

Cyngor Sir Penfro
Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Diwygiedig 2017–2033
ARHOLIAD
Pembrokeshire County Council
Revised Local Development Plan 2017–2033
EXAMINATION

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27 July 2026

Dear Ms Lavender

Pembrokeshire Local Development Plan 2 – nutrient-sensitive Special Areas of Conservation

I write further to the exploratory meeting held on 16 June 2026.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss significant concerns raised with the potential impacts of the Pembrokeshire Local Development Plan (LDP) 2 on marine and riverine Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). A note of this meeting has been published on the examination website (ED22) and responses to action points have been submitted by your authority and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

Central to the meeting was NRW's presentation on its emerging Catchment Nutrient Recovery Plan (CNRP). Phases 1 and 2 of this work are due to be published by October 2026 and will calculate an estimate nutrient capacity within the SAC catchments. It will also set out NRW actions, including restoration and mitigation measures, which will be further developed in subsequent phases during 2027.

Whilst NRW are leading on this work, stakeholders including the Council and Welsh Government amongst others, will be essential to achieving its outcomes. There is a clear willingness from participants at the exploratory meeting to work together and deliver the CNRP in a timely manner. Indeed, the Council provided information on its ongoing initiatives, such as a nutrient credit scheme, which could align with the CNRP work.

Having reflected on the discussion during the meeting, I have reached the conclusion that the Plan should proceed to the next stage, which will involve hearings on a range of topics. I should emphasise that proceeding to hearings does not mean I have concluded the Plan is sound on any of these matters. Whilst the Council has responded on issues such as the pooling of financial contributions, it is also apparent that further work will be required to refine its approach and provide the necessary assurance on Plan delivery through the examination. It will therefore be necessary to test the evidence, including the CNRP, nutrient trading scheme and other emerging initiatives, through detailed discussions at the hearings before making any further findings.

In moving forward to hearings, the collaboration and support of stakeholders, including NRW, will be very important, not least in maintaining commitments to produce Phases 1 and 2 of the CNRP this autumn. Given the importance of this work, I envisage that hearings will commence in the autumn, with the relevant nutrient session(s) coming after publication of the initial CNRP work.

It is therefore imperative that I am kept informed of progress with the CNRP and other Council initiatives. Any delays with the various workstreams could impact progress with the LDP examination and it would not be in anyone's interests to initiate further suspensions, not least given the time that has already elapsed since the Plan was submitted.

Given the above, to ensure that the latest housing evidence is discussed at the forthcoming hearings, the Council should provide an update on its housing land supply (to 31 March 2026) by Friday 18 September.

I will write out shortly, via the Programme Officer, with further details on the next steps of examination, including a draft programme of hearings.

I have copied this letter and note to the Welsh Government and NRW.

Sincerely

Ian Stevens
Inspector

Cc Welsh Government Planning Directorate
 Natural Resources Wales