

Statement of strategic principles to guide preparation of the Pembrokeshire County Council and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Local Development Plans

August 2008

Purpose

Pembrokeshire County Council and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority are preparing the Local Development Plans (LDPs) for their respective areas of planning responsibility. Local Development Plans set out the objectives of the planning authorities for development and use of land in their administrative area and general policies to implement them.

In recognition of the close geographical and functional relationship between the two plan areas, the two planning authorities have prepared a joint statement of strategic principles to support both LDPs. This will build on the principle of joint working established when preparing the previous land use plan and will provide a context for Inspectors at each LDP Examination to consider the soundness of the two plans. Both authorities will aim to work in a transparent and open manner, both with one another and through public and stakeholder engagement.

The legal context for the preparation of the two Pembrokeshire LDPs is provided by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004 and associated 2005 regulations. National Park purposes and the relationship between National Parks and local authorities are set out in the Environment Act 1995 and subsequent guidance.

Principles

Both authorities support the vision and objectives of the Wales Spatial Plan 2008 Update (WSP 2008) as they relate to Pembrokeshire - The Haven.

For each spatial plan heading, the following principles have been agreed by the two authorities as a basis for future joint working:

Building sustainable communities

- There are complex cross-boundary patterns of activity and movement which require a holistic approach to their assessment.
- It may not be appropriate to accommodate all demand for development being proposed in the National Park at locations within the National Park. Alternative solutions will be explored, in some instances focusing on locations elsewhere in Pembrokeshire and in other cases looking at a wider geographic area.

- Meeting the housing needs of Pembrokeshire's communities, in particular affordable housing needs, is a high priority.
- Both plans should aim to achieve a balanced socio-economic structure as part of the wider sustainable development objective.
- A joint policy framework and guidance on section 106 planning obligations will be developed, ensuring consistency of approach across the County. The authorities intend to have joint Supplementary Planning Guidance in place on this topic by April 2009.

Promoting a sustainable economy

- Fostering of the social and economic well-being of Pembrokeshire's communities will be progressed through economic regeneration and action programmes.
- There is recognition of the importance of the Milford Haven Waterway as an international port and important recreational resource.
- The emerging maritime agenda, in particular the development of renewable energy opportunities, may present challenges at the landward interface. Nonetheless, developing such opportunities is desirable because of the social and economic benefits that might arise and their potential contribution to tackling climate change.
- The Regional Technical Statement for Minerals has been adopted by each Authority. There are implications arising from this for other minerals planning authorities in West Wales.

Valuing our environment

- The environmental resource of Pembrokeshire and in particular the National Park is an immense asset to Pembrokeshire. Great care should be taken to ensure that development aspirations do not cause unacceptable damage to that resource. Every opportunity should be taken to enhance its value and special qualities.
- The Regional Waste Plan has been adopted by both authorities and offers various options for handling waste generated in Pembrokeshire. The two authorities will work in partnership with other SW Wales planning authorities to explore these options.

Achieving sustainable accessibility

- The principle of promoting improvements to the A.40 trunk road west of St. Clears is agreed. The two authorities are also committed to discussing other possible highway and traffic management schemes.

Respecting distinctiveness

- A diversity of social, economic and environmental characteristics exists in Pembrokeshire as a whole and within each planning authority's area. The planning policy framework developed by each authority will recognise and respect aspects of distinctiveness and diversity exhibited in the County.