

**Monmouthshire**  
**Replacement Local Development**  
**Plan**  
**Sustainability Appraisal**  
**Scoping Report**

**December 2018**

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## **1. Background to the LDP and Purpose of the Integrated SA Scoping Report**

### **1.1 Introduction**

- 1.1.1 In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) Monmouthshire County Council adopted its first Local Development Plan (LDP) in February 2014. Since 2014 the Council has undertaken, in accordance with statutory requirements, annual monitoring of the plan, with four Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs) published to date. The AMRs assess the extent to which the LDP strategy, objectives and policies are being delivered and implemented.
- 1.1.2 The 2016 Monmouthshire AMR recommended an early review of the LDP as a result of the need to address the shortfall in the housing land supply and an acknowledgement that the current LDP expires in December 2021. The 2017 AMR, which formed the first stage of the LDP review process, confirmed the recommendation to continue with an early review of the LDP.
- 1.1.3 A full review of the LDP commenced in 2017, with the final Review Report published in March 2018. Based on the evidence contained in the Review Report, it was concluded that the LDP should be revised and that this should take the form of a full revision procedure.

### **1.2 What is the replacement LDP?**

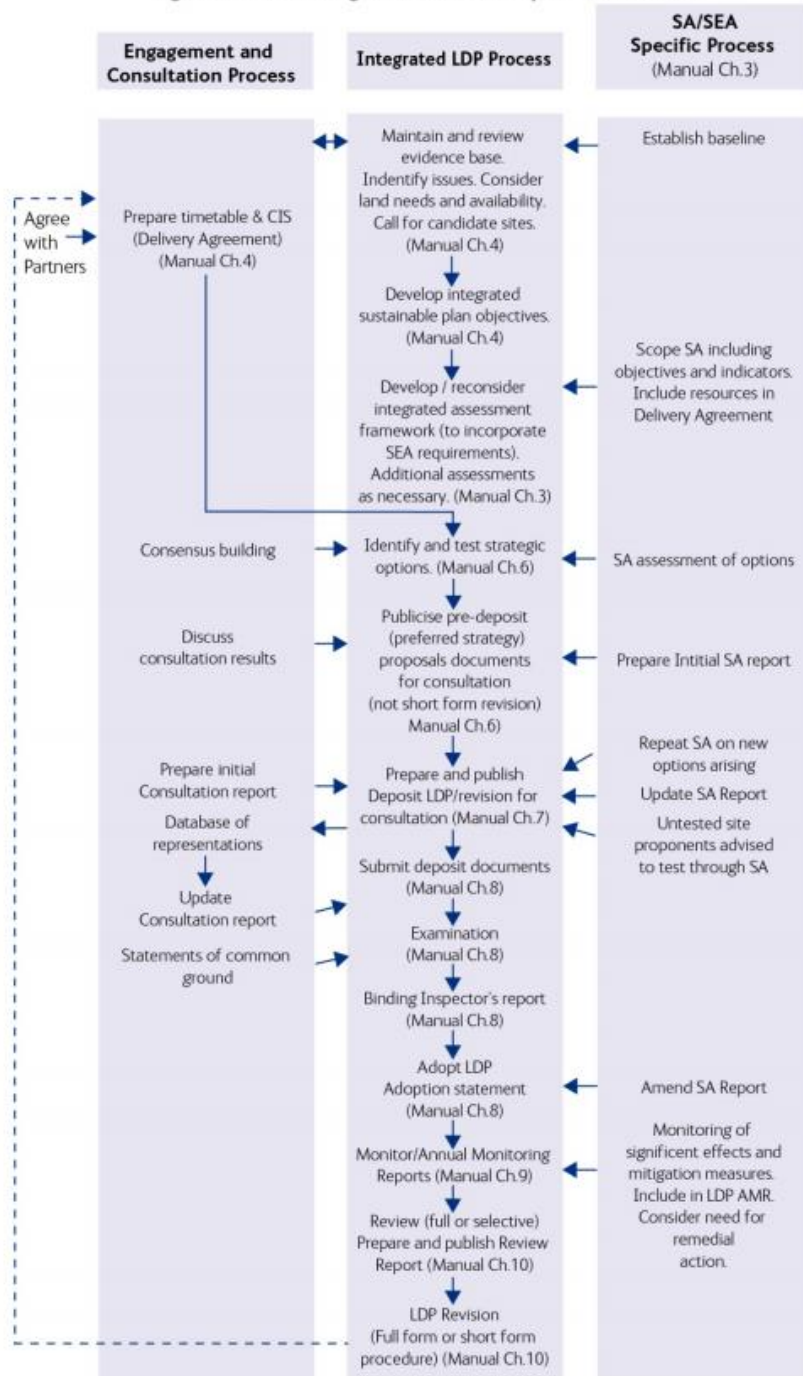
- 1.2.1 The publication of the Monmouthshire Review Report in March 2018 triggered the process through which a replacement LDP will be prepared and then adopted for the Monmouthshire County Council planning area. As a full revision of the plan is to be undertaken this will result in the preparation and adoption of a replacement LDP. The full revision process is generally the same as for the preparation of the first LDP and should build on the experience gained with the original LDP. The proposed approach, timescales and consultation arrangements are set out in the LDP Revision Delivery Agreement which was agreed by the Welsh Government on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018. As the statutory requirements are the same for the revision of the plan as for the original LDP any replacement LDP is required to be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

### **1.3 What is an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA)?**

- 1.3.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) sets out the requirement for each Local Planning Authority (LPA) to produce a Local Development Plan (LDP). In accordance with the Planning Act (2004), all LDPs are also required to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The role of the Sustainability Appraisal is to assess the extent to which the emerging planning policies will help to achieve the wider environmental, economic and social objectives of the LDP. The Local Development Plan Manual (WG, 2015), suggests that the SA should be an 'integral element of every stage of the plan preparation' (para 3.1.3).

- 1.3.2 The European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations (2004) as amended (the SEA Regulations) require the ‘environmental assessment’ of certain plans and programmes prepared by local authorities, including LDPs. The aim of SEA is to provide a high level of protection to the environment and to promote sustainable development by the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans or programmes.
- 1.3.3 The Local Development Plan Manual (2015) states that for development plans the requirements of the SEA Regulations are best incorporated into the SA (para 3.2.1). Such an integrated approach will help to avoid unnecessary confusion and duplication. The SA therefore incorporates the requirements of the SEA. Throughout this document and in the accompanying Appendices where reference is made to the term ‘SA’ it should therefore be taken to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive. In line with the Directive the SA will give consideration to the likely environmental effects of the plan, including those of strategic alternatives. The SA also has a role to help identify ways of reducing potential adverse impacts through suitable mitigation measures.
- 1.3.4 The SA provides an enabling role in the promotion of sustainable development as an integrated part of the LDP preparation process. This includes an imperative role to consider the sustainability impacts of the LDP, including any proposed alternative approaches, at an early stage and throughout the LDP preparation. The SA can also provide the basis for monitoring the sustainability of the LDP during implementation as part of the wider LDP monitoring process. Figure 2.1 from the LDP Manual (2015) shows how LDP preparation, SA/SEA and consultation fit alongside one another. It is important to note that SA is an iterative and on-going process and that stages and tasks in the SA process may be revisited and updated or revised as the plan develops, to take account of updated or new evidence as well as consultation responses. This is the approach to be followed in the SA for the replacement Monmouthshire LDP.
- 1.3.5 The outputs of the combined SA and SEA are sustainability reports that detail the appraisal process followed and include the results of impact assessments, together with recommendations on how the sustainability performance of the LDP could be improved.
- 1.3.6 At this initial stage the sustainability report produced is this Scoping Report that sets out the background for the SA process that will be followed and considers the sustainability characteristics of the LDP area.

**Figure 2.1: Main Stages of the LDP Preparation Process**



## 1.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

1.4.1 The adopted Monmouthshire LDP was subject to a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as required by the European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations (2004) as amended (the SEA Regulations), as part of the SA of the Plan. Under the SEA Regulations, however, all proposed 'minor modifications' to existing plans require the Responsible Authority to determine, in consultation with the SEA Consultation Authorities, whether a SEA is required as a result of the modification

being likely to have significant effects on the environment. The LDP Manual 2nd Edition (Welsh Government (WG), 2015) advises that as the term ‘minor modification’ is not statutorily defined, any review of an existing LDP (and thus any revisions to or replacement of it) should be subject to SEA screening to determine the need for a full SEA. If it were to be determined that a full SEA is not required, however, this would make little difference, as all likely effects in relation to the environmental topics prescribed within Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations will still need to be assessed to present a robust assessment of the sustainability of the emerging replacement LDP, as required separately under the 2004 Act.

- 1.4.2 As the Council has made the decision to undertake a full revision of the LDP it is likely that the replacement LDP will not simply be subject to ‘minor modification’ but comprise policies and site allocations that are substantially different from those in the existing LDP and which have the potential to result in significant effects on the environment. It is therefore the Council’s view that a formal SEA be undertaken as part of the SA for the replacement LDP.

## **1.5 The relationship between the LDP, integrated SA, the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Monmouthshire Well-Being Assessment**

- 1.5.1 The Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act gained Royal Assent in April 2015. The Act strengthens existing governance arrangements for improving the well-being of Wales by ensuring that sustainable development is at the heart of government and public bodies. It aims to make a difference to the lives of people in Wales in relation to a number of well-being goals including improving health, culture, heritage and sustainable resource use. The Act provides the legislative framework for the preparation of Local Well-being Plans which replace Single Integrated Plans. The Act places a well-being duty on public bodies, including local authorities, to carry out sustainable development by contributing to the achievement of the seven well-being goals (as detailed below). The Act also sets out five ways of working needed for public bodies to achieve the seven well-being goals: (1) Long-term; (2) Integration; (3) Involvement; (4) Collaboration; (5) Prevention. Given that sustainable development is the core underlying principle of the LDP and SA there are clear associations between the aspirations of both the LDP and the Act.

The Seven Well-being Goals are:

- A Prosperous Wales
- A Resilient Wales
- A Healthier Wales
- A More Equal Wales
- A Wales of Cohesive Communities
- A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language
- A Globally Responsible Wales

- 1.5.2 The replacement LDP will play a part in contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals for Wales, and as such it is important that the SA Framework ensures that LDP policies are tested and developed in a manner which looks to maximise the contribution they can make to the achievement of these goals. The first stage of developing the SA Framework is to develop objectives against which the replacement LDP can be assessed. As such, the initial set of well-being objectives published by the Welsh Government in 2016 have been used as a starting point to structure the Scoping Report. However as these cover the period 2016 – 2021 and the Welsh Government is committed to reviewing them, these will need to be considered as the SA and replacement LDP progress.
- 1.5.3 Under the provisions of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, every Public Service Board in Wales must publish a Local Well-being Plan (LWBP). The Monmouthshire Local Well-being Plan considers the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the County, with the overall purpose of ‘Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities’ and as such has clear links with the LDP and integrated SA where it relates to land use planning.

