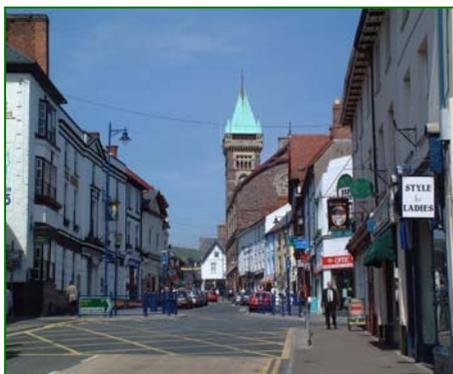




CYNGOR  
monmouthshire  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
*sir fynywy*



# Monmouthshire

# Local Development Plan

**Draft Sustainability Appraisal (Incorporating Strategic  
Environmental Assessment)**

**Scoping Report**

**March 2008**





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## **Separate Documents:**

**Appendix 2: Relevant Plans, Policies, Programmes and Strategies**

**Appendix 3: The Baseline Characteristics of Monmouthshire**



# 1. Introduction.

- 1.1 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. In the Local Development Plan Manual (2006) produced by the Welsh Assembly Government, it is suggested that the SA should be an *'integral element of each stage of LDP production'* (para 2.3.1).
- 1.2 The LPA must also produce a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Strategic Environment Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004. These require the *'environmental assessment'* of certain plans and programmes prepared by local authorities, including LDPs. The SEA Directive focuses specifically on the effects of the LDP on the environment.
- 1.3 The Welsh Assembly Government (2006) has produced guidance on undertaking the SA of LDPs and recommends Local Authorities to integrate the SEA into the SA. 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 The outputs of the combined SA and SEA are sustainability reports that detail the appraisal process followed and include results of impact assessment, together with recommendations on how the sustainability performance of the LDP could be improved.
- 1.6 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.

- 1.7 Baker Associates have been appointed as planning consultants to provide professional assistance in the undertaking of the SA. The consultants will provide advice and guidance to the Council on SA throughout the LDP preparation process and will also carry out an independent appraisal of the plan to provide an objective view on its sustainability implications. Baker Associates have prepared Sections 2 and 6 of this Report.

#### *Process*

- 1.8 The ODPM produced guidance in 2005 on Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents and suggests Local Authorities adopt the following stages when conducting SA, starting with Stage A and the preparation of the scoping report:

**Stage A-** Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.

**Stage B-** Developing and refining options and assessing effects.

**Stage C-** Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

**Stage D-** Consulting on the preferred options of the Development Plan Documents and Sustainability Appraisal Report.

**Stage E-** Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Development Plan Document.

- 1.9 Section 2 of this Report sets out the proposed approach to the sustainability appraisal of the Monmouthshire LDP.

#### *Sustainable Development*

- 1.10 The overall aim of the SA is to ensure that the appropriate sustainability Issues are acknowledged throughout the evolution the LDP and the principles of sustainability are maintained throughout the policies and proposals within the LDP. The SA will also allow for integration of the wider sustainability objectives into the strategic policy making process.

- 1.11 One of the most widely known definitions of sustainable development is found within the United Nations *Our Common Future Report* (1987) and is defined as:

*“Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”*

- 1.12 The Welsh Assembly Government’s Sustainable Development Scheme (2004) states that sustainable development *‘in one place is often different to sustainable development in another place although the principles remain the same wherever’* (para 2.3). The Wales Spatial Plan encapsulates sustainable development with numerous objectives to promote a sustainable future for Wales.

- 1.13 Section 6 of the Scoping Report includes a ‘sustainability framework’ this sets out a detailed definition of what sustainable development means for the Monmouthshire LDP, through a set of sustainability objectives.

#### *Habitats Regulations Assessment*

- 1.14 In accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive, Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) should be undertaken during the preparation of the LDP, if deemed necessary. 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 parallel to the processes.
- 1.15 Within Monmouthshire, 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 Candidate SAC; the River Wye SAC; the River Usk SAC; the Wye Valley Woodlands and the Wye Valley Bat Sites. In addition the Council will ascertain whether there are European Sites within neighbouring authorities whose integrity may be adversely affected by the Monmouthshire LDP. The Council will therefore need to consider the likely effects in due course, in order to consider at a later stage whether there is a need for HRA.

#### *Consultation*

- 1.16 The scoping study consultation will be undertaken with the three statutory SEA consultees as advised by the Welsh Assembly Government in ‘Local Development Plans Wales: Policy on Preparation on LDPs’:
- Cadw (Welsh Historic Monuments),
  - Countryside Council for Wales and;
  - the Environment Agency Wales.
- 1.17 The report will also be sent to other key stakeholders and will be available to members of the public on the Council’s website to ensure sufficient consideration is made by other bodies. The SEA Directive sets out a statutory five week period for consultation.
- 1.18 In this Scoping Report we are seeking opinions and responses in respect of:
- The proposed methodology of the SEA, and any other matters that should be included
  - The baseline characteristics, and whether all relevant issues have been identified; whether the information is accurate, and guidance on sources of additional information where there appear to be gaps or errors

- The proposed sustainability objectives for use in the SEA of the Plan, whether all appropriate directions of change have been identified, or where they could be quantified
- Plans, policies, programmes and strategies etc. that contain environmental and sustainability objectives that would be of relevance to the LDP.

## 2. Proposed approach to the Sustainability Appraisal

### *Introduction*

- 2.1 The purpose of the combined SA and SEA is to test the emerging 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.
- 2.2 Figure 1, from the LDP Manual for Wales (WAG 2005), shows how LDP preparation, SA and consultation fit alongside one another and this is the approach to be followed in the SA of Monmouthshire LDP. Integration of SA into LDP preparation is essential as it allows the appraisal to guide plan making at each stage, and the proposed approach to SA allows appraisal to respond to the stages of LDP preparation, providing input and information whenever it is needed. The SA can then provide a useful verification and testing process of each stage of the emerging LDP.

