

Revised Local 2018-2033 Development Plan

Scoping Report - Non Technical Summary

Sustainability Appraisal /
Strategic Assessment (SA/SEA)

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Revised Local Development Plan

Carmarthenshire County Council has begun preparing the Revised Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP sets out the Council's vision and objectives for the use and development of land in Carmarthenshire, and its policies and proposals to implement them, for the period up to 2033. It will set out how much growth is needed and where it will be located in the county. It will also seek to protect certain areas from inappropriate development to support the landscape and countryside.

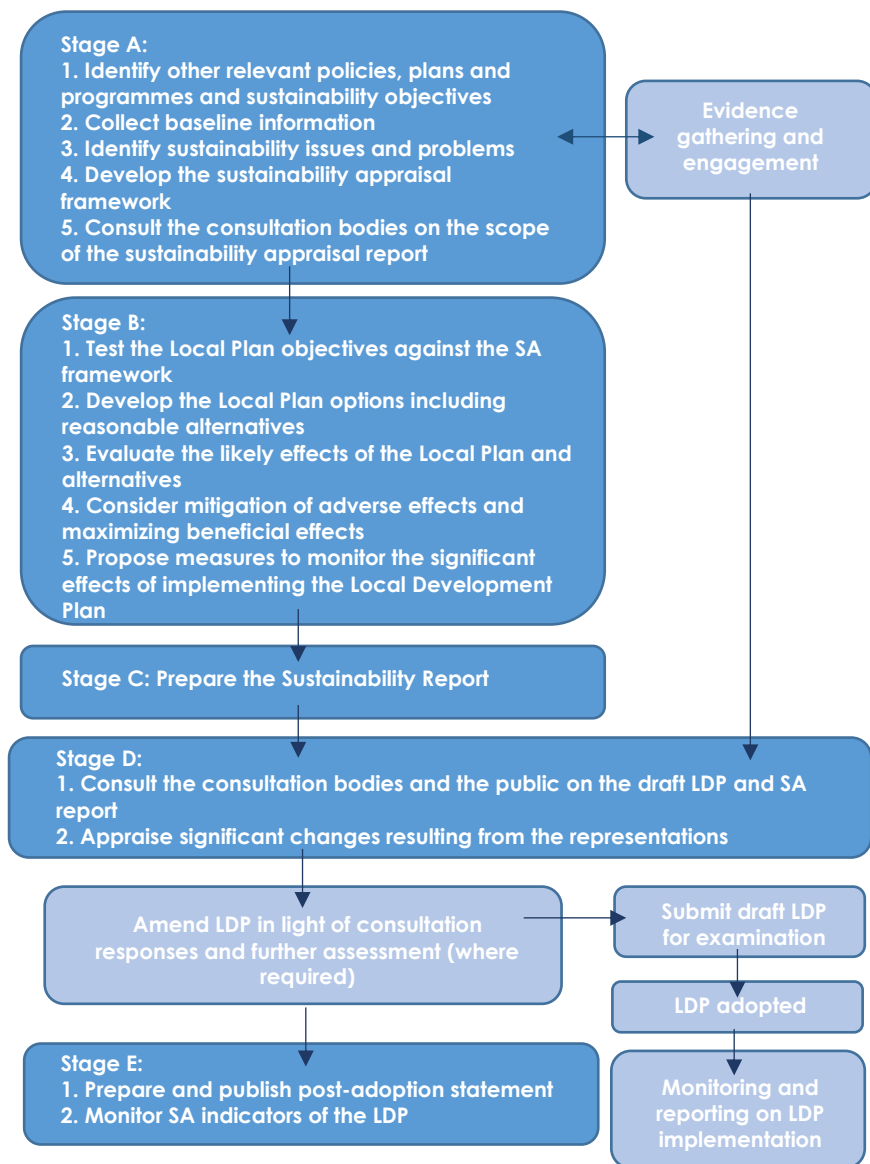
Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

When producing an LDP, it is important that its social, economic and environmental impacts are considered. The Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment are tools which allow an objective, evidence-based assessment of the LDP's effects to be made, and aims to minimise and negative effects and maximise positive ones.

It is a legal requirement that LDP is subject to SA, under the Planning Act Wales (2015) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales). This act also requires that the SA integrates and complies with the requirements of the EU SEA Directive and SEA Regulations.

The principle of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and in the future, lies at the heart of sustainable development.