The objectives for the LWBP are indicated in the table below:

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities</b>	
Our aspiration is to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Reduce inequalities between communities and within communities.</li> <li>➤ Support and protect vulnerable people.</li> <li>➤ Realise the benefits that the natural environment has to offer.</li> </ul>	
Our Well-being Objectives are:	<b>People / Citizens</b>	<b>Place / Communities</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life</li> <li>➤ Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change</li> <li>➤ Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.</li> </ul>

## 1.6 Other appraisals incorporated into the SA

- 1.6.1 As part of an integrated approach to the SA process, assessments will be made of the impacts of the Plan's policies and proposals on human health, equalities and on the Welsh language. Each of these will be assessed alongside all the other sustainability and environmental issues, enabling the effects of the Plan to be fully assessed in detail and the findings taken into account in the development of the Plan. As these key aspects will be considered as part of the evidence base and included in the SA

Framework for the replacement LDP, the following additional impact assessments will be addressed through the SA process:

- Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA);
- Welsh Language; and
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA).

1.6.2 By incorporating these into the SA process it provides a robust and thorough mechanism for identifying issues and opportunities, assessing impacts including cumulative and indirect effects, and undertaking monitoring in a holistic way.

## 1.7 Will a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) be undertaken?

1.7.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended) (2010) (the Habitats Regulations) require that HRA is applied to all statutory land use plans in England and Wales. The purpose of HRA is to assess whether the plan proposals would have any significant adverse effects on designated sites defined under Regulation 10 of the Habitats Directive; which includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The HRA should not be incorporated into the SA or SEA, it should run alongside the processes.

1.7.2 Within the Monmouthshire planning area, there are 5 sites that are designated at European level for their importance for nature conservation under the Habitats Directive. These are the Severn Estuary SPA, Ramsar Site and SAC; the River Wye SAC; the River Usk SAC; the Wye Valley Woodlands and the Wye Valley Bat Sites. In addition there would be a requirement to ascertain whether there are European Sites within neighbouring authorities whose integrity may be adversely affected by a LDP. A HRA was prepared for the first LDP, the Council will therefore need to consider the likely effects of a replacement LDP in due course, in order to consider at a later stage whether there is a need for a HRA.

## 1.8 The SA process

1.8.1 The purpose of the integrated SA and SEA is to test the replacement LDP for its contribution towards sustainable development, and to identify where there may be impacts on achieving greater sustainability to help inform the decisions made on the emerging LDP.

1.8.2 There are five main stages in conducting an SA that need to be integrated into LDP preparation:

Stage 1	Scoping – setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline evidence and deciding on the scope.
Stage 2	Appraisal – developing and refining options and assessing effects.
Stage 3	Reporting – preparing the SA report.
Stage 4	Consulting – consulting on the preferred option of the development plan and the findings of the SA Report.



Stage 5                      Monitoring – monitoring significant effects of implementing the development plan.

1.8.3 The scoping stage is the first stage of the SA process, identifying the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SA report. This stage provides a valuable opportunity to gain an understanding of the plan area in order that the process of SA can be well informed by a full appreciation and understanding of local circumstances. Central to this scoping process is giving opportunities to those with specialist knowledge of sustainability issues and the area to have an input in to the SA.

1.8.4 A Draft Scoping Report was produced as a consultation document to allow all those with an interest in the SA process to feedback on the issues covered. At this stage the sustainability framework (section 4) that forms the basis for the SA of the LDP was also open to comment. Responses received during the consultation have been incorporated into this final Scoping Report.

## 1.9 Structure of the SA Scoping Report

1.9.1 This document reports the scoping stage of the SA process for the replacement Monmouthshire Local Development Plan. Following this introductory section 1 this report is structured into four further sections with two appendices:

- Section 2 – this provides the policy context, setting out the key plans, policies and programmes of relevance to the SA of the replacement Monmouthshire LDP.
- Section 3 - this summarises some of the key sustainability issues that are considered to arise from an analysis of the collated baseline data together with the opportunities that the replacement LDP will need to address.
- Section 4 – this includes a review of the existing LDP SA objectives, together with any amendments to the proposed SA objectives and the SA Framework for the replacement LDP.
- Section 5 – this sets out the next steps in the process, with a summary of the key SA tasks that will be undertaken.
- Appendix 1 – this provides a review of other plans, policies, programmes and strategies relevant to the LDP and sustainability objectives and suggests the ways that these can be taken into account during plan preparation.
- Appendix 2 – this contains the baseline data for Monmouthshire. It is essential to provide an evidence base for considering environmental issues when establishing the impacts that a replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) is likely to have on the existing situation in the County.

## 2.0 Review of Plans, Policies, Programmes and Strategies

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 In order to establish a clear scope for the SA, it is necessary (and a requirement of SEA) to review and develop an understanding of the wider range of plans and programmes that are relevant to the Plan. This includes International, European, National, Regional and Local level policies, plans and strategies. Summarising the aspirations of other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives promotes a systematic identification of the ways in which the LDP could help to fulfil them. The full list of plans, policies, programmes and strategies reviewed is found in Appendix 1. The list is not exhaustive and does not provide a definitive account of their contents; however, it is considered that it provides a sufficient review of those relevant to the preparation of the replacement LDP and identifies any social, economic, cultural and environmental objectives that should be considered within the SA.

2.1.2 Each of the plans, policies, programmes and strategies were researched to develop an understanding of:

- The relevant objectives, targets and indicators
- The implications for the replacement LDP and SA

2.1.3 Local planning authorities (LPA's) must engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of LDP preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters, and as such the surrounding development plans have also been included in the review. The implications of these development plans for the replacement Monmouthshire LDP and SA will be considered at each SA stage to ensure that any identified issues remain relevant.

2.1.4 The iterative nature of this work will ensure new plans, policies and programmes which are published as the replacement LDP progresses can and will be taken into account.

### 2.2 Relationship between the replacement LDP and SA and Other Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

2.2.1 A detailed review of the other plans, policies and programmes identified as relevant to the revision of the LDP is provided at Appendix 1. From this review there arises a number of key themes that the SA and replacement LDP will need to address, these are summarised in Table 1. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 goals that are applicable to the themes relevant to the ISA have also been included within the table. The Well-being goals are listed below:

1. A prosperous Wales
2. A resilient Wales
3. A healthier Wales
4. A more equal Wales
5. A Wales of cohesive communities
6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
7. A globally responsible Wales

**Table 1: Key Findings of the Review of Plans, Programmes, Policies and Strategies**

1. Population (including relevant socio-economic issues)	Relevant Well Being Goals <sup>i</sup>
<b>Key Themes from the Review</b>	
<p>Promotion of sustainable growth which addresses the needs of all sectors of the community.</p> <p>Improve the connectivity of communities, and sustainable patterns of movement by improving the active travel infrastructure</p> <p>Deliver well-designed good quality affordable homes to meet identified housing needs, including providing a range of sizes and tenures</p> <p>Create safe, sustainable and resilient communities with a genuine sense of involvement and equality in both rural and urban areas</p> <p>Identify and plan to meet the needs of all residents and workers within the MCC area, in particular with respect to the provision of adequate community infrastructure and access to green infrastructure and open space</p> <p>Capitalise on the socio-economic opportunities presented by the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and the implementation of the South Wales Metro</p> <p>Promote sustainable economic growth, quality employment opportunities and business competitiveness, encouraging diversification in the local economy</p> <p>Develop a competitive, high added-value economy, with high quality skills and education that minimises demands on the environment</p> <p>Establish a strong sustainable tourist economy, capitalising on MCC’s environmental, heritage, and leisure assets</p>	<p>A prosperous Wales</p> <p>A resilient Wales</p> <p>A healthier Wales</p> <p>A more equal Wales</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities</p> <p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</p>
<b>2. Human Health</b>	<b>Relevant Well Being Goals<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>Key Themes from the Review</b>	
<p>Improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce health inequalities, including through providing high quality health infrastructure, improving physical and mental health and providing opportunities to enhance social wellbeing. The LDP must seek to implement the locally defined wellbeing objectives set out within the Monmouthshire Wellbeing Plan (2018)</p>	<p>A prosperous Wales</p> <p>A resilient Wales</p> <p>A healthier Wales</p> <p>A more equal Wales</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities</p>

<p>Contribute to the protection and improvement of people's health and well-being as part of sustainable development</p> <p>Reduce car dependencies and improve the active travel infrastructure</p> <p>To maximise the health benefits protect and enhance access to high quality sports facilities, parks and green infrastructure</p>	
<b>3. Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna</b>	<b>Relevant Well Being Goals<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>Key Themes from the Review</b>	
<p>Maintain and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species with healthy functioning and resilient ecosystems to adapt to climate change and make a more resilient Monmouthshire</p> <p>Seek ways to maximise green infrastructure coverage (linked areas of open space and wildlife corridors) and connectivity across a wide range of scales</p> <p>Conserve, preserve, protect and enhance sites designated at international, national and local levels for reasons of biodiversity conservation, ecological importance, geological importance or heritage significance</p> <p>Ensure there are no significant negative impacts on internationally and nationally designated nature sites</p>	<p>A prosperous Wales</p> <p>A resilient Wales</p> <p>A healthier Wales</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities</p> <p>A globally responsible Wales</p>
<b>4. Soil &amp; Land</b>	<b>Relevant Well Being Goals<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>Key Themes from the Review</b>	
<p>To conserve soil resources, control soil erosion and maintain their quality</p> <p>Use land efficiently by prioritising the use of previously developed land</p> <p>Consider soil quality and agricultural land classification when assessing potential development sites</p>	<p>A resilient Wales</p> <p>A globally responsible Wales</p>
<b>5. Water</b>	<b>Relevant Well Being Goals<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>Key Themes from the Review</b>	
<p>Reduce the risk of flooding and/or coastal erosion by assessing developments against the precautionary principle, and promote protection of floodplains from inappropriate development</p> <p>Protect and improve the quality and quantity of water resources</p>	<p>A resilient Wales</p> <p>A healthier Wales</p> <p>A globally responsible Wales</p>