### *The scoping stage*

- 2.3 The scoping stage provides a valuable opportunity to gain an understanding of the plan area, both for plan makers and the SA team, 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 the opportunities for those with specialist knowledge of sustainability issues and the area to have an input in the SA.
- 2.4 This document is the Scoping Report, produced as a consultation document to allow all those with an interest in the SA process to feedback on the method for the assessment as well as the issues covered. At this stage the sustainability framework (section 6) that forms the basis for the SA of the LDP is also open to comment and responses on its suitability are anticipated as part of the agreeing the scope of the process.
- 2.5 The Scoping Report has several key components, including those that are required by the SEA Regulations and those that are essential as the basis for a thorough sustainability appraisal. These are:
  - this section on the approach that will be taken to the SA and its overall purpose, including how stakeholders will be involved in the process
  - other plans and programmes that cover the County which may influence what are objectives for sustainable development in the

area and therefore need to be part of the SA process (section 3 and Appendix 2

- baseline information on sustainability matters in the County, with the purpose of setting out what characterises the area now, and looking for key issues that may need to be addressed, at least in part, through the LDP (section 4 and 5, Appendix 3)
- these are drawn together into a 'sustainability framework' that defines what sustainable development means in terms of spatial planning in Monmouthshire (section 6 and Appendix 1)

### *The principles of SA*

- 2.6 A key premise of the approach to SA/SEA for Monmouthshire is the need to ensure the stages of LDP preparation and appraisal are properly integrated. This serves the purpose of allowing efficient feedback between plan preparation and consideration of sustainability matters for the effective incorporation of ideas and recommendations.
- 2.7 The SA is not simply the preparation of a report that identifies the sustainability implications of the LDP, but instead a process of appraisal that feeds directly into the LDP during preparation. This means the consultation reports that are produced as part of the SA are to document the process that has been followed, to allow feedback from interested people and organisations on the SA findings and what this has meant to LDP preparation.
- 2.8 It is the intention of the SA to not only look at how sustainability matters have been included in the LDP, but also to check whether the approach being taken is in keeping with 'good plan making'. The reason being that whatever the good intentions for sustainable development of the LDP, benefits can only be realised if the plan can be successfully delivered and development properly implemented to achieve its aims of greater sustainability. This process of independent verification of plan making is a valuable role of any SA helping in the preparation of a better, more effective, LDP.

### *Stages of SA/SEA*

- 2.9 Following this scoping stage the next stage of SA is the appraisal of options for the LDP. The SA has an essential role to play in helping define and refine the strategic and spatial options that will guide development in the plan area. Ensuring that sustainability considerations have been recognised and incorporated into the design and choice of these options is fundamental in creating a more sustainable plan.
- 2.10 One of the main impacts the LDP can have over achieving more sustainable development is by setting and reinforcing a level and

distribution of development around the County that looks to the future. Therefore setting out alternative strategic approaches and identifying their relative sustainability implications, using the sustainability framework (section 6) as a guide, is an essential role of the SA.

- 2.11 It is proposed to include the SA stakeholder working group (paragraph 2.16) in the appraisal of options, using their expertise to help in identifying relative sustainability impacts of implementing the alternative strategy approaches.
- 2.12 At this stage it will be important to keep the appraisal to a strategic level, with consideration of more detailed matters such as policies guiding development form and layout and the exact locations of new development left for the appraisal of more advanced LDP stages. The actual form of the appraisal will fit the strategic nature of this stage in plan making, using an approach that takes a suitable overview of sustainability issues associated with the scale and distribution of development in the plan area.
- 2.13 The SA following finalisation of the LDP Preferred Strategy will include continued close working of SA consultants with those preparing the LDP so the findings of appraisal can be fed into the policy making process to ensure that sustainability considerations are well integrated into the LDP.
- 2.14 SA at these detailed stages of plan making, including policies and site proposals, are likely to require more detailed appraisal techniques than those used in the appraisal of options. A systematic and thorough approach at this stage is to make use of sustainability appraisal matrices. These are used to test the performance of the LDP policies against the sustainability objectives (section 6) to determine how effective it may be in delivering sustainability development.
- 2.15 Reporting for the SA will include consultation documents produced at Preferred Strategy stage LDP and at full deposit stage. In addition, where necessary shorter sustainability statements or summaries will be produced to document the continuing process.

#### *Stakeholder Workshops*

- 2.16 Gaining the views of those with knowledge and with specific areas of expertise within the County will aid the SA, both in defining the issues to be addressed through appraisal, and in helping identify sustainability impacts of the LDP.
- 2.17 This means that in addition to the statutory consultation on SA Reporting stages a stakeholder working group has been established. This group first met to discuss the key sustainability issues in Monmouthshire and aid in setting sustainability objectives for the

sustainability framework that will be used in the assessment of the LDP (section 6). This event was held in Abergavenny on 6 March 2008.

2.18 The aim is for the working group to also be involved in the SA of strategic options for the LDP. Using the group to help identify the possible sustainability impacts of the various approaches and aid in the selection of a preferred option.