The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Process

The SA process requires five main stages to be undertaken, which occur alongside the preparation of the revised LDP, which is outlined in Figure 1. These stages are:

- **Stage A:** Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope. This stage occurs alongside the 'Evidence Gathering' stage of the LDP.
- **Stage B:** Developing and refining alternatives and addressing the effects. This stage occurs alongside the 'Issues and Options' stage of the LDP.
- **Stage C:** Preparing the Environmental Report
- **Stage D:** Consulting on the Environmental Report. This stage occurs alongside the 'Preferred Options' stage of the LDP.
- **Stage E:** Monitoring the implementation of the plan. This stage occurs after the preferred LDP has been submitted and accepted.



Scoping Report

The Scoping Report is the first document to be produced as part of the SA/SEA process and addresses Stage A. The aim of the scoping report is to assess any local challenges based on the current conditions, and highlight any likely issues that may arise as part of the plan. It also establishes a framework for testing how the LDP will deliver sustainable development in future stages of preparation. Key stages of the scoping report:

- Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes to ensure the LDP is consistent with the current government policy context.
- Collects baseline information on the economic, social and environmental situation in Carmarthenshire.
- Discusses and identifies the key economic, social and environmental issues affecting Carmarthenshire
- Develops a framework of objectives and indicators that will be used to test the LDP's effects.



Policy Context

The Revised Carmarthenshire LDP is not prepared in isolation, and is influenced by other relevant plans, policies and programmes and wider sustainability objectives at local, national and international levels. The Revised LDP must also conform to environmental protection legislation.

A review of these relevant policies has been undertaken and reported in the SA Scoping Report, and can be viewed in full in Appendix 1 of the report. Key principles are noted and will be used to positively influence the direction of the Revised LDP.

Baseline Information

The baseline information for the SA brings together information about Carmarthenshire's economic, social and environmental situation. It helps to identify the issues on which the SA should focus and provides a benchmark against which the performance of the LDP can be assessed.

As the SA progresses, baseline information will be refined and more detailed and precise data and information that is relevant to the sustainability framework will need to be identified.

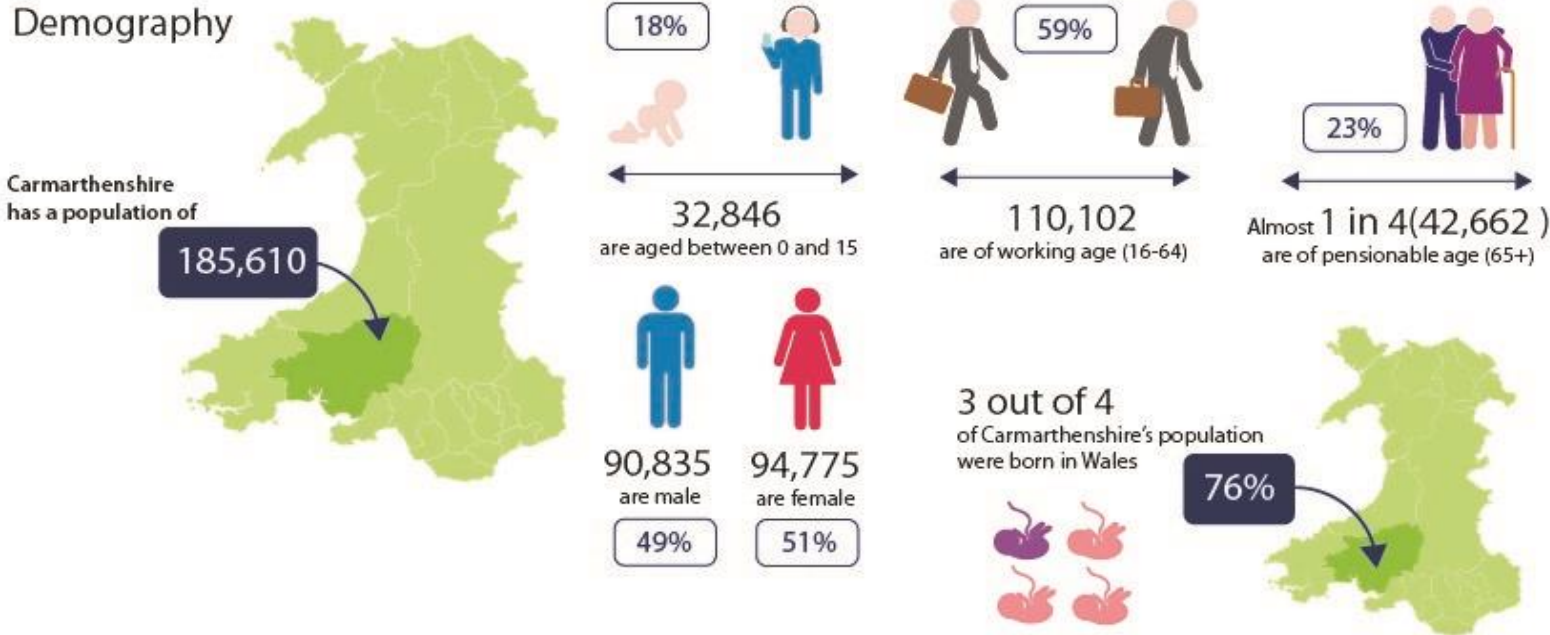
The baseline information for Carmarthenshire has been collated under a series of headings and is reported in the SA Scoping Report, and can be viewed in full in Appendix 2 of the report.