Give full consideration to the potential impacts on water, including water quality, ecosystems, sustainable use of water, capacity of sewerage, flood risk and the opportunities to improve flood risk management	
<b>6. Air</b>	<b>Relevant Well Being Goals<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>Key Themes from the Review</b>	
Reduce air pollution and ensure improvements in air quality contributing to a healthier Monmouthshire	A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A globally responsible Wales
Minimise the potential impacts new developments can have on air quality by guiding development to sustainable locations	
Promotion of low carbon initiatives and sustainable transport modes	
Improve air quality and tackle areas with known poor air quality across MCC area	
<b>7. Climatic Factors</b>	<b>Relevant Well Being Goals<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>Key Themes from the Review</b>	
Sustainably manage natural resources and tackle the causes of climate change	A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A globally responsible Wales
Relieve pressure on natural resources by increasing energy efficiency and promoting the use of national renewable energy resources	
Promote the efficient use of resources, including moving towards a low carbon economy, use of waste as a resource, energy efficient buildings, and appropriate renewable and low carbon energy	
Promote energy efficiency, resource efficiency, sustainable transport, GHG emissions and climate change mitigation	
New development is designed to adapt to the future effects of climate change.	
The demand for travel should be minimised to reduce reliance on the private car and the consequent impact of carbon dioxide emissions	
<b>8. Material Assets</b>	<b>Relevant Well Being Goals<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>Key Themes from the Review</b>	
Deliver improved and expanded transport links, public transport and enhanced communications infrastructure, both to communities within the MCC area and to key destinations in neighbouring authorities	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A more equal Wales

Promote a circular economy which maximises waste prevention, recovery, recycling and composting and minimises the production of waste, incineration and disposal of waste to landfill and its impact on the environment	A Wales of cohesive communities A globally responsible Wales
Sustainably manage minerals and other natural resources	
<b>9. Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>Relevant Well Being Goals<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>Key Themes from the Review</b>	
Protect and enhance the local distinctiveness of our landscapes and the historic environment, historic assets and their settings	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
Promote and protect the Welsh language, culture and heritage	
Conserve, preserve, protect and enhance sites designated at international, national and local levels for reasons of geological importance or heritage significance, in ways appropriate to their status including sites and other networks that cross LA boundaries	
<b>10. Landscape</b>	<b>Relevant Well Being Goals<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>Key Themes from the Review</b>	
Protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the Monmouthshire landscape and the historic environment and its setting	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A globally responsible Wales
Conserve and enhance the unique landscape and natural beauty of the AONB and the setting of the Brecon Beacons National Park	
Recognise the different landscapes in the MCC area and their capacity to accommodate change	
Promote development that minimises landscape and visual impacts and protects landscapes appropriate to their significance	
Consistency in approach to potential enhancements to those designated and non-designated natural environment (landscape, biodiversity and heritage) sites and other networks that cross LA boundaries	
Promote rural diversification and sustainable rural development and reduce unnecessary development in the open countryside	

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<sup>i</sup> Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

### **3. Baseline information and identification of key sustainability issues and opportunities**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

3.1.1 The collection of baseline data is a requirement of the SEA regulations. The collection of the data is essential in providing an evidence base for considering environmental issues when establishing the impacts that a replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) is likely to have on the existing situation in the County. It provides a baseline for predicting the effects of alternative LDP strategies at the strategic options stage and it provides a benchmark against which future monitoring can take place. The SEA Regulations (Schedule 2) require that information is gathered on '*...the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme*' and, '*...the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected*'

#### **3.2 Baseline Information**

3.2.1 Understanding the characteristics of Monmouthshire's economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being is essential to understand the effects of a replacement LDP. Characterising the environmental and sustainability baseline, issues and context is important in defining the Framework for the ISA. It involves the following elements:

- Characterising the current state of the environmental, social, cultural and economic well-being of Monmouthshire;
- Understanding future trends based on current trends and future projections that may impact on Monmouthshire's economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being; and
- Using this information to identify existing issues and opportunities which could be influenced by the replacement LDP, recognising that whilst many of the issues will have land use implications the replacement LDP will, in some instances, not be the best mechanism to address these issues.

3.2.2 The SEA Regulations require that defined environmental issues are covered in the assessment process, these are:

- biodiversity
- population
- human health
- fauna
- flora
- soil
- water
- air
- climatic factors
- material assets



- cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage
- landscape
- the inter-relationship between the issues

3.2.3 However, as the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is encompassed within this process the issues to be covered need to be widened to include social and economic matters:

- economy
- education and skills
- health and wellbeing
- services and infrastructure
- social fabric
- sustainable development

3.2.4 Appendix 2 of this Scoping Report sets out the key information relating to Monmouthshire's environmental, social and cultural characteristics, population, and infrastructure. In accordance with SEA regulations, the Appendix reports on the unique aspects of Monmouthshire.

3.2.5 The baseline data for Monmouthshire contained in Appendix 2 of this report is structured according to the seven well-being goals<sup>2</sup>

- A Prosperous Wales
- A Resilient Wales
- A Healthier Wales
- A More Equal Wales
- A Wales of Cohesive Communities
- A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language
- A Globally Responsible Wales

3.2.6 Whilst there are many overlaps between the baseline sets and topics, each of the baseline topics identified in the SEA Regulations are represented.

3.2.7 The following section summarises some of the key sustainability issues that are considered to arise from an analysis of this data together with the opportunities that the replacement LDP will need to address. These are identified across the seven Wellbeing goals and ISA topic subheadings which stem from the baseline data (Appendix 2). These will be refined and updated alongside the emerging replacement LDP as appropriate.

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<sup>2</sup> Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

### 3.3 Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

#### 3.3.1 A Prosperous Wales

##### **Employment & Economy**

- There has been a slow uptake of employment land in the County that has led to pressure for it to be used for other purposes such as housing and retail. There is a need to deliver sufficient good quality and appropriately located employment land to promote economic growth and increased employment opportunities in the County. There is also a need to consider the potential impact on the future demand for employment land given the imminent removal of the Severn Bridge tolls and the ambitions and opportunities associated with the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.
- There are both opportunities and issues associated with Monmouthshire's location as a border county. Opportunities with regard to its location between Bristol and Newport and Cardiff (Great Western Cities) and issues with regard to the possible impacts of the economic growth of the Bristol/South West region.
- The ageing resident population of the County has implications for its economic base and future economic growth prospects.
- Generally employment rates are good in Monmouthshire with 78% of the economically active in employment, higher than the Welsh average (72.7%).
- As a result of the 'dual economy' experienced by the County whilst gross weekly pay for those who live in the County is higher than the Welsh average jobs within Monmouthshire are characterised by low average wages. Evidence continues to suggest that the income for economically active women who both live and work within the County is also significantly lower than that of men within the same category.
- There are high levels of out commuting from the County with distances travelled also relatively high.
- The County has high levels of educational attainment with the majority of residents employed in higher paid/more skilled jobs, albeit that these jobs are typically located outside of the County.
- Traditional industries such as agriculture are in decline impacting on the County's rural economy. Currently the largest proportion of jobs in the County are accounted for by the wholesale and retail trade and human health and social work.
- Tourism plays a significant part in Monmouthshire's economy particularly in assisting in the diversification of the rural economy.
- The County's town centres are generally performing well but there is a need to protect them from out of town developments and consider their evolving role/function.
- Higher levels of those in employment work at home (35%) compared to the Welsh average of 11.9%. An efficient digital infrastructure is needed to support home working and the general connectivity of the County's rural areas.

- As a South East Wales authority there is a need to maximise the socio-economic benefits to the County from the implementation of the South East Wales Metro and the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.

### ***Opportunities for the Replacement LDP to address***

- *The replacement LDP can encourage a vibrant economy within the County, specifically by ensuring that sufficient employment sites are located in attractive, accessible and sustainable locations and are of an appropriate size and type to meet the needs of the market/ key economic sectors.*
- *The replacement LDP can have some influence over commuting patterns through ensuring that wherever possible jobs and homes are located in close proximity to each other to provide greater opportunity for people to work locally.*
- *The replacement LDP can seek to address demographic imbalance by increasing employment opportunities and access to affordable housing to retain 20-40 year olds.*
- *The replacement LDP can contain policies that encourage the diversification of the rural economy.*
- *The replacement LDP can contain policies that encourage tourism development while at the same time ensuring that the natural and built heritage that attracts visitors to the area is preserved and enhanced.*
- *The replacement LDP will aim to ensure that there is a portfolio of sites available which is appropriate to market conditions and the needs of the Monmouthshire economy and wider Cardiff Capital Region.*
- *Although unemployment rates are driven by wider national and global economic trends the replacement LDP can affect employment levels by encouraging growth in appropriate locations and of an appropriate type, including affecting the accessibility to jobs or education opportunities.*
- *The replacement LDP can help to influence current disparities in access to employment by allowing sites for new businesses in those areas with poorer economic performance.*
- *Access to high speed internet can be a particular issue in rural communities and for those with low incomes. The replacement LDP can help to address digital exclusion by seeking to support the delivery of high speed connections.*
- *By encouraging and facilitating a vibrant economy within the County the replacement LDP has an opportunity to maximise the socio-economic benefits to the County that may accrue from the imminent removal of the Severn Bridge tolls and the implementation of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and South East Wales Metro.*

### **3.3.2 A Resilient Wales**

#### **Air**

- Whilst air pollution is not a significant problem in Monmouthshire air quality across the County varies with two Air Quality Management Areas in the County at Usk and Chepstow.

- As in the rest of the country carbon emissions are continuing to rise, with emissions from housing and road transport the main contributing factors. There is a need to minimise the emissions of air pollutants.

#### ***Opportunities for the Replacement LDP to address***

- *The replacement LDP can seek to minimise any polluting effects that might arise from new development in the County by encouraging appropriate patterns of development that seek to reduce the usage of private vehicles and to allow for increased walking, cycling and use of public transport. It can also take measures to ensure that the location of new development does not worsen conditions in existing Air Quality Management Areas or result in new ones.*
- *The replacement LDP can contain policies that seek to promote energy efficiency in the design of new buildings.*

#### **Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna**

- Monmouthshire is a largely rural county and has major biodiversity resources, a number of which are internationally recognised. The Severn Estuary in particular is a RAMSAR site, European Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation. The Rivers Usk and Wye are also significant internationally recognised sites, being Special Areas of Conservation as well as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
- Within the LDP area there are some 650 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation as well as numerous European protected species. These natural assets need to be conserved, enhanced and protected from the potential effects of new development.
- There is a need to safeguard and enhance the green infrastructure in the LDP area and the connectivity of the local environment.