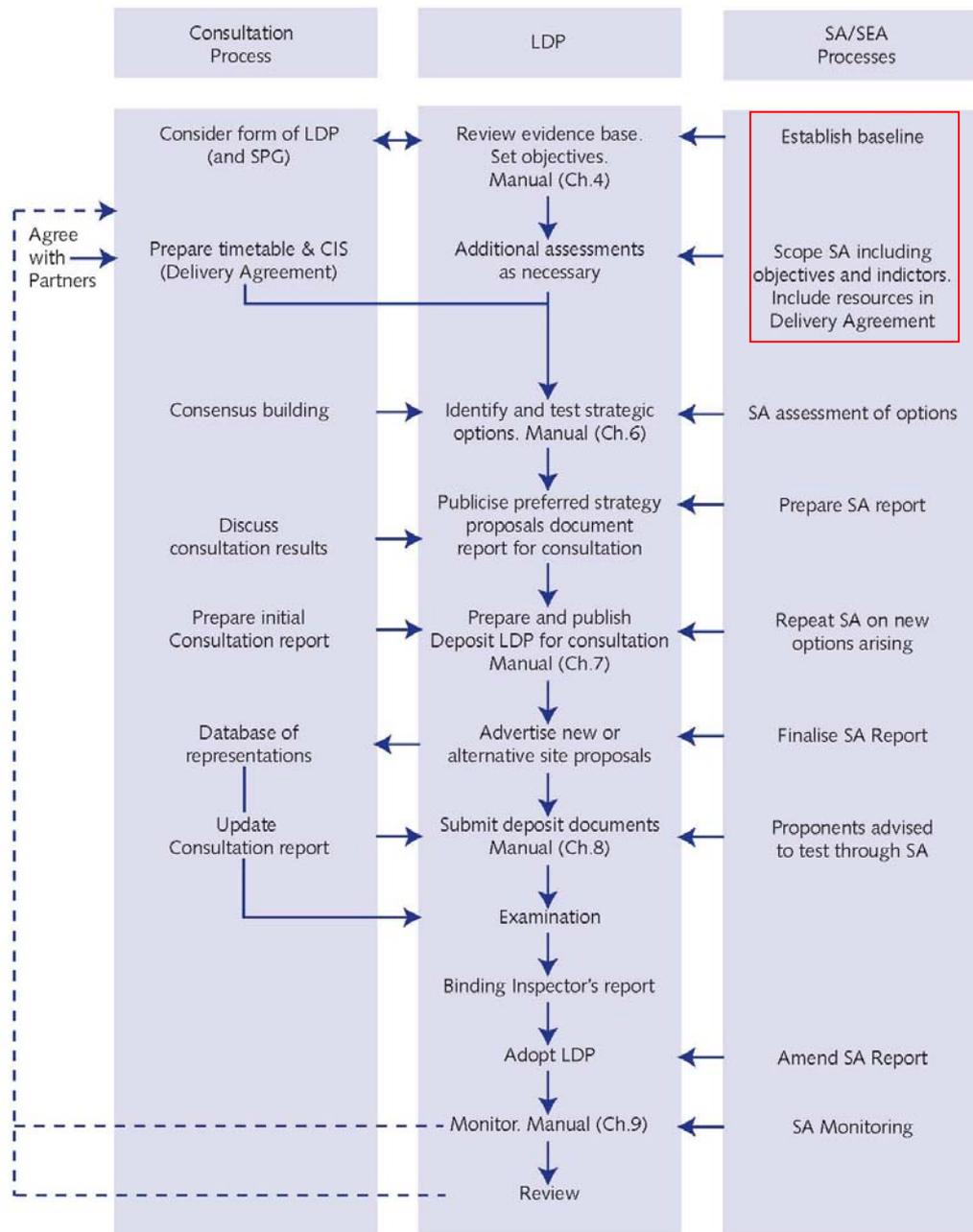
2.19 The working group is based on the Environment Partnership Board for Monmouthshire, with additional invited representatives to cover the whole of the sustainability agenda. Representatives from external organisations in attendance are listed below:

- Monmouthshire Green Web / Cycling Group
- South East Wales Energy Agency
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Community Council Clerk/ Local Service Board
- Abergavenny Friends of the Earth
- Monmouth Friends of the Earth
- Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust
- Gwent Wildlife Trust
- CPRW
- Wye Valley AONB Partnership
- Environment Partnership

The following departments within Monmouthshire County Council were also represented:

- Biodiversity
- Countryside
- Economic Development
- Highways
- Housing

**Figure 1: LDP preparation stages, showing SA/SEA processes (LDP Manual, WAG 2005)**



N.B. Plan preparation, SA and consultation should be undertaken in an integrated manner.

### 3. Review of Relevant Plans, Policies, Programmes and Strategies

- 3.1 In the preparation of the SA framework a review must be undertaken to show the relationship between other plans, policies, programmes and strategies relevant to the LDP and sustainability objectives.
- 3.2 For this to be achieved the Council has identified and reviewed International, European, National, Regional and Local Plans, Policies, Programmes and Strategies. The full list of plans, policies, programmes and strategies within the review is found in Appendix 2. 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 LDP and identifies any social, economic and environmental objectives that should be considered within the SA.
- 3.3 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 LDP and SA

#### *Key Findings*

- 3.4 The review of plans, policies, programmes, strategies produced the key findings shown in table 1.

**Table 1- Key findings of Plans, Programmes and Policies Review**

<b>Building Sustainable Communities</b>	
<i>Key policy documents</i>	<i>Key messages</i>
<p>The Wales Spatial Plan (WAG 2004)                      Planning Policy Wales (WAG 2002)                      European Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)                      Securing the Future: UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)                      Better Homes for People in Wales (WAG 2001)                      TAN 1- Joint Housing Land Availability Studies (WAG 2006)                      MIPPS 01/2006- Housing (WAG 2006)                      TAN 2- Planning and Affordable Housing (WAG 2006)                      South East Wales Regional Housing Apportionment-Memorandum of Understanding (2007)                      Play in Wales: Play Policy Implementation Plan (WAG 2006)                      Climbing Higher- a strategy for sport and physical activity (WAG 2007)                      TAN 16- Sport and Recreation (WAG 1998)                      A Community Strategy for Monmouthshire (2004)                      Monmouthshire Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy (2005)                      Older Peoples Strategy for Monmouthshire (2005)</p>	<p>Provision of good quality housing in safe neighbourhoods and sustainable communities.</p> <p>Ensure a greater choice of the type and location of housing recognising the needs of all including a sufficient amount of affordable housing.</p> <p>Improve access to a range of community facilities, employment and open/green space.</p> <p>Increase opportunities for walking and cycling for work-related journeys and leisure.</p> <p>Contribute to the protection and improvement of people's health and well-being as part of sustainable development.</p> <p>Promote strong communities with a genuine sense of involvement and equality.</p>
<b>Promoting a Sustainable Economy</b>	
<i>Key policy documents</i>	<i>Key messages</i>
<p>The Wales Spatial Plan (WAG 2004)                      Planning Policy Wales (WAG 2002)                      European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)                      Securing the Future: UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)                      Wales: A Better Country (WAG 2003)                      Wales: A Vibrant Economy (WAG 2005)                      South East Wales Regional Development Strategy                      Monmouthshire Local Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan (2004)                      Adventa Local Development Strategy- Rural Development Programme (2007)                      Welsh Coastal Tourism Strategy (WAG 2007)                      TAN 13- Tourism (WAG 1997)                      Draft revised TAN13- Tourism (WAG 2006)                      Minerals Planning Policy Wales (WAG 2000)</p>	<p>Sustainable economic and employment growth should be promoted. Encourage diversification in the local economy. Development should be guided to locations that reduce the need to travel.</p> <p>Develop a diverse, competitive, high added-value economy, with high quality skills and education that minimises demands on the environment.</p> <p>Promote and increase sustainable tourism which can play a small but significant part in rural diversification.</p> <p>Mineral resources should be provided</p>