1. Sustainable Development
2. Biodiversity
3. Air Quality
4. Climatic Factors
5. Water
6. Material Assets
7. Soil
8. Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment
9. Landscape
10. Population
11. The Welsh Language
12. Health and Well-being
13. Education and Skills
14. Economy
15. Social Fabric



Key Baseline Statistics for Carmarthenshire

Demography



Carmarthenshire has an ageing population.

By **2039**, around **1 in 3** Carmarthenshire residents will be aged **65** and over.



1 in 4

have a limiting long-term illness



1 in 25

Carmarthenshire is predominantly white, with 4% of the population having a non-white ethnicity,

Carmarthenshire has the highest number of Welsh speakers in Wales at



78,048



There are over 78,800 households in Carmarthenshire.

30% are occupied by just one person.



60% of the population live in rural areas, which form 53% of the County



6 in 10

There are **three major towns of Llanelli, Carmarthen and Ammanford** which are

home to 25% of the population.



25%



7 out of 10 households are owned (outright or with a mortgage)



14% are socially renting



10% private rented



44 crimes per 1000 population



8166 recorded crimes during 2015/16



79% feel safe in their area

Economy



8 in 10

Nearly 8 in 10 of Carmarthenshire's working age population (16-64) are economically active. (62% as employees; 12% self-employed)

79%, 89,600



63,000
Employee jobs in Carmarthenshire



1 in 5

work in wholesale and retail



1 in 5

work in health and social care fields



13%

in manufacturing



10%

in education



7%
in public administration



92%

of businesses are micro enterprises (employ less than 10 people)



£23,825
Median Household Income in Carmarthenshire, compared to a Wales median of £24,944

Over 1 in 3 of households are living in poverty, according to the Welsh Government definition – households with less than 60% of GB median income



(36%)



Croeso / Welcome

£370 million

value / contribution of tourism to Carmarthenshire's economy



24,000

people in Carmarthenshire provide unpaid care, that's 13% the population.



+50 Hours

Over 7000 provide more than 50 hours of unpaid care a week.

Health and Well-being

Life Expectancy is favourable at:



78.5 yrs
for men



82.6 yrs
for women



7.4 : 10

Average score for 'life satisfaction', on a scale of 1 to 10

3 in 10

suffer from mental health issues



28%

60%

of adults reported being overweight or obese (using BMI)



Environment



5,587

Minimum number of Carmarthenshire properties at risk of flooding from rising sea levels



Culture

83%

of Carmarthenshire households have internet access



68%

said that people from different backgrounds get on well together



2 in 3

participate in sports

66%





Economic, Social and Environmental Issues and Opportunities

The economic, social and environmental issues in Carmarthen are outlined and discussed in Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report. It is recognised that the key issues and opportunities for Carmarthenshire may change during the LDP preparation process, and into the future as new issues arise and the baseline changes. Therefore, key issues and opportunities will be updated regularly as part of the ongoing consultation and feedback process.

The Revised LDP will aim to deal with the issues identified and promote any opportunities that have emerged.

A key output of the scoping report is the development of a framework of objectives, sub-objectives and indicators that will be used to assess and monitor the LDP's effects.

The following table summarises Carmarthenshire's key sustainability issues and opportunities as well as the emerging SA framework objectives.