#### ***Opportunities for the Replacement LDP to address***

- *Internationally and nationally designated sites and protected species already have a high level of protection under national law and, therefore, should not be subject to significant harm. The replacement LDP should ensure that new development does not cause harm to these interests and that where appropriate and necessary mitigation measures are taken to avoid any such adverse effects.*
- *The replacement LDP can contain policies that protect and enhance the green infrastructure network in the County. Nature based solutions, such as green infrastructure, can help to deliver multiple benefits across Monmouthshire, including in relation to identified key issues such as air quality, water quality, flood risk and soil quality as well as positively impacting on the health and well-being of the population.*
- *It will be necessary to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment to ensure that any cumulative effects arising from the replacement LDP through development in Monmouthshire and adjoining areas does not result in harm to internationally designated nature conservation sites.*

## **Water**

- Water quality and quantity are generally good in Monmouthshire although there are ground water protection zones that need to be safeguarded from pollution and one of the smaller water bodies in the County, the Nedern Brook, is classified as 'poor quality' under the EU Water Framework. There is a need to protect and enhance the quality of water sources, this extends to the protection of cross boundary water courses.

### ***Opportunities for the Replacement LDP to address***

- *The replacement LDP needs to guide the location and character of development in order to avoid harm to either surface or ground water quality.*
- *The replacement LDP needs to promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) on development to provide an alternative to the direct channelling of surface water to nearby watercourses.*

## **Soil**

- Monmouthshire has a high percentage of agricultural land that is best and most versatile (i.e. Grade 3a and above) (69%). There is a need to safeguard these important soil resources, whilst at the same time recognising that there are limited opportunities for brownfield development in the County.
- The average percentage of housing completions on brownfield land has been around 48% over the past 10 years and whilst there is a limited supply of brownfield land in the County there is a need to prioritise development on previously developed land and maximise the efficient use of the land that is available.

### ***Opportunities for the Replacement LDP to address***

- *The replacement LDP should recognise the important role of agriculture in determining the quality of landscape in the County.*
- *The replacement LDP should seek to protect the highest quality and most versatile agricultural land whilst balancing this against the need to provide a range and choice of appropriate development.*
- *The replacement LDP needs to consider the pressure for development on greenfield land due to the limited supply of brownfield land and the environmental impacts that might result from this.*

## **Material Assets**

- Monmouthshire has made good progress in the promotion of the recycling and composting of waste, and the elimination of waste to landfill. Monmouthshire also has to make an appropriate contribution to the regional requirement for waste management.

- Minerals extraction plays a limited role in Monmouthshire’s economy but there is a need to safeguard the County’s resources in order to make an appropriate contribution to the sustainable supply of aggregates to the South Wales economy as a whole.

***Opportunities for the Replacement LDP to address***

- *The replacement LDP can identify sites or areas of search that are appropriate for waste management or disposal facilities.*
- *The replacement LDP can ensure that mineral resources are safeguarded and exploited in a sustainable fashion that also enables Monmouthshire to meet its obligation to make a contribution to the requirements of the South Wales region.*

### 3.3.3 A Healthier Wales

**Human health**

- Monmouthshire generally performs well on indicators relating to such issues as deprivation, health and crime, although there are pockets of deprivation within the County.
- There is a need to address rural isolation as an ageing population and poor access to community facilities and declining local service provision is a particular issue for rural communities.
- Most of Monmouthshire’s residents have good access to the countryside, which can have positive effects on health and wellbeing. There is a need to protect and enhance this access to high quality open space.
- Whilst Monmouthshire’s residents have good access to public open space a recreation and open space survey established a deficiency of more formalised provision in many of the County’s communities of outdoor sport, equipped children’s play and allotments.

***Opportunities for the Replacement LDP to address***

- *The design of the built environment can play an important role in creating a healthier Monmouthshire, many aspects of which are considered under other headings in this report, such as housing, active travel, development patterns, green infrastructure, flood risk, climate change, biodiversity and air quality.*
- *Good housing and access to well paid jobs and the potential consequential impact on living standards and health are important factors that can be addressed through the replacement LDP.*
- *The replacement LDP can consider allocating land for housing and employment in rural areas in an attempt to sustain existing rural communities and services.*

- *The replacement LDP can affect the provision of public open space and recreation by protecting, where necessary, existing provision and requiring new development to make a contribution to the provision of new facilities.*

### 3.3.4 A More Equal Wales

#### Population

- Monmouthshire is a rural county with almost half (47%) of the total population living in wards defined as being in rural areas (i.e. with a population of less than 10,000).
- The population of Monmouthshire has shown a steady increase, up by 7.6% in the 10 years to 2011, although the most recent mid-year estimates (2017) suggest the rate of growth has slowed. All of this growth is being fuelled by in-migration.
- The 2017 Mid-Year Estimates show Monmouthshire as having a higher proportion of older age groups (31.4% over 60) and a lower proportion of young adults (28.9% 16 – 44) than the Welsh average. This compares to 28.4% for over 60 and 31.4% for 16 -44 year olds at the time of the 2011 Census. This relative absence of young adults in the population has resulted in a median age in the County of 48.3 years compared to 41.6 in the South East Wales region and 42.5 for Wales as a whole.
- The latest Welsh Government population projections (2014) show a demographic profile in Monmouthshire that, if current trends continue, will have a greater proportion of the population 65 and over by 2033 (37%) with the sharpest decline in the working age population. This compares to a Welsh average of 27.3% of the population 65 and over.

#### ***Opportunities for the Replacement LDP to address***

- *Patterns in age structure suggest that there are requirements to ensure there is a sufficient population of working aged people to support the Monmouthshire economy and to provide more opportunities for young people both to stay and move to the area. The replacement LDP needs to take a role in strengthening the local economy, ensuring an appropriate economic base to enable people to live and work in the County and ensuring that demand for homes is satisfied, providing good quality affordable homes for those who need them.*
- *The replacement LDP can help to address issues surrounding the ageing population through facilitating the provision of accessible services supported by connective infrastructure to meet local population growth needs.*
- *The replacement LDP can contain policies that ensure that the housing provision is suitable for people of all ages, to create an equitable society, but also to make an efficient use of housing.*
- *The replacement LDP must decide on the level of growth appropriate for Monmouthshire and the spatial distribution of this growth between different urban and rural communities to address the challenges we face (including*

*demography and affordability), balancing the greater sustainability of urban settlements with the difficulties of maintaining services in rural areas.*

### 3.3.5 A Wales of Cohesive Communities

#### **Housing**

- House prices in the county are high (£273,500) compared to the Welsh average (£180,000) and have experienced significant increases in recent years, up nearly 29% over the past 5 years (Hometrack, June 2017). There is a need to consider the potential impact on house prices arising from the imminent removal of the Severn Bridge Tolls, the ambitions and opportunities associated with the Cardiff Capital Region and the SE Wales Metro.
- House prices are also high in relation to earnings (7:1) and there is a pressing need for additional affordable housing in the County in both urban and rural areas (Hometrack, July 2017/June 2018). The affordable housing waiting list for the County (Bands 1 – 5) currently stands at more than 3,000 households.
- A range and choice of housing is needed to both meet the needs of an ageing population and to attract and retain the younger age groups.
- The latest Welsh Government household projections (2014) indicate that the number of households in South East Wales will increase by 8.4% (46,500) between 2018 and 2033. Monmouthshire will have to accommodate a share of this growth both to fulfil its regional obligations as part of the Cardiff Capital Region and to ensure the viability of its own communities by addressing affordability and demographic issues.

#### ***Opportunities for the Replacement LDP to address***

- *The replacement LDP should provide for a range of housing and other types of accommodation that meet the needs of the population and promotes safe, resilient and sustainable communities.*
- *The replacement LDP will affect the amount of affordable housing to be provided by both deciding on overall levels of growth and by setting thresholds and proportions to determine the amount of this residential development that is affordable. It can influence the type, tenure and nature of housing built within the County.*
- *The replacement LDP will have to resolve the amount of housing to be built in rural areas, balancing the need to sustain rural settlements by supporting services and enabling people to remain in their communities with the need to protect the countryside and ensure sustainable patterns of development.*
- *The replacement LDP will need to consider the levels of growth and associated spatial strategy, including the extent to which the main towns and severnside can continue to accommodate further growth.*



## Material Assets

- The volume of traffic in the County has continued to increase, up nearly 10% in the seven years to 2017. With a pattern of relatively long travel to work distances, high levels of car ownership and reliance on the private car.
- Poor access to community facilities and declining local service provision is a particular issue for rural communities. Achieving sustainable accessibility requires that whilst the majority of retail and other service provision takes place in existing centres local service provision in the smaller settlements is also supported. Where it is necessary to travel to existing centres to access higher order services there is a need to ensure that there is a sustainable transport system that connects these centres to their rural hinterlands.

### ***Opportunities for the Replacement LDP to address***

- *Concerns about climate change require that efforts are made to reduce the reliance on the private car and the consequent impact of carbon dioxide emissions. The replacement LDP needs to consider appropriate patterns of development that promote a safe, efficient, accessible and sustainable transport system that provides opportunities for walking and cycling and encourages active travel.*
- *The replacement LDP needs to contain policies that protect the vitality and viability of existing town centres and ensure that the distribution of development supports these main centres.*
- *The replacement LDP can consider allocating land for housing and employment in rural areas in an attempt to sustain existing rural community facilities, weighing this against the need to avoid unsustainable travel patterns.*

## 3.3.6 A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language

### **Cultural Heritage**

- Statistics show that whilst the Welsh language does not currently play a significant role in the County, with less than 10% of residents able to speak Welsh, this figure has risen slightly since the 2001 Census (up 0.2%).
- Monmouthshire has a rich cultural heritage, including 31 Conservation Areas, 45 Historic Parks and Gardens, 164 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and over 2,220 Listed Buildings. There is a need to preserve, protect and enhance these cultural assets.
- An integral element of Monmouthshire's distinctive settlement pattern is its historic towns and villages and their relationship with the surrounding rural areas. The LDP area has also experienced substantial suburban expansion especially along the M4 in the south of the County, with growth pressures in this area likely to increase as a result of the imminent removal of the Severn Bridge Tolls and the opportunities associated with the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.

### **Opportunities for the Replacement LDP to address**

- *The replacement LDP needs to ensure that it takes into account equality issues in its policies and ensures that the Welsh language is safeguarded and supported.*
- *The replacement LDP needs to take into account the need to preserve the historic heritage of Monmouthshire.*
- *There are opportunities for the replacement LDP to provide a framework to recognise, protect, promote and enhance cultural assets which could help to deliver tourism, and economic growth.*
- *The replacement LDP can play a key role in ‘place-making’ by promoting good quality sustainable design that will enable new development to respect and enhance the existing distinctive character of Monmouthshire.*

### **Landscape**

- Monmouthshire has a rich and diverse landscape, which incorporates parts of the Wye Valley Area of outstanding Natural Beauty, the Brecon Beacons National Park and the **Registered Historic Landscapes of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site, the Gwent Levels and the Lower Wye Valley**. The County’s beautiful landscapes and cultural heritage are part of what makes Monmouthshire special.
- There is a need to protect and enhance the landscape assets of the County, protecting the key views and the visual amenity of both the settlements and the wider countryside, whilst balancing this against the need to provide a range and choice of appropriate development to address the challenges Monmouthshire faces. As these assets extend beyond the boundary of the LDP area this protection incorporates cross-boundary landscapes.