MTAN Wales 1- Aggregates (WAG 2004)	to meet society's needs. The efficient and sustainable use of minerals should be encouraged.
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<b>Valuing our Environment</b>	
<i>Key policy documents</i>	<i>Key messages</i>
<p>The Wales Spatial Plan (WAG 2004)            Planning Policy Wales (WAG 2002)            The Ramsar Convention (1971)            The EC Habitats Directive (1992)            UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)            The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &amp;c.) Regulations (2007)            Environment Strategy for Wales (WAG 2006)            TAN5 – Nature Conservation and Planning (WAG 1996)            Draft revised TAN5- Nature Conservation and Planning (WAG 2006)            Monmouthshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2005)            TAN6- Agricultural and Rural Development (WAG 2000)            Wye Valley AONB Management Plan (2004)            Monmouthshire LANDMAP Volumes 1-6 (2001)            Monmouthshire LANDMAP Volume 7 (2003)            The Air Quality Framework Directive (1996)            The Kyoto Protocol (1997)            Sustainable Development Scheme and associated Action Plan: Starting to live differently (WAG 2004)            TAN 8- Renewable Energy (WAG 2005)            Draft MIPPS on Climate Change (WAG 2006)            The Water Quality Framework (2000)            EU Nitrates Directive (1991)            TAN 15- Development and Flood Risk (WAG 2004)            Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan (2001)            Local Air Quality Management Progress Report for Monmouthshire (2007)            The EU Waste Framework Directive (1991)            Wise about Waste: The National Waste Strategy for Wales (WAG 2002)            TAN 21- Waste (WAG 2001)            South East Wales Regional Waste Plan (2004)            Draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Monmouthshire (2004)</p>	<p>Protect and enhance biodiversity, natural habitats and wild flora and fauna including; international, national and locally designated sites; protected species and habitat types identified as priorities for biological conservation.</p> <p>Promote farm diversification and sustainable rural development and reduce unnecessary development within the open countryside.</p> <p>Conserve and enhance the unique landscape and natural beauty of the AONB, the setting of the Brecon Beacons National Park and the Special Landscape Areas.</p> <p>Minimise the potential impacts new developments can have on air quality by guiding development to sustainable locations.</p> <p>Contribute to climate protection and promotion of renewable energy.</p> <p>Minimise the risk of flooding on all new developments.</p> <p>Implement a sustainable integrated approach to waste production, management and regulation which minimises the production of waste and its impact on the environment.</p> <p>Maximise waste prevention, recovery, recycling and composting and minimise incineration and disposal of waste to landfill.</p>

<b>Achieving Sustainable Accessibility</b>	
<i>Key policy documents</i>	<i>Key messages</i>
<p>The Wales Spatial Plan (WAG 2004)            Planning Policy Wales (WAG 2002)            TAN 18- Transport (WAG 2007)            SEWTA- Outline of the Regional Transport Plan (2007)            Monmouthshire Local Transport Plan (2000)            TAN 4- Retailing and Town Centres (1996)            MIPPS 02/2005- Planning for Retailing and Town Centres (2005)</p>	<p>The demand for travel should be minimised to reduce the reliance on the private car and the consequent impact of carbon dioxide emissions. Transport facilities should be improved to create accessibility for all.</p> <p>Development should be guided to locations that reduce the need to travel.</p> <p>Efficient, competitive and innovative retail provision should be secured in accessible locations.</p>

<b>Respecting Distinctiveness</b>	
<i>Key policy documents</i>	<i>Key messages</i>
<p>The Wales Spatial Plan (WAG 2004)            Planning Policy Wales (WAG 2002)            European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)            TAN 20- The Welsh Language (WAG 2000)            TAN 12- Design (WAG 2002)            MIPPS 01/2008- Planning for Good Design (WAG 2008)</p>	<p>The needs and interests of the Welsh language are important to the cultural identity of the nation.</p> <p>The design process should promote the efficient use of resources, including land.</p> <p>The historic environment and cultural heritage should be preserved, enhanced and foster local diversity.</p>

## 4. Baseline Information

- 4.1 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 the 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.'*
- 4.2 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
- 4.3 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
  - sustainability development
- 4.4 Appendix 3 of this Scoping Report is a collection of the key information relating to Monmouthshire's environmental characteristics, population, economic characteristics and infrastructure. In accordance with SEA regulations, the Appendix reports on the unique aspects of Monmouthshire. The baseline can be adjusted or amended as new details become available during the production of the component parts of the SA.
- 4.5 The baseline data for Monmouthshire contained in Appendix 3 of this report is structured according to the five guiding themes of The Wales Spatial Plan:

- Building Sustainable Communities.
- Promoting a Sustainable Economy
- Valuing our Environment
- Achieving Sustainable Accessibility
- Respecting Distinctiveness.

4.6 The following section summarises some of the main issues that are considered to arise from an analysis of this data and which need to be addressed in the LDP.