Sustainability Issues and Opportunities	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
1. Sustainable Development	
<p>Conserving and carefully using our natural resources is recognised from international to local levels.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire is currently exceeding sustainability levels with regards to food and drink, energy, capital investment (transport/buildings) and consumables.</p>	<p>1-1 To live within environmental limits 1-2 To ensure a strong, healthy and just society 1-3 To achieve a sustainable economy 1-4 To remove barriers and promote opportunities for behavioural change</p>
2. Biodiversity	
<p>Carmarthenshire has many sites with high biodiversity value, some of which are protected from international to local levels.</p> <p>It is important that they are protected and, where possible, enhanced.</p> <p>Many sites in Carmarthenshire have been identified as being in 'unfavourable condition' and are therefore likely to be sensitive to any pressures or impacts.</p>	<p>2-1 To avoid damage or fragmentation of designated sites, habitats and protected species and encourage their enhancement 2-2 To protect, enhance and create appropriate wildlife habitats and wider biodiversity in urban and rural areas</p>
3. Air Quality	
<p>Air quality targets at EU and national targets need to be met.</p> <p>Air quality in Carmarthenshire is generally good, although ozone levels can be high in rural areas.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire currently has three air quality management areas (AQMA) and any impacts on these areas or outside of their boundaries should be considered.</p>	<p>3-1 To maintain/reduce the levels of the UK National Air Quality pollutants 3-2 To reduce levels of ground level ozone 3-3 To reduce the need to travel, through the appropriate siting of new developments and provision of public transport infrastructure.</p>

4. Climactic Factors	
<p>Climate change issues are recognised internationally and is a key government priority.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire must play its part in minimising impacts on climate change and must be prepared to adapt to any impacts that a changing climate may have on the county.</p> <p>Particular issues exist for populations within coastal and river floodplains, which may be at increased risk of flooding.</p> <p>Climate change may also lead to changes in which sites are suitable for the growth of certain agricultural crops.</p> <p>Any new developments will need to use energy efficiently, and seek to produce energy from renewable or low carbon sources.</p>	<p>4-1 To reduce the emission of greenhouse gases</p> <p>4-2 To minimise the vulnerability of Carmarthenshire to the effects of climate change through making space for water, coastal retreat and shifting habitat distribution patterns</p> <p>4-3 To encourage all new developments to be climate resilient</p> <p>4-4 To encourage energy conservation and higher energy efficiency</p> <p>4-5 To minimise energy consumption and promote renewable energy sources</p>
5. Water	
<p>Biological and chemical water quality is typically good in Carmarthenshire. However, pressures from previous industrial activity and diffuse from agriculture exist within the river catchments.</p> <p>Both surface and groundwater are used to supply both the public and industry, which can lead to declining water levels.</p> <p>In Carmarthenshire, there are a high number of homes at risk of flooding. Many settlements have developed on flat, fertile floodplains and in light of climate change are at a higher risk of flooding.</p>	<p>5-1 To ensure water quality of rivers, lakes, groundwater and coastal areas is improved and ensure that the hydromorphological quality of water bodies is maximised.</p> <p>5-2 To protect and maintain water resources in the public supply chain and ensure enough water is available for the environment at all times of year.</p> <p>5-3 To minimise diffuse pollution from urban and rural areas.</p> <p>5-4 To increase water efficiency in new and refurbished developments</p> <p>5-5 To make space for water, and minimise flood risk</p>

6. Material Assets	
<p>Carmarthenshire is a large and mainly rural county, which means there are usually large distances between regional and local centres.</p> <p>For this reason, a large number of people travel to work by car, and rely on private car use to access services.</p> <p>In the past, waste has been disposed via landfill, however Carmarthenshire has above national average rates of recycling.</p>	<p>6-1 Minimise the use of finite resources and promote higher resource efficiency and the use of secondary and recycled materials.</p> <p>6-2 Promote the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle.</p> <p>6-3 Encourage needs to be met locally.</p> <p>6-4 Promote the use of more sustainable resources.</p> <p>6-5 Improve the integration of different modes of transport.</p> <p>6-6 Promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport (e.g. cycling and walking).</p>
7. Soil	
<p>There are only a few areas of soils that are of the highest agricultural quality in Carmarthenshire. Good and Moderate agricultural land in the county is usually within river valleys.</p> <p>Soil is an important carbon store and should be conserved.</p> <p>Soils in Wales are typically at risk from acidic deposits and pollution that can lead to harmful effects to the soil chemistry.</p> <p>Areas of contaminated land associated with previously developed/urban land have been identified by Carmarthenshire County Council.</p>	<p>7-1 To avoid and reduce contamination of soils and promote the regeneration of contaminated land.</p> <p>7-2 To avoid loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces and minimise soil erosion.</p> <p>7-3 To reduce SO₂ and NO_x emissions and nitrate pollution from agriculture.</p>
8. Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	
<p>There is a chance that development may cause damage to important archaeological sites and the historic environment within the county.</p> <p>This could be caused by the destruction or disturbance of features of cultural heritage importance or by disrupting the setting of those features.</p>	<p>8-1 To protect historic and cultural assets and local distinctiveness from negative effects of development / regeneration and support their enhancement</p> <p>8-2 To promote high quality design reflecting local character and distinctiveness</p>

