives. The Initial SA Report assessed the levels of growth, and the preferred level of growth, spatial options and the preferred spatial option. Strategic policies were also assessed. The no plan or business as usual scenario was also assessed. Cumulative and in-combination effects were also considered. This was subject to a full consultation. The SA ensured that the Plan evolved without adverse sustainability effects. The responses to the consultation of the Initial SA Report were considered and appropriate revisions incorporated in to the SA Report and the Deposit LDP.

The Deposit LDP was subject to SA and the report includes a detailed assessment of the LDP objectives, the strategic and general policies, and the plan allocations. The SA Report also looked at cumulative and in-combination effects. As a result of the consultation on the Deposit LDP, the Council proposed Focussed Changes to the Plan. These changes were subject to SA and were not considered to be significant. The findings of the SA of the focussed changes were published and submitted to the Examination.

Further refinements (Matters Arising Changes) were made during the Examination of the LDP. These resulted in further changes to the LDP.

These changes underwent SA and HRA and the changes do not undermine the SA.

The Inspector acknowledges that *“Since the purpose of the examination is to determine whether the Plan is sound I recommend changes in this binding report only where there is a clear need to amend the Plan in the light of the legal requirements and/or the tests of soundness. I am satisfied that these changes are in line with the substance of the overall Plan and its policies, and do not undermine the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and participatory processes that have been undertaken”* (Inspectors Report, 5 February 2013).

5.0 How opinions expressed in response to statutory public consultations have been taken into account

Regulation 16 (4) (C)

The SA has been subject to consultation at key stages throughout the LDP process. These are detailed in:

- SA Scoping Consultation Report (2009)
Stakeholders made suggestions and recommendations for the appropriateness of the sustainability objectives, key sustainability issues and the comprehensiveness of the baseline data (Appendix 9, SA Report)
- Initial SA Report of Preferred Strategy consultation comments are included in: The Initial Consultation Report and Appendices – Deposit Stage (2010)
Chapters 4-8 of the SA Report includes detailed appraisal of the policy and spatial options.
- SA Consultation Report – Deposit Plan (2011)
Chapter 3 of the SA Report documents the SA/SEA process. The consultation comments and responses to these are in the SA Consultation Report – Deposit Plan.

6.0 How the results of any transboundary consultations have been taken into account

Regulation 16 (4) (D)

The SA/SEA process did not indicate that the LDP is likely to have significant effects on the environment of another EU Member State. As such, no transboundary consultation was entered into under Regulation 14 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004.

7.0 The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with

Regulation 16 (4) (E)

As part of policy development of the LDP, the Council considered a range of spatial and policy options.

Spatial options were considered through the Preferred Strategy and these options were subject to detailed SA (Initial SA Report – Preferred Strategy 2009). Further spatial options were developed at the Deposit stage.

SA was carried out for the Deposit LDP Vision, Objectives, Strategic Policies, General Policies and allocated sites (SA Report) and re-assessments were conducted where approaches changed.

A summary in the SA Report (Appendix 8) highlights changes to the Plan which occurred and the reason for these changes.

8.0 The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan

Regulation 16 (4) (F)

LDP Regulation 37⁴ requires the Council to prepare, and submit an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) to Welsh Government. Regulation 17 of the SEA Regulations requires the Council to monitor the significant environmental effects of the plan. Appendix 5 of the LDP contains the monitoring framework that provides the basis for monitoring the effectiveness of the policy framework in the LDP. SA monitoring will form part of each AMR.

⁴ The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005