## 5. Sustainability Issues

These issues have been identified through an analysis of the baseline data in Appendix 3. They are not necessarily the only issues that the LDP will need to address. Further issues are likely to be identified by the community itself through the engagement process as the LDP develops. There are also likely to be issues that are characteristic of particular parts of the County, having a specific spatial expression that may not have been identified in the baseline data, which often has been provided on a County wide basis rather by settlement or community.

### 1. BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

#### Population

- Monmouthshire is a predominantly rural county with only 45% of the total population living in wards defined as being in urban areas (i.e. with a population of more than 10,000)
- The population of Monmouthshire has been showing a steady increase, all of this growth being fuelled by in-migration, although it appears that some rural areas have actually been experiencing out-migration.
- Monmouthshire has a relatively higher proportion of older age groups and a lower proportion of young adults compared with the United Kingdom average.
- Assembly projections indicate that the number of households in South East Wales will increase by 18.6% (108,900) between 2003 and 2021. Monmouthshire will have to accommodate a share of this growth, both to fulfil its regional obligations and ensure the viability of its own communities.

#### ***How can the LDP influence these issues?***

- *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. This may require the LDP to take an active role in strengthening the local economy, ensuring that demand for homes is satisfied and providing good quality affordable homes for those who need them.*
- *The LDP must decide on the level of growth appropriate for Monmouthshire and the spatial distribution of this growth between different urban and rural communities, balancing the greater sustainability of urban settlements with the difficulties of maintaining services in rural areas where populations are in decline.*

## **Housing**

- House prices are high in relation to earnings and there is a pressing need for additional affordable housing in the County in both urban and rural areas.

### ***How can the LDP influence these issues?***

- *The 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 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.*

## **Health and Well-Being**

- Monmouthshire generally performs well on indicators relating to such issues as deprivation, health and crime, although there are small pockets of deprivation in some of its urban area.
- Poor access to community facilities and declining local service provision is an issue for rural communities.

### ***How can the LDP influence these issues?***

- *The LDP can consider taking into account the various issues of deprivation affecting certain parts of the County and work to alleviate those effects that can be influenced through a spatial plan.*
- *The LDP can consider allocating land for housing and employment in rural areas in an attempt to sustain existing rural communities and services.*

## **Community Facilities and Recreation**

- Poor access to community facilities and declining local provision is an issue in rural areas.
- Most of Monmouthshire's residents have good access to the countryside, which can have positive effects on health, social progress and general well being.
- Without the benefit of a recreation and open spaces survey it is difficult to make any assessment of provision.

### ***How can the LDP influence these issues?***

- *The 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.*
- *Work is currently being undertaken to survey the amount of recreation and open space in the County. As part of this process provision will be assessed against existing standards and the LDP can affect this provision by protecting where necessary existing open space and requiring new development to make a contribution to the provision of new facilities.*

## **2. PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY**

### **Employment and Economic Development**

- There has been a slow uptake of allocated employment land in the past that has led to pressure for it to be used for other purposes such as housing and retail.
- Generally employment rates are good in Monmouthshire but there are some small pockets where unemployment rates are high.
- There are high levels of out commuting from the County.
- Distances travelled to work are relatively high.
- Jobs in Monmouthshire are characterised by low average wages.
- Traditional industries like agriculture are in decline and there is a need to sustain and regenerate the County's rural economy.

#### ***How can the LDP influence these issues?***

- *The LDP can encourage a vibrant economy within the County, specifically by ensuring that employment sites are located in attractive, accessible and sustainable locations and are of an appropriate size and type.*
- *The 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 LDP can contain policies that encourage the diversification of the rural economy.*
- *As part of the LDP process a review will be undertaken of employment land within the County. The findings from this will assist in achieving the aim of ensuring that there is a portfolio of sites available which is appropriate to market conditions and the needs of the Monmouthshire economy.*
- *Although unemployment rates are driven by wider national and global economic trends the 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 LDP can help to influence current disparities in access to employment by allowing sites for new businesses in those areas with poorer economic performance.*

## **Tourism**

- Tourism plays a small, but significant, part in the Monmouthshire economy particularly in assisting in the diversification of the rural economy.

### ***How can the LDP influence these issues?***

- *The 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.*

## **Minerals**

- Minerals extraction plays a limited role in the economy of Monmouthshire but the County has to make an appropriate contribution to the sustainable supply of aggregates to the South Wales economy as a whole.

### ***How can the LDP influence these issues?***

- *The LDP can ensure that mineral resources are safeguarded and exploited in a sustainable fashion that also enables Monmouthshire to meet its obligation to make its per capital contribution to the requirements of the South Wales region.*

## **3. VALUING OUR ENVIRONMENT**

### **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**

- Monmouthshire is largely a rural County and has major biodiversity resources, a number of which are internationally recognised. The Severn Estuary off its southern coastline, in particular, is a European Special Protection Area and candidate 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.
- There are 49 nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the LDP area and a number of locally recognised sites.
- There are numerous European protected species in Monmouthshire.

### ***How can the LDP influence these issues?***

- *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 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.*

- *It will be necessary to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment to ensure that the cumulative effects of development in Monmouthshire and adjoining areas do not result in harm to internationally designated nature conservation sites.*

## **Air**

- Air pollution is not a significant problem in Monmouthshire, although there are two Air Quality Management Areas in the County at Usk and Chepstow.
- As in the rest of the country greenhouse gases are continuing to rise, conditions in business, transport and housing all contributing to the problem.

### **How can the LDP influence these issues?**

- *The LDP can seek to minimise any polluting effects that might arise from new development in the County.*
- *Consideration needs to be given to 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.*
- *The LDP can contain policies that seek to promote energy efficiency in the design of new buildings.*
- *Care needs to be taken to ensure that the location of new development does not worsen conditions in existing Air Quality Management Areas or result in new ones coming into being.*

## **Water Resources**

- Water quality and quantity are generally good in Monmouthshire, although there are nine ground water source protection zones in the LDP area that need to be safeguarded from pollution.
- Parts of the County are vulnerable to flooding, a risk that is increasing through climate change and rising sea levels. Such flooding represents a considerable risk to human health and property.