### **Opportunities for the Replacement LDP to address**

- *The replacement LDP needs to protect high quality landscapes throughout the County, paying particular attention to those contained in the Wye Valley AONB and in the setting of the Brecon Beacons National Park.*
- *The replacement LDP should consider how landscape and townscape assets contribute to the distinctiveness of Monmouthshire and bring a wide range of multiple benefits for tourism and the economy.*

## **3.3.7 A Globally Responsible Wales**

### **Climatic Factors**

- The number of low carbon energy generation projects in Monmouthshire has risen to over 4,000 in 2016. There is a continued need to encourage renewable and low

carbon energy generation in appropriate locations and the incorporation of appropriate renewable energy schemes within new developments.

- Monmouthshire's carbon and ecological footprints are high when compared to both neighbouring authorities and Wales as a whole.
- Parts of the County, mainly in the south and those areas adjacent to major water courses, are vulnerable to flooding, a risk that is increasing through climate change and rising sea levels. In 2016 there were some 1,344 people and 292 properties in the County at high (1 in 30 year) or medium (1 in 100 year) at risk of flooding.

***Opportunities for the Replacement LDP to address***

- *A renewable energy assessment will be undertaken to support the replacement LDP with areas of potential identified in the plan for strategic renewable energy development, as appropriate.*
- *Concerns about climate change require that efforts are made to reduce the reliance on the private car and the consequent impact of carbon dioxide emissions. The replacement LDP needs to consider appropriate patterns of development that promote a safe, efficient, accessible and sustainable transport system that provides opportunities for walking and cycling and encourages active travel.*
- *The replacement LDP has a role to play in terms of reducing the risk from present day flood risk, as well as in relation to climate change adaptation and resilience.*
- *The replacement LDP needs to guide the location of development away from flood risk areas or to fully mitigate any potential flood risks taking into full consideration the potential effects of climate change.*

## 4.0 Integrated SA Framework

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 In order for a successful sustainability appraisal to be carried out it is essential to set out a standard definition of what is required from sustainable development in Monmouthshire. This can then be used as a constant against which LDP performance is assessed. The definition is set out in a ‘sustainability framework’ for the SA of the LDP.
- 4.1.2 This section identifies a proposed SA Framework to assess the Likely Significant Effects from the emerging replacement LDP. The framework is intended to show the diverse range of issues that are encompassed by the term ‘sustainable development’, with an objective set for each issue that shows what type of change would represent a movement towards more sustainable development.
- 4.1.3 The development of the sustainability framework is an essential output of the SA scoping exercise using information gathered on baseline characteristics, issues and other plans and programmes to tailor a sustainable development definition to Monmouthshire’s needs.
- 4.1.4 The starting point for the sustainability objectives is a basic understanding of sustainable development. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 puts in place a ‘sustainable development principle’ which tells organisations how to go about meeting their duty under the Act. In the Act, any reference to a public body doing something “in accordance with the sustainable development principle” means that they ‘...*must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*’. (Part 2 ‘Improved well-being, section 5 ‘the sustainable development principle, paragraph (1)’).

### 4.2 Review of the Existing LDP SA Objectives

- 4.2.1 While not specifically required by the Directive, SEA objectives are a recognised way of considering the environmental effects of a plan or programme and comparing the effects of alternatives. The starting point for this SA process is to consider whether the SA Framework for the SA (incorporating SEA) of the first Monmouthshire LDP remains valid or if a revised framework is needed to allow the replacement LDP SA to proportionately and effectively respond to the key sustainability issues identified in section 3. Table 2 lists the SA objectives of the existing Monmouthshire LDP Framework and considers their continuing validity.

**Table 2 Review of the Existing Monmouthshire LDP SA Objectives**

Monmouthshire LDP Headline Topic	Monmouthshire LDP SA Objective	Assessment of Continuing Validity of the LDP SA Objective
1. Accessibility	Allow equitable access for all to jobs, services and facilities they need, in a way that reduces reliance on car use	The SA objective currently focuses on accessibility as a socio-economic outcome and links this to the wider performance of the transport network. More specific consideration will need to be given within the SA Framework for the replacement LDP to the potential socio-economic and environmental implications of the implementation of the South Wales Metro. In addition non-transport accessibility issues are not addressed by this objective. The SA Framework for the replacement LDP will need to address accessibility issues with regard to digital connectivity and utilities within both urban and rural communities.
2. Housing	Provide a range of types and tenures of housing that allows people to meet their housing needs	The SA objective rightly focuses on meeting housing needs with the current supporting objectives defining these e.g. tenure, size. To take account of requirements in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and in view of the need to address the issues which are triggered by the demographic profile of the County it could be made clearer within the SA Framework how the replacement LDP will address the distinct housing needs arising from different groups within the County.
3. Health, safety and security	To improve health and wellbeing by encouraging more healthy lifestyles, and protecting people from risk that may impact on their health and/or safety	The SA objective rightly focuses on improving health and wellbeing with the current supporting objectives usefully looking at how the land use planning system can impact on health and wellbeing. To ensure that the SA takes account of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and aligns with the Wellbeing and Health Impact

Monmouthshire LDP Headline Topic	Monmouthshire LDP SA Objective	Assessment of Continuing Validity of the LDP SA Objective
		Assessments that may be undertaken for the replacement LDP the SA Framework should include a broader interpretation of health and wellbeing, capturing issues such as mental health, educational attainment and multiple deprivation.
4. Community	To support and promote the distinctive character of local communities and community cohesion	The SA objective and the existing supporting objectives rightly address community distinctiveness and community cohesion. However, as with the objective above in order to ensure that the SA takes account of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and aligns with the Wellbeing, Welsh Language and Equalities Impact Assessments that may be undertaken for the replacement LDP, the SA Framework should include a broader interpretation, capturing societal inequalities and the Welsh language.
5. Biodiversity	Protect, value, manage and enhance healthy functioning ecosystems, habitats and natural species diversity, valuing nature conservation interests wherever they are found	The SA objective and supporting objectives usefully address both habitat and species diversity and community access to these. To address more fully the identified key sustainability issues and to ensure that the SA takes account of the Environment (Wales) Act (2016) the SA Framework should include reference to how the replacement LDP will safeguard and enhance green infrastructure and ecological connectivity in the LDP area.
6. Landscape	To maintain and enhance the quality and character of the landscape, including its contribution to the setting and character of settlements	The SA objective and supporting objectives rightly identify the variety of landscapes within the County that should be protected. However, the SA Framework for the replacement LDP should be broadened to include objectives which address the protection of visual amenity

Monmouthshire LDP Headline Topic	Monmouthshire LDP SA Objective	Assessment of Continuing Validity of the LDP SA Objective
		and the wide range of benefits which arise from the County's landscape for health and well-being, tourism and the economy.
7. Built environment	To maintain and enhance the built environment for both its visual character and distinctiveness and to create a better living environment	The SA objective rightly focuses on the visual character and distinctiveness of the built environment and the contribution this can make to a better living environment. However, the SA Framework for the replacement LDP should emphasis the role that place-making and sustainable design plays in enhancing the built environment. The SA Framework should also be broadened to include a supporting objective which addresses the wide range of benefits which arise from the County's distinctive built environment for the health and well-being of the population and for tourism and the economy.
8. Historic heritage	Understand, value, protect and restore, where necessary, the historic cultural heritage of the area, including features of the built and semi-natural environment	The SA objective and supporting objectives rightly focus on both the built and natural historic cultural heritage of the County which is in line with the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016. However, recent guidance now requires that the SA process explicitly assesses the likely impacts of emerging LDPs on the Welsh Language. The SA Framework for the replacement LDP should be broadened to capture the cultural and historic significance of the Welsh language.
9. Air	To reduce all forms of air pollution in the interests of local air quality and the integrity of the atmosphere to protect from climate change	The SA objective usefully defines air pollution in broad terms and links this to the more specific subject of climate change. However, the SA Framework for the replacement LDP could also usefully include reference to how the Plan

Monmouthshire LDP Headline Topic	Monmouthshire LDP SA Objective	Assessment of Continuing Validity of the LDP SA Objective
		will address air pollution through nature based solutions such as green infrastructure and energy efficiency in the design of new development.
10. Water quality	To maintain and improve the quality of ground, surface and coastal waters	The SA objective identifies the key water sources which are of relevance in Monmouthshire with the supporting objectives setting out how the Plan will address issues of water quality. The SA Framework for the existing LDP also usefully contains a separate SA objective with regard to the issue of flood risk.
11. Water Supply	To maintain the quantity of water available including potable water supplies, and ground water and river levels	The SA objective addresses water supply separately from water quality and in the SA Framework specifically addresses the impacts of climatic factors. For greater clarity it would be more appropriate to combine this objective with water quality. To accord more closely with the requirements of Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations it could be made clearer in the SA Framework how the replacement LDP will not just adapt to but mitigate against climate change.
12. Flood risk	Ensure that new development is designed and located to avoid the risk of flooding, and ensure the risk of flooding is not increased elsewhere	The SA objective usefully separates out flood risk from water quality and supply, but as with the objective above, to accord more closely with the requirements of Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations it could be made clearer in the SA Framework how the replacement LDP will not just adapt to but mitigate against climate change. In line with national priorities set out in Natural Resources policy it should also recognise the potential for nature based solutions, such as green infrastructure, to future-proof existing flood defences.