### **How can the LDP influence these issues?**

- *The LDP needs to guide the location and character of development in order avoid harm to either surface or ground water quality.*
- *The LDP needs to ensure that new development is not at risk from flooding*

## **Soil and Land**

- There is a relatively high percentage of grade 3 agricultural land in Monmouthshire (grades 1 to 3a being the best and most versatile land), although the data does not distinguish between 3a and 3b land.
- The proportion of land in Monmouthshire that is farmed is considerably higher than the Welsh average.

- The average percentage of housing completions on brownfield land has been around 40% over the past seven years. The limited supply of brownfield land is a significant issue in Monmouthshire.

#### ***How can the LDP influence these issues?***

- *The LDP should seek to protect the highest quality and most versatile agricultural land.*
- *The LDP needs to recognise the important role of agriculture in determining the quality of landscape in the County.*
- *The 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.*

#### **Landscape**

- Monmouthshire has a rich and diverse landscape, which incorporates part of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and part of the Brecon Beacons National Park.
- Approximately 55% of the LDP area is designated as Special Landscape Area in the adopted UDP and recent work has suggested that a much larger area could be considered to be of such 'outstanding' or 'high' quality as to also justify Special Landscape Area status.

#### ***How can the LDP influence these issues?***

- *The 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 LDP needs to review the policy approach to Special Landscape Areas, particularly in the light of recent work that suggests that almost all of the rural parts of the County warrant such status.*

#### **Waste**

- Monmouthshire has made good progress in the promotion of the recycling and composting of waste. There is a pressing need, however, to reduce the reliance on landfill (particularly as the majority of the County's waste that is destined for landfill is transported some considerable distance outside the County). Monmouthshire also has to make an appropriate contribution to the regional requirement for waste management.

#### ***How can the LDP influence these issues?***

- *The LDP can identify sites or areas of search that are appropriate for waste management or disposal facilities.*

## 4. ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE ACCESSIBILITY

### Transport

- Within the overall national context of increasing levels of car ownership and traffic volumes, Monmouthshire has relatively high levels of long travel to work distances and of usage of the private car.
- Heavy reliance on the private car and limited opportunities for the use of public transport is a particular issue in rural areas.

#### ***How can the LDP influence these issues?***

- *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 LDP needs to give consideration to 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.*

### Retail

- Achieving sustainable accessibility requires that retail and other service provision takes place in existing centres that have good access to public transport. Generally the Council's town centres are reasonably healthy, although they are vulnerable to out of town developments. There are concerns in Abergavenny in particular relating to 'leakage' of food shopping outside the County.

#### ***How can the LDP influence these issues?***

- *The LDP needs to contain policies that protects the vitality and viability of existing town centres and ensure that the distribution of development supports these main centres.*

## 5. RESPECTING DISTINCTIVENESS

### Language and Ethnicity

- Statistics show that the Welsh language and minority ethnic communities do not play a significant role in the make up of Monmouthshire's population.

#### ***How can the LDP influence these issues?***

- *The LDP needs to ensure that it takes into account equality issues in its policies.*

## **Cultural Heritage**

- Monmouthshire has a rich cultural heritage, including 31 Conservation Areas, 43 Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, 185 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and over 2100 Listed Buildings.
- An integral element of Monmouthshire's distinctive settlement pattern arises from its historic towns and villages and their relationship with the surrounding rural areas.
- The County has experienced substantial suburban expansion, particularly around the M4 'corridor' in the south and much recent development has a bland, standardised appearance that does little to create any distinctive sense of place.

### ***How can the LDP influence these issues?***

- *The LDP needs to take into account the need to preserve the historic heritage of Monmouthshire.*
- *The LDP can play a key role in promoting good sustainable design that will enable new development to respect and enhance the existing distinctive character of Monmouthshire.*

## 6. The Sustainability Framework

### *Introduction*

- 6.1 In order for a successful sustainability appraisal to be carried out it is essential to set up a standard definition of what is required from sustainable development in Monmouthshire. This is then 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.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.

### *Defining sustainable development*

- 6.4 The starting point for the sustainability objectives is the basic understanding of sustainable development based on intergenerational equity in the use of resources and assets; where what we do now does not harm the ability of people in the future to have at least the same standard of living as we do now. Inherent, also, to the concept of sustainability is of seeking to ensure that within each generation there is equity in use of resources and no one group has their quality of life compromised due to the actions of another.
- 6.5 The four objectives of sustainable development from the UK Government sustainable development strategy, 'A Better Quality of Life' (May 1999), set out simply the main ideas of sustainable development, these are:
  - social progress which recognises the needs of everyone
  - effective protection of the environment
  - prudent use of natural resources
  - maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.
- 6.6 This approach was updated following the publication of the UK strategy for sustainable development 'Securing the Future' in 2005. This was produced in conjunction with the UK shared strategy

framework 'One future – different paths' (March 2005) which gives the purpose of sustainable development as a goal that:

*'...will be pursued in an integrated way through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment, and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well-being. This will be done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and use resources and energy as efficiently as possible'*

6.7 'Securing the Future' the new Sustainable Development Strategy sets out five guiding principles that will replace the four aims of the previous strategy, as quoted in paragraph 6.5. The strategy defines sustainable development as:

- living within environmental limits
- ensuring a strong and healthy and just society
- achieving a sustainable economy
- promoting good governance
- using sound science responsibly

#### *The sustainability framework*

6.8 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 2 identifies these basic elements together with a main sustainability objective that clarifies what it 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 covered in seeking more sustainable development.

6.9 Appendix 1 shows an additional level of detail in the sustainability framework. The main objectives are explained through an indicative set of supporting objectives. These are not intended to be an exhaustive list and simply aim to add clarity to the main objective by defining the measures an LDP could take to achieving more sustainable development. These objectives are also closely related to the specific plans and strategies that cover the local Monmouthshire Area, including the Community Strategy, and those covering countryside, health and wellbeing and the local economy, as identified in Appendix 2 on plans and programmes.