Monmouthshire LDP Headline Topic	Monmouthshire LDP SA Objective	Assessment of Continuing Validity of the LDP SA Objective
13. Minerals and waste	To ensure that primary materials and minerals are managed in a sustainable way, by safeguarding mineral areas, encouraging re-use and recycling and avoiding final disposal of resources.	The SA objective and Framework usefully relate to both minerals and waste, however, the SA Framework could more clearly address the key issue with regard to waste of the need to promote and develop a circular economy.
14. Land / soil	To use land efficiently by prioritising development on previously developed land where possible, and using existing land efficiently by tackling contamination and protecting higher grade agricultural soil.	The SA objective usefully concentrates on land use efficiency, redevelopment and the protection of the County's higher grade agricultural land. However, the SA Framework should recognise that brownfield land is scarce in the County and a balance is needed between safeguarding high quality agricultural land and providing a range and choice of appropriate development opportunities to address the challenges facing the County.
15. Energy	To secure energy efficiency improvements in all new buildings and encourage energy generation from renewable sources.	The SA objective usefully focuses on energy efficiency and renewable energy generation to ensure that the first LDP provides a supportive policy framework for the development of renewable energy schemes in the County.
16. Employment	Provide a range of jobs within Monmouthshire that help meet the needs of the resident workforce.	The SA objective rightly concentrates on the provision of employment in the County to meet the needs of the local population. However, in view of the possible impact of the imminent removal of the Severn Bridge Tolls and the regional aspirations and opportunities associated with the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, South Wales Metro, and a future Strategic Development Plan for the South East Wales region, consideration needs to be given in the SA Framework to how a replacement LDP will take account of these factors, reflect Monmouthshire's contribution to the regional economy and capitalise on the opportunities

Monmouthshire LDP Headline Topic	Monmouthshire LDP SA Objective	Assessment of Continuing Validity of the LDP SA Objective
		available as a border county between the Great Western Cities.
17. Wealth Creation	Raise prosperity and quality of life by developing a more self-sustaining local economy encouraging indigenous growth.	The SA objective rightly concentrates on growing the local economy by encouraging indigenous growth. However as with the above objective in view of the likely benefits to the County of the imminent removal of the Severn Bridge Tolls and the regional aspirations associated with the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, South Wales Metro, and a future Strategic Development Plan for the South East Wales region, consideration needs to be given in the SA Framework to how a replacement LDP will take account of and capitalise on these strategic changes and on its position as a border county between the Great Western Cities.

4.2.2 From the review above it can be seen that in the main the original LDP objectives remain relevant for a replacement Plan, however amendments are needed to take account of contextual changes since LDP adoption, the emerging regional situation with regard to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and South Wales Metro and issues such as demographic challenges, affordability, the dual economy and digital accessibility that have achieved greater prominence since Plan adoption in 2014. It is not proposed to have a separate climate change objective for the replacement LDP as it is considered to be a cross-cutting objective. The replacement plan should adopt appropriate mitigation and adaption measures across multiple objectives to reduce and respond to the impacts of climate change.

### 4.3 Proposed SA Objectives for the LDP Revision

4.3.1 The proposed SA objectives for the revision of the LDP will help to show whether the objectives of the plan are beneficial for the environment, to compare the environmental effects of alternatives, or, where required, to suggest improvements. The objectives have been developed through a review of the existing LDP objectives (table 2), a review of the plans, programmes and policies in Appendix 1 which resulted in the identification of key themes as set out in Table 1, the analysis of the baseline data in Appendix 2 and the identification of the key issues and opportunities in section 3.

**Table 3 Proposed SA Objectives for the Replacement LDP**

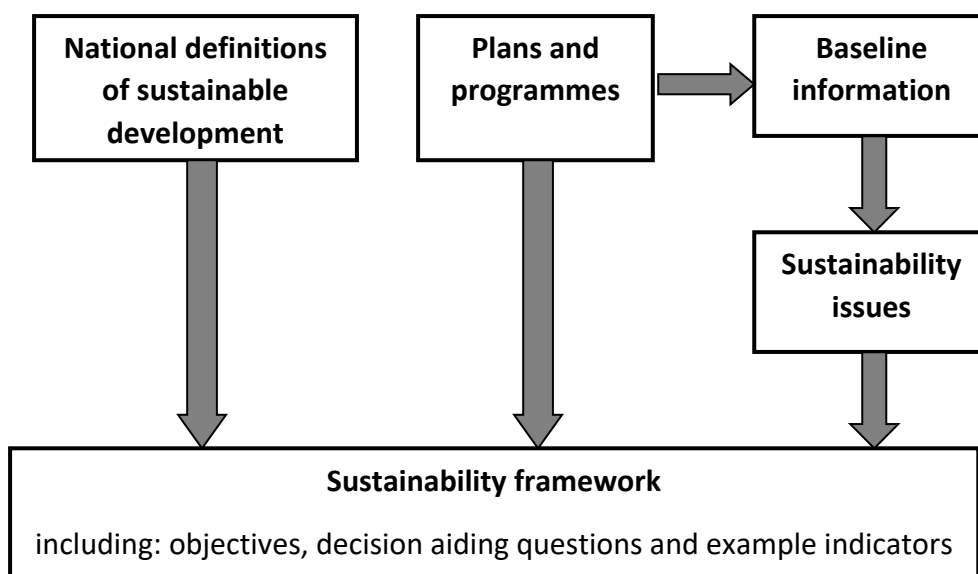
Monmouthshire LDP Headline Topic	Monmouthshire LDP SA Objective
Employment	Increase the range and quality of employment opportunities within Monmouthshire to meet identified needs.
Economic Growth	Deliver sustainable economic growth by strengthening the local economy and capitalising on the opportunities associated with the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.
Housing	Provide a sufficient quantity of good quality housing in a range of types and tenures that allows people to meet their housing needs and supports economic growth and prosperity.
Place Making	Through place-making and sustainable design maintain and enhance the visual character and distinctiveness of the built environment to create great places to live.
Health and Well Being	To improve physical and mental health and wellbeing by encouraging healthier lifestyles, quality living environments and community safety.
Accessibility	To improve access for all to jobs, services and facilities in a way that reduces reliance on car use through improving infrastructure and promoting active travel, whilst also ensuring access to high quality digital communications and utilities.
Community	Support and promote the distinctive character of local communities. This includes promotion of the Welsh language, social inclusion and community cohesion.
Biodiversity	Protect, conserve and enhance healthy functioning ecosystems through safeguarding important habitats and species diversity and improving green infrastructure provision.
Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality and character of the best of Monmouthshire's landscape, including its contribution to the setting and character of settlements.
Historic and Cultural Heritage	To conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets, including the use of the Welsh Language.
Air	To reduce all forms of air pollution in the interests of improving local air quality.
Water quality and quantity	To maintain and improve the quality of ground, surface and coastal waters and the quantity of water available including potable water supplies, ground water and river levels.
Flood risk	Ensure that new development is designed and located to avoid the risk of flooding and ensure the risk of flooding is not increased elsewhere.

Monmouthshire LDP Headline Topic	Monmouthshire LDP SA Objective
Minerals and waste	To ensure that primary materials and minerals are managed in a sustainable way, including through the implementation of a circular economy by waste reduction, re-use and recycling.
Land / soil	To use land efficiently by prioritising development on previously developed land, using existing land efficiently and protecting where possible higher grade agricultural land.
Energy	To promote and encourage energy generation from renewable sources and energy efficiency.

## 4.4 Proposed SA Framework for the Replacement LDP

- 4.4.1 The sustainability framework tries to identify those matters of environmental, economic and social capital that are basic to achieving more sustainable development. The sustainability framework in table 4 identifies a main sustainability objective that clarifies what is being sought from development that would represent a movement towards greater sustainability. The diverse range of issues covered demonstrates the complexity and scope of issues that need to be addressed in seeking more sustainable development.
- 4.4.2 The main objectives are explained through an indicative set of decision aiding questions. These are not intended to be an exhaustive list and simply aim to add clarity to the main objective by defining the measures a replacement LDP could take to achieving more sustainable development.
- 4.4.3 The framework also contains possible indicators that could be developed into a suitable set to monitor the sustainable implementation of the replacement LDP. These indicators express a 'direction of change' that the Plan could bring about to make a positive step towards achieving more sustainable development. At this stage they are only examples of the type of indicator that may be suitable for monitoring. Many are based on the information from the baseline characterisation, whilst others identify matters on which data could be gathered in the future. In some instances it is not possible to identify an indicator, reasons for this include where there is no reliable way of gathering data on an issue as it is more qualitative than quantitative, or where an indicator is of no use as the reasons for change are more likely to be attributable to the implementation of strategies other than the LDP. As the replacement LDP emerges it will be necessary to prepare a set of indicators to monitor implementation, by including sustainability indicators in the monitoring system it will ensure that monitoring for sustainability is an integral part of the monitoring and review procedures for the LDP.
- 4.4.4 The sustainability framework has been developed using the scoping process that has been completed to date. This includes:
- The baseline data collection that has helped to identify the main sustainability issues facing the County so that these can be incorporated into the sustainability framework as objectives. In addition the quantified information can be used to help identify possible indicators for monitoring.
  - The review of plans and programmes has helped to find other sustainability objectives for the area that this sustainability appraisal will need to recognise and incorporate into the framework.

Approach undertaken to develop the sustainability framework



- 4.4.5 There is the opportunity for this framework to be further refined through the process of targeted consultation on this draft Scoping Report. Following this consultation period any responses received on the framework in Table 4 can be taken into account, and amendments and additions made where appropriate.

**Table 4 Proposed SA Framework for the Replacement LDP**

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
<p>1. Employment</p> <p>Increase the range and quality of employment opportunities within Monmouthshire to meet identified needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain a motivated, highly skilled and educated workforce.</li> <li>• Provide a better match between the skills of the workforce and the type of jobs available.</li> <li>• Promote local employment to reduce people’s need to travel to find work.</li> <li>• Enhance the vitality and viability of town centres.</li> <li>• Maximise employment opportunities from the imminent removal of the Severn Bridge Tolls and the regional aspirations and opportunities associated with the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, South Wales Metro, and a future Strategic Development Plan for the South East Wales region.</li> <li>• Maximise the employment opportunities available as a border county between the Great western Cities.</li> </ul>	<p>A Prosperous Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net employment land supply/ development and take-up of employment land (+)</li> <li>• Amount of employment land lost to non-employment uses (-)</li> <li>• Proportion of resident workforce working in Monmouthshire (+)</li> <li>• Average travel to work distance (-)</li> <li>• Percentage of vacant units within CSA of each town and local centre (nc/-)</li> </ul>
<p>2. Economic Growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an infrastructure of appropriate land, transport and digital communications that helps</li> </ul>	<p>A Prosperous Wales A More Equal Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Range of employment sites available, including distribution and size</li> </ul>



Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
<p>Deliver sustainable economic growth by strengthening the local economy and capitalising on the opportunities associated with the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.</p>	<p>retain existing and attract new business, including the start-up and growth of indigenous businesses and key sectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the diversification of the rural economy and continued support to farming, encouraging food production for the local market.</li> <li>• Support local employment opportunities.</li> <li>• Maintain and promote a coherent and successful range of businesses and build up local supply and distribution chains.</li> <li>• Enhance the vitality and viability of town centres.</li> <li>• Establish a strong sustainable tourist economy, capitalising on MCC’s environmental, heritage and leisure assets.</li> <li>• Maximise the economic benefits from the imminent removal of the Severn Bridge Tolls and the regional aspirations and opportunities associated with the Cardiff Capital</li> </ul>	<p>A Wales of Cohesive Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning permissions granted for employment use by settlement (+)</li> <li>• Planning permissions granted for employment use by sector</li> <li>• Proportion of resident workforce working in Monmouthshire (+)</li> <li>• Number of people in-commuting to Monmouthshire (-)</li> <li>• Number of people out-commuting from Monmouthshire (-)</li> <li>• Percentage of vacant units within CSA of each town and local centre (nc/-)</li> <li>• Tourism expenditure (+)</li> <li>• Number of rural diversification/ enterprise schemes approved (+)</li> <li>• Number of tourism schemes approved (+)</li> </ul>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
	<p>Region City Deal, South Wales Metro, and a future Strategic Development Plan for the South East Wales region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise the economic opportunities available as a border county between the Great western Cities.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of tourism facilities lost through development, change of use or demolition (-)</li> </ul>
<p>3. Housing</p> <p>Provide a sufficient quantity of good quality housing in a range of types and tenures that allows people to meet their housing needs and supports economic growth and prosperity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate the delivery of housing to meet the identified need.</li> <li>• Provide more affordable housing to meet the needs in rural and urban locations, to enable young people and families to remain in their own communities and support economic growth /prosperity.</li> <li>• Provide a range of homes to meet the diverse needs of residents, including family homes, smaller units and retirement units.</li> <li>• Build good quality housing developments throughout Monmouthshire to create sustainable resilient communities for current and future generations (place-making).</li> </ul>	<p>A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People in housing need (-)</li> <li>• Housing affordability to income (+)</li> <li>• Affordable home completions (+)</li> <li>• General market home completions (+)</li> <li>• Number of affordable dwellings built through rural exception schemes (+)</li> <li>• Housing land supply</li> </ul>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
<p>4. Place Making</p> <p>Through place-making and sustainable design maintain and enhance the visual character and distinctiveness of the built environment to create great places to live.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure new development is designed so as to create places that support well-being and make good quality places for living, working and leisure (i.e. sustainable and resilient communities).</li> <li>• Promote walking, cycling and active travel in new development.</li> <li>• Ensure that the design of new buildings adds to the character of the area through high quality design and layout.</li> <li>• Protect buildings of national architectural importance, recognising their contribution to the cultural heritage of the County, tourism and the local economy.</li> <li>• <b>Ensure that new development retains and is informed by Strategic Green infrastructure and incorporates local green infrastructure.</b></li> <li>• Ensure the layout and design of new development helps reduce energy demand and therefore greenhouse gas emissions.</li> </ul>	<p>A Prosperous Wales  <b>A Resilient Wales</b>  A Healthier Wales  A More Equal Wales  A Wales of Cohesive Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning permissions granted for renewable and low carbon energy development. (+)</li> <li>• Number of new developments completed that incorporate on-site renewable energy generation. (+)</li> <li>• <b>Number of major developments completed that maintain and/or incorporate green infrastructure. (+)</b></li> </ul>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure new development is designed to be able to adapt to the impacts of climate change.</li> </ul>		
<p>5. Health and Well Being</p> <p>To improve physical and mental health and wellbeing by encouraging healthier lifestyles, quality living environments and community safety.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect people from the negative health impacts of noise, air and water pollution.</li> <li>• Ensure equitable access to health and education services.</li> <li>• Reduce health inequalities and improve the physical and mental health of communities.</li> <li>• Ensure that new development is designed in such a way as to reduce crime and fear of crime.</li> <li>• Protect people from the risks of unstable or contaminated land.</li> <li>• Protect people from the negative impacts of climate change, through the design and location of new development.</li> <li>• Ensure that appropriate flood risk protection measures are in place to protect residents' well-being.</li> <li>• Enhance opportunities for healthy living and help support more healthy</li> </ul>	<p>A Prosperous Wales  A Resilient Wales  A Healthier Wales  A More Equal Wales  A Wales of Cohesive Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of open space created as a result of planning permissions (+)</li> <li>• Overall levels of reported crime in Monmouthshire (nc/-)</li> <li>• Number of permissions for development in Flood Zones C1 and C2 not meeting all TAN 15 tests (-)</li> </ul>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
	<p>lifestyles through access to open space and green infrastructure and prioritised cycling and walking routes (promote active travel) <b>without compromising other functions that open spaces and Green Infrastructure support.</b></p>		
<p>6. Accessibility</p> <p>To improve access for all to jobs, services and facilities in a way that reduces reliance on car use through improving infrastructure and promoting active travel, whilst also ensuring access to high quality digital communications and utilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the growth of mixed use developments that have good accessibility by a variety of modes of transport.</li> <li>• Prioritise walking and cycling, then public transport and finally car users in town centres, in accordance with active travel principles.</li> <li>• Reduce reliance on car use to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>• Reduce disparities in access to services through a combined approach of suitable service provision and public transport links.</li> <li>• Support the access of rural communities to jobs and services, ideally within villages but also</li> </ul>	<p>A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average travel to work distance (-)</li> <li>• Proportion of people travelling to work by public transport, walking or cycling (+)</li> <li>• Proportion of the workforce who remain in their own area for work, according to travel to work statistics (+)</li> <li>• Percentage of major new development within 10 minute walk from a frequent and regular bus service (+)(including residential, employment, retail and leisure)</li> <li>• Multiple deprivation scores for access to services (-)</li> </ul>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
	<p>through good public transport networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support /enhance the provision of high quality digital communications infrastructure.</li> <li>• Promote the improvement of utilities infrastructure to support economic growth and meet population needs.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of properties on different types of broadband connection and mean upload/download speeds (+)</li> </ul>
<p>7. Community</p> <p>Support and promote the distinctive character of local communities. This includes promotion of the Welsh language, social inclusion and community cohesion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help create sustainable and resilient communities.</li> <li>• Ensure services and facilities that support local communities are provided, maintained and enhanced as part of new and existing development.</li> <li>• Allow communities to be involved in the planning decisions that affect them.</li> <li>• Help support rural communities, by both helping people remain living in their local area and enabling people to return to their local community.</li> <li>• Support a demographic range in all communities, including children,</li> </ul>	<p>A Prosperous Wales A More Equal Wales A Wales of Cohesive Communities A Wales of Vibrant Culture &amp; Thriving Welsh Language</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of community and recreation facilities granted planning permission (+)</li> <li>• Amount of community and recreation facilities lost to other uses. (-)</li> <li>• Amount of public open space / playing fields lost to development which is not allocated in the development plan (-)</li> <li>• Proportion of 16 – 44 year olds in Monmouthshire (+)</li> </ul>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
	<p>young people, working age and retired people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help in creating development of the type and design that can promote social inclusion and community cohesion and help avoid adverse impact on the community, such as through development that deters antisocial behaviour.</li> <li>• Safeguard and increase the use of the Welsh language.</li> </ul>		
<p>8. Biodiversity</p> <p>Protect, conserve and enhance healthy functioning ecosystems through safeguarding important habitats and species diversity and improving green infrastructure provision.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a strong level of protection to sites designated for their national or international importance for nature conservation.</li> <li>• Allow people better access to suitable areas of green infrastructure and nature conservation importance to help everyone better understand and value their natural environment, <b>without compromising the other functions these areas support.</b></li> <li>• Secure opportunities to achieve a net gain in biodiversity through development.</li> </ul>	<p>A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A Globally Responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developments permitted that cause harm to the overall Nature Conservation value of locally designated sites (-)</li> <li>• Number of new developments delivering habitat creation and restoration (+)</li> <li>• <b>Number of major developments completed that maintain and/or incorporate green infrastructure. (+)</b></li> <li>• Hectares of ancient woodland lost to development (-)</li> </ul>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to ensure that development leads to no net loss in biodiversity.</li> <li>• Ensure new development does not cause the further fragmentation of habitats and protect and enhance network routes for flora and fauna movement.</li> <li>• <b>Ensure that new development retains and is informed by Strategic Green infrastructure and incorporates local green infrastructure.</b></li> <li>• Protect habitats that provide migration routes for species in response to a changing climate.</li> <li>• Ensure designated nature conservation sites are afforded a level of protection appropriate to their status, from European/intentionally designated sites such as SPA and SAC, to areas of local importance such as LNRs and SINCs.</li> <li>• Support landscaping that makes use of species that will support native biodiversity, <b>ensuring, where</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development permitted within internationally / nationally important nature conservation areas (-)</li> </ul>



Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
	possible, that new planting can adapt to climate change.		
<p>9. Landscape</p> <p>To protect and enhance the quality and character of the best of Monmouthshire’s landscape, including its contribution to the setting and character of settlements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help protect and enhance the rural and coastal landscapes, including the Wye Valley AONB, the Lower Wye and Gwent Levels Historic Landscape, as a living and working asset for their visual quality, their contribution to health and well-being, cultural heritage, tourism, local economy and as a recreation resource.</li> <li>• <b>Help protect the setting of the Brecon Beacons National Park and the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site.</b></li> <li>• Protect the setting of towns and villages in the landscape and enhance the transition from the urban to rural environment.</li> <li>• Ensure that new landscaping planting can adapt to a changing climate.</li> <li>• Protect and enhance landscape features that provide character to streets and public spaces.</li> </ul>	<p>A Prosperous Wales  A Resilient Wales  A Healthier Wales  A Wales of Vibrant Culture &amp; Thriving Welsh Language  A Globally Responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Number of developments which negatively affect the setting of the Brecon Beacons National Park or the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site (-)</b></li> <li>• Number of trees protected by TPOs lost to development (-)</li> </ul>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
<p>10. Historic and Cultural Heritage</p> <p>To conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets, including the use of the Welsh Language.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure new development takes account of and protects and, enhances where appropriate, the cultural and historic heritage.</li> <li>• Safeguard and increase the use of the Welsh language.</li> <li>• Where possible identify historic features at risk and support their restoration.</li> <li>• Ensure buried archaeological assets are protected from harmful impacts of development.</li> <li>• Ensure that the features of historic landscape are respected in new development.</li> <li>• Where planning permission is required ensure the restoration and repair of historic built heritage is carried out to withstand the impacts of climate change, including adverse weather events.</li> </ul>	<p>A Prosperous Wales  A Resilient Wales  A Wales of Vibrant Culture &amp; Thriving Welsh Language  A Globally Responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of listed buildings and historic sites (nc/+)</li> <li>• Number of listed buildings at risk (-)</li> <li>• Number of conservation areas with an up-to-date character appraisal (+)</li> <li>• Percentage of the population who speak Welsh (+)</li> </ul>
<p>11. Air</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help reduce reliance on car travel by making sure there are real viable alternatives available for all people.</li> </ul>	<p>A Resilient Wales  A Healthier Wales  A Globally Responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of locations where air quality exceeds objective levels per annum (-)</li> </ul>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
<p>To reduce all forms of air pollution in the interests of improving local air quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure new development does not lead to worsening air quality.</li> <li>• Address air quality issues by utilising nature based solutions <b>which is the sustainable management and use of nature, such as green infrastructure for tackling socio-environmental challenges, as well as</b> promoting energy efficiency in the design of new development.</li> <li>• Help to reduce energy use and thereby help to reduce emissions from coal, oil and gas power generation.</li> <li>• Control the locations of polluting development to ensure it is not located near residential areas <b>or nationally and internationally designated areas and other sites of nature conservation importance.</b></li> <li>• Continue to reduce waste to landfill to avoid methane emissions.</li> <li>• Help reduce greenhouse gas emissions through reducing car travel, waste management and</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of people employed using their car/van as their main way of commuting to and from work either by driving or as a passenger (-)</li> <li>• Proportion of people employed travelling to work by public transport, walking or cycling (+)</li> <li>• Proportion of Monmouthshire’s household waste collections being recycled and composted (+)</li> <li>• <b>Number of polluting developments permitted close to residential or sites of nature conservation importance. (-)</b></li> </ul>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
	reduce energy demand from non-renewable resources.		
<p>12. Water quality and quantity</p> <p>To maintain and improve the quality of ground, surface and coastal waters and the quantity of water available including potable water supplies, ground water and river levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure new development has sufficient sewerage and waste water treatment to avoid harm to water quality.</li> <li>• Ensure contaminated land is suitability remediated to avoid water quality impacts.</li> <li>• Implement suitable SuDS to avoid run-off of potential polluted water to water courses or aquifers.</li> <li>• Reduce diffuse pollution.</li> <li>• Help to meet objectives of achieving good ecological status for surface waters; good status for groundwaters; and no deterioration across all water bodies.</li> <li>• Ensure new development makes the best use of potable water, incorporating re-use of grey water in new development.</li> <li>• Ensure new development takes into account and mitigates, where</li> </ul>	<p>A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A Globally Responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instances where rivers experienced summer low flow (-)</li> </ul>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
	<p>necessary, the impacts of climate change.</p>		
<p>13. Flood risk</p> <p>Ensure that new development is designed and located to avoid the risk of flooding and ensure the risk of flooding is not increased elsewhere.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure new development takes into account and mitigates, where necessary, the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• Ensure that new development does not give rise to increased risk, either on site or through development that exacerbates flooding elsewhere.</li> <li>• Encourage the potential for nature based solutions, such as green infrastructure, to future proof existing flood defences.</li> <li>• Make use of SuDS to avoid run-off to rivers.</li> </ul>	<p>A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A Globally Responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of permissions for development in Flood Zones C1 and C2 not meeting all TAN 15 tests (-)</li> </ul>
<p>14. Minerals and waste</p> <p>To ensure that primary materials and minerals are managed in a sustainable way, including through the implementation of a circular economy by waste reduction, re-use and recycling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the principles of a circular economy by waste reduction, particularly to landfill, re-use and recycling.</li> <li>• Safeguard mineral resources as appropriate.</li> <li>• Help to reduce the use of primary resources by providing appropriate sites for more sustainable waste</li> </ul>	<p>A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Globally Responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of permitted permanent non-mineral developments on safeguarded sites that do not comply with Policy M2 (-)</li> <li>• Proportion of Monmouthshire’s household waste collections being recycled and composted (+)</li> </ul>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
	<p>management, including re-processing, recycling and storage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help reduce greenhouse gas emissions through reducing waste to landfill and suitable management of landfill gases.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of waste management capacity permitted</li> <li>• Aggregates land bank for Monmouthshire County Council.</li> </ul>
<p>15. Land / soil</p> <p>To use land efficiently by prioritising development on previously developed land, using existing land efficiently and protecting where possible higher grade agricultural land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect greenfield land from development where development could be more suitability located on brownfield land.</li> <li>• Use suitable density standards that ensure the best use of developable land in appropriate locations.</li> <li>• Ensure a balance between safeguarding high quality agricultural land and providing a range and choice of appropriate development opportunities to address the challenges facing the County.</li> </ul>	<p>A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A Globally Responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of development permitted on greenfield land as a percentage of all development excluding householder, conversions and agricultural buildings (nc or -)</li> <li>• Amount of Greenfield land lost to development which is not allocated in the development plan (-)</li> <li>• Hectares of agricultural land at Grade 3a and better lost to major development (-)</li> </ul>
<p>16. Energy</p> <p>To promote and encourage energy generation from renewable sources and energy efficiency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote energy generation from renewable resources, including micro-generation as part of the energy requirements of new development.</li> </ul>	<p>A Resilient Wales A Healthier Wales A Globally Responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of new developments completed that incorporate on-site renewable energy generation (+)</li> </ul>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed SA Decision Aiding Questions – Will the Replacement LDP....	Well Being Goal	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That energy is used more efficiently, including in the design of new development, through reducing electricity transmission losses, and reducing car travel.</li> <li>• Help to implement energy schemes that will help meet Wales’ targets for renewable energy generation, where suitable.</li> <li>• Promote, where appropriate, community or district heat and power schemes.</li> </ul>		

**Table 5 Coverage of the SEA Directive Topics by Proposed SA Objective**

SEA Directive Topic	Proposed SA Objective
Biodiversity	8, 12
Population	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10
Human health	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16
Fauna	8, 9, 11, 12
Flora	8, 9, 11, 12
Soil	8, 9, 12, 14
Water	12
Air	11
Climatic factors	4, 6, 11, 12, 15
Material assets	1, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 16
Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage	4, 7, 10
Landscape	9, 13, 14

**Table 6 Coverage of the other integrated impact assessments by Proposed SA Objective**

Impact Assessment	Proposed SA Objective
Health	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16
Equalities	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 16
Welsh Language	7, 10



## 5. Next Steps

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section outlines a summary of the key SA tasks and consultation for the SA of the replacement Monmouthshire Local Development Plan.

### 5.2 Summary of SA tasks

5.2.1 The Monmouthshire LDP revision Delivery Agreement states that two iterations of the emerging replacement LDP will be consulted on, the Preferred Strategy at Pre-Deposit stage and the LDP Deposit Plan. The LDP Deposit Plan will subsequently be subject to an independent examination, following which it will be considered for formal adoption as the replacement LDP for the Monmouthshire planning area. The SA/SEA process runs alongside the development of the emerging replacement plan and, as an iterative and on-going process, stages and tasks in the SA process may be revisited and updated or revised as the plan progresses, to take account of updated or new evidence as well as consultation responses.

5.2.2 The SA is an assessment tool that helps to inform decision-making. The findings of the SA, alongside the wider evidence base, will assist the Council in relation to the selection or rejection of alternatives and development of policy for the replacement LDP.

5.2.3 The following gives a summary of the SA tasks which will be undertaken during the process:

- **A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (this report)** – This will identify the existing sustainability issues in the Monmouthshire area and provide baseline information along with a review of plans, policies, programmes and strategies relevant to the LDP. The existing SA indicators and objectives will be reviewed and amended as necessary. A revised Sustainability Framework will be produced.
- **An Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (ISAR)** – This will predict and evaluate the effects of the LDP options, spatial strategy and strategic policies on the social, environmental, cultural and economic objectives as set out in the Scoping Report. The ISAR will be published at the same time as the Preferred Strategy.
- **A Sustainability Appraisal Report (SAR)** – An updated SAR will be published at the same time as the Deposit Plan.
- **A Final Sustainability Appraisal Report (SAR)** – This will bring together all the elements of the SA and take into account the binding recommendations of the Planning Inspector. The Final SAR will be published following receipt of the Inspectors Report.
- **A Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement** will be published to explain how the sustainability considerations and the Sustainability Assessment have been taken into consideration in the production of the replacement LDP.

### 5.3 SA of Candidate Sites

- 5.3.1 The Stage 1 initial call for candidate sites (July – November 2018) will assist the Council in understanding what land is available to inform the LDP Preferred Strategy. All sites submitted during the initial call will be entered on a Candidate Sites Register which will be made available for public inspection. Sites submitted at this stage will only be subject to a high level assessment (i.e. initial sift) to identify any insurmountable constraints to development. It is considered that individual sites submitted as part of Stage 1 do not need to be assessed against the SA/SEA Framework as these will be part of the market evidence used to shape the Preferred Strategy.
- 5.3.2 Following the publication of the Preferred Strategy a further call for candidate sites and detailed information for those sites submitted during stage 1 that are considered compatible with the Preferred Strategy will be undertaken. The Candidate Sites Register will be updated with any new candidate sites submitted during this stage. Those sites still in the process following the publication of the Preferred Strategy will be the subject of a more detailed assessment. It is during this stage that the candidate sites will be assessed against the Council's Sustainability Appraisal (SA) framework.

### 5.4 Health and Equalities Impact Assessment

- 5.4.1 Consideration of effects on equality and health will be made throughout the SA process. The SA topics, objectives and framework (table 5) contain several direct and indirect links to health and equality. Whilst included as part of an integrated approach to the SA process consideration will also be given, if required, to undertaking a more detailed Health Impact Assessment (HIA) at Preferred Strategy and Deposit stages to demonstrate how the emerging replacement LDP takes account of the provisions relating to Health and Well-being set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. To demonstrate compliance with the Equality Act 2010 a separate screening may also be needed as part of the SA Report.

### 5.5 Collaboration with Neighbouring Local Authorities

- 5.5.1 This Scoping Report has been developed in collaboration with the neighbouring Local Planning Authorities of Torfaen County Borough Council and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. It is intended that following this initial scoping stage the three LPAs will jointly commission consultants to undertake the remainder of the SA process on a joint basis.

### 5.6 Consultation

- 5.6.1 As with the emerging replacement LDP, the SA will be consulted on at key stages in the process:
- Draft SA Scoping Report – consulted on with key stakeholders for 5 weeks during October/November 2018.
  - The Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (ISAR) will be consulted on alongside the Preferred Strategy (Nov/Dec 2019 – Delivery Agreement timetable).

- The Sustainability Appraisal Report (SAR) with any amendments resulting from the consultation on the ISAR will be consulted on alongside the Deposit Plan (Sept/Oct 2010 – Delivery Agreement timetable).

5.6.2 This SA Scoping Report identifies the issues and defines a proposed SA Framework (Section 4) for undertaking the SA of the replacement Monmouthshire LDP. This report was subject to consultation with the SEA statutory bodies, CADW and Natural Resources Wales, for a 5 week period between Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Any consultation responses received were considered and used to inform this final SA Scoping Report which will be developed into the Initial SA Report of the Preferred Strategy.