6.10 The more comprehensive framework in Appendix 1 also contains possible indicators that could be developed into a suitable set to monitor the sustainable implementation of the 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 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.

- 6.11 As the LDP emerges it will be necessary to prepare a set of indicators to monitor implementation, it would be beneficial for the sustainability indicators to be included in this monitoring system so that monitoring for sustainability is an integral part of the monitoring and review procedures for the LDP.

*Developing the sustainability framework*

- 6.12 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 or supporting 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
- **stakeholder input-** a workshop was held to discuss the main issues in the Monmouthshire area that need to be addressed through the sustainability objectives. The workshop involved an invited group of stakeholders, see paragraph 2.16 The output of group discussions at the event was the identification of sustainability issues that would need to be addressed through the LDP, and how these may be expressed as objectives for use in the sustainability appraisal.

- 6.13 There is also the opportunity for this framework to be further refined through the process of public consultation on this Scoping Report. Following this consultation period any responses received on the framework in Table 2 and in the more detailed framework in Appendix 1 can be taken into account, and amendments and additions made where appropriate.

**Table 2: Sustainability framework**

<b>Headline</b>	<b>Objective</b>
Accessibility	Allow equitable access for all to jobs, services and facilities they need, in a way that reduces reliance on car use
Housing	Provide a range of types and tenures of housing that allows people to meet their housing needs
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
Community	To support and promote the distinctive character of local communities and community cohesion
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance habitats and natural species diversity, valuing nature conservation interests wherever they are found
Landscape	To maintain and enhance the quality and character of the landscape, including its contribution to the setting and character of settlements
Built environment	To maintain and enhance the built environment for both its visual appearance and to create a better living environment
Historic heritage	Protect and restore where necessary the historic cultural heritage of the area, including features of the built and semi-natural environment
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
Water quality	To maintain and improve the quality of ground, surface and coastal waters
Water quantity including flooding	To maintain the quantity of water available including potable water supplies, and ground water and river levels. Ensure that new development does not increase the risk of flood on or off site
Minerals and waste	To maintain the stock of minerals and avoid final disposal of material resources
Land / soil	To use land efficiently by reducing the proportion of undeveloped land used for building, as well as using existing land and soil resource efficiently by tackling contamination and protecting higher grade agricultural soils
Energy	To increase opportunities for more efficient use of energy, including through the use of renewable energy generation
Employment	Provide a range of jobs within Monmouthshire that help meet the needs of the resident workforce
Wealth creation	Raise prosperity and quality of life by developing a more self-sustaining local economy encouraging indigenous growth

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## Appendix 1: The sustainability framework for the SA of the LDP

Headline	Objective	Supporting objectives	Possible SA indicators showing the desired direction of change (+) increase or more; (-) decrease, less or none; (nc) no change
Accessibility	Allow equitable access for all to jobs, services and facilities they need, in a way that reduces reliance on car use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ support the growth of mixed use developments at transport hubs 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</li> <li>▪ reduce reliance on car use</li> <li>▪ reduce disparities in access to services through a combined approach of suitable facility and service provision and public transport links</li> <li>▪ support the access of rural communities to jobs and services, ideally within villages but also through good public transport networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Percentage of new development within 10 minute walk from a frequent and regular bus service <b>(+)</b></li> <li>▪ Multiple deprivation scores for access deprivation <b>(-)</b></li> <li>▪ Average travel to work distance <b>(-)</b></li> </ul>
Housing	Provide a range of types and tenures of housing that allows people to meet their housing needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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</li> <li>▪ provide a range of homes to meet the diverse needs of residents, including family homes, smaller flats and retirement units</li> <li>▪ build good quality housing throughout Monmouthshire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People in housing need <b>(-)</b></li> <li>▪ Housing affordability to income <b>(+)</b></li> <li>▪ Housing built to 'very good' or 'excellent' BREEAM EcoHomes standards <b>(+)</b></li> <li>▪ Affordable home completions <b>(+)</b></li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ protect people from the negative health impacts of polluted air and water</li> <li>▪ ensure equitable access to health services</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> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overall levels of reported crime in Monmouthshire <b>(nc or -)</b></li> <li>▪ Quantity and quality of open spaces and leisure centres <b>(+)</b></li> <li>▪ Local health services <b>(+)</b></li> </ul>

safety

- ensure new development is not in areas at known risk of flood
- enhance opportunities for healthy living and help support more healthy lifestyles through access to open space and prioritised cycling and walking routes

Community  
To support and promote the distinctive character of local communities and community cohesion

- ensure services and facilities that serve to support local communities are maintained and enhanced as part of new and existing development
- allow the communities to be involved in the planning decisions that affect them
- help support rural communities, including by helping people remain living in their local area
- support a demographic range in all communities, including children, young people, working age and retired people
- help in creating development of the type and design that can help avoid adverse impact on the community, such as development that deters anti-social behaviour

- Community facilities (+)
- Proportion of 20-35 year olds compared to national average (+)

Biodiversity  
Protect and enhance habitats and natural species diversity, valuing nature conservation interests wherever they are found

- provide a strong level of protection to sites designated for the national or international importance for nature conservation
- allow people to have better access to suitable areas of nature conservation importance to help everyone better understand and value their natural environment
- value and protect biodiversity wherever it is found
- ensure new development does not cause the further fragmentation of habitats and protect and enhance network routes for flora and fauna movement
- support landscaping that makes use of species that will support native biodiversity

- Length of hedgerows lost to development (-)
- Areas of designated nature conservation sites directly lost to development (-)
- Veteran trees or hectares of ancient woodlands lost to development (-)
- Applications that include habitat creation (+)

Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ help protect and enhance the rural and coastal landscapes, as a living and working asset, for their visual quality, and as a recreation resource</li> <li>▪ protect the setting of towns and villages in the landscape and enhance the transition of urban to rural</li> <li>▪ help in the positive management of landscapes to protect and enhance their character</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Length of hedgerows lost to development <b>(-)</b></li> <li>▪ Area of woodland lost to development <b>(-)</b></li> </ul>
Built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ensure new development is designed so as to create places that support people making good quality places for living, working and leisure</li> <li>▪ develop towns that promote walking and are not focused on car use</li> <li>▪ ensure that the design of new building adds to the character of the area through high quality design and layout</li> <li>▪ promote and protect design lead development and buildings of local as well as national architectural importance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Planning applications accompanied by Design and Access statements <b>(+)</b></li> </ul>
Historic heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ensure new development takes account of and protects and enhances where necessary the cultural and historic heritage</li> <li>▪ where possible identify historic features at risk and help restore these by bringing them back into good use</li> <li>▪ ensure buried archaeological assets are protected from harmful impacts of development, or other appropriate management where suitable</li> <li>▪ ensure that the features of historic landscape are respected in new development</li> <li>▪ ensure that locally important heritage is suitably considered in planning for new development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of listed buildings at risk <b>(-)</b></li> <li>▪ Number of listed building demolished <b>(-)</b></li> <li>▪ Planning applications in Archaeological Sensitive Areas that are subject to suitable archaeological investigation/reporting <b>(+)</b></li> <li>▪ Number of locally important buildings or structures lost to development <b>(-)</b></li> </ul>

Air	<p>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</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> <li>▪ ensure new development in town centre locations does not lead to worsening air quality, in particular aiming to improve air quality in Chepstow and Usk town centres</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</li> <li>▪ help reduce waste to landfill, and set standards for management, to avoid methane emissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of instances where air quality exceeds objective levels <b>(-)</b></li> <li>▪ Percentage of people using their car as their main way of commuting to and from work <b>(-)</b></li> <li>▪ Percentage of homes with two or more cars <b>(-)</b></li> </ul>
Water quality	<p>To maintain and improve the quality of ground, surface and coastal waters</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> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ % of rivers reaching 'good' biological and chemical water quality <b>(+)</b></li> <li>▪ Unsuitable development in groundwater Source Protection Zones <b>(-)</b></li> <li>▪ Proportion of development that incorporates SUDS <b>(+)</b></li> </ul>
Water quantity including flooding	<p>To maintain the quantity of water available including potable water supplies, and ground water and river levels. Ensure that new development does not increase the risk of flood on or off site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ensure new development makes the best use of potable water, incorporating re-use of grey water in new development</li> <li>▪ ensure development takes into account the impacts of climate change and reduce summer water availability in planning outdoor spaces</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>▪ make use of SUDS to avoid run-off to rivers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of permissions for development in Flood Zones B, C1 and C2 <b>(-)</b></li> <li>▪ Proportion of development that incorporates SUDS <b>(+)</b></li> <li>▪ Height of water in Groundwater Source Protection Zones <b>(nc or +)</b></li> <li>▪ Housing built to 'very good' or 'excellent' BREEAM EcoHomes standards <b>(+)</b></li> <li>▪ Km of rivers experiencing summer low flow <b>(-)</b></li> </ul>

Minerals and waste	<p>To maintain the stock of minerals and avoid final disposal of material resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ reduce waste, particularly to landfill</li> <li>▪ safeguard mineral resources</li> <li>▪ encourage better building practices that reduce construction waste and ensure demolition waste is reused in development</li> <li>▪ help to reduce the use of primary resources by providing appropriate sites for more sustainable waste management, including re-processing, recycling and storage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Permissions granted contrary to minerals safeguarding advice (-)</li> <li>▪ Distance that household, industrial and commercial waste is transported to material recovery/treatment facilities or landfill (-)</li> <li>▪ Proportion of demolition waste re-used on site (+)</li> </ul>
Land / soil	<p>To use land efficiently by reducing the proportion of undeveloped land used for building, as well as using existing land and soil resource efficiently by tackling and protecting higher grade agricultural soils</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ protect greenfield land from development where development would 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>▪ avoid building on higher quality agricultural soils, which are scarce in Monmouthshire</li> <li>▪ ensure contaminated land is subject to appropriate remediation to bring it back into suitable use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Proportion of development built on greenfield land (nc or -)</li> <li>▪ Annual average densities of new housing development (+)</li> <li>▪ Hectares of agricultural soil at Grade 3 and better that is lost to development (-)</li> </ul>
Energy	<p>To increase opportunities for more efficient use of energy, including through the use of renewable energy generation</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> <li>▪ ensure that energy is used more efficiently, including in the design of new development, through reducing electricity transmission losses, and reducing car travel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of developments that contain micro-generation technologies, supplying at least 10% of their energy needs (+)</li> <li>▪ Percentage of people using their car as their main way of commuting to and from work (-)</li> <li>▪ Housing built to 'very good' or 'excellent' BREEAM EcoHomes standards (+)</li> </ul>

Employment	Provide a range of jobs within Monmouthshire that help meet the needs of the resident workforce	<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> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Take up of employment land (+)</li> <li>▪ Proportion of resident workforce working in Monmouthshire (+)</li> <li>▪ Average travel to work distance (-)</li> <li>▪ Numbers of working age population who could work that are out of employment (-)</li> </ul>
Wealth creation	Raise prosperity and quality of life by developing a more self-sustaining local economy encouraging indigenous growth	<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 dispersed employment areas to provide local jobs</li> <li>▪ provide an infrastructure of transport, communications and land that helps attract new business, including the start-up and growth of indigenous businesses</li> <li>▪ maintain a coherent and successful range of businesses and build up local supply and distribution chains</li> <li>▪ help in increasing the income to the area through tourism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Range of employment space available, distribution and size (+)</li> <li>▪ Take up of employment land (+)</li> <li>▪ Business registrations minus de-registrations (+)</li> <li>▪ Proportion of resident workforce working in Monmouthshire (+)</li> <li>▪ Professional and senior management jobs available in Monmouthshire (+)</li> <li>▪ Tourism expenditure (+)</li> </ul>



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