9. Landscape	
<p>There are a number of sites that are designated as being of landscape or townscape value within Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>These features need to be protected and, where possible enhanced.</p>	<p>9-1 To protect and enhance landscape/townscape from negative effects of land use change</p> <p>9-2 To take sensitive locations into account when siting development and to promote high quality design</p> <p>9-3 To encourage appropriate future use of derelict land</p>
10. Population	
<p>There is a trend for young people to move out of the county and the population of Carmarthenshire is increasingly moving towards older age groups.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire has a strong Welsh identity and has a high number of people that were born in Wales.</p> <p>There is a low proportion of the population from ethnic minority groups.</p>	<p>10-1 Ensure suitable, affordable housing stock with access to education and employment facilities</p> <p>10-2 Promote the retention of younger people</p> <p>10-3 Promote inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups into society</p>
11. The Welsh Language	
<p>Carmarthenshire has the highest proportion of Welsh speakers in Wales, with 78,000 people reporting that they could speak Welsh in the 2011 Census.</p> <p>That number increased to 80,700 in the Welsh Language Use Survey carried out in 2015.</p>	<p>11-1 Encourage growth of the Welsh language and culture</p>

12. Health and Wellbeing	
<p>A lower number of people in Carmarthenshire state that their level of health is generally 'good' than the national average.</p> <p>A higher proportion of people live with a long-term limiting illness than the national average.</p> <p>Rates of obesity are also above the national average.</p>	<p>12-1 Create opportunities for people to live active, healthy lifestyles through planning activities</p> <p>12-2 Provide access to health and recreation facilities and services</p> <p>12-3 Encourage walking or cycling as alternative means of transportation</p> <p>12-4 Promote access to Wales' natural and cultural heritage</p>
13. Education and Skills	
<p>A high number of people in Carmarthenshire have no qualifications although in 19-21 years olds, it is just above the national average.</p> <p>Literacy and numeracy rates compare unfavourably against the national average.</p>	<p>13-1 Provide accessible educational and training facilities which meet the future needs of the area</p> <p>13-2 Increase levels of literacy (in English and Welsh) and numeracy</p> <p>13-3 Promote lifelong learning</p>
14. Economy	
<p>Most economic activities in Carmarthenshire are based around service providing activities, including retail, health care and education, with quite a high proportion of manufacturing activities.</p> <p>Employment rates are slightly below average in Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>A relatively low proportion of people work from home.</p>	<p>14-1 To promote sustainable economic growth</p> <p>14-2 To provide good quality employment opportunities for all sections of the population</p> <p>14-3 To promote sustainable businesses in Wales</p>

15. Social Fabric

Rates of rough sleepers are above average in Carmarthenshire.

Levels of violent crime, vehicle theft and theft from vehicles are below the national average, however rates have been increasing since 2002.

Seven LSOA's in Carmarthenshire are in the top 10% of the most deprived LSOA's in Wales.

Geographical access to services and employment are the two main domains that contribute to deprivation in Carmarthenshire.

The ration of average house price to average earnings ratio is high which indicates a lack of affordability.

15-1 Improve safety and security for people and property

15-2 Promote the design of settlements that improve social fabric by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions

15-3 Promote the delivery of affordable housing

15-4 Improve accessibility to services, particularly for disadvantaged sections of society.

Next Steps

As part of the SEA directive Carmarthenshire County Council are required to consult with the statutory environmental bodies, namely Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Cadw. Good practice guidelines recommend that further consultation be undertaken with interested parties and the public throughout the whole process of the plan and appraisal preparation, in order to allow transparency and widespread opportunity for involvement.

On that basis, consultation on the draft scoping report will take place over a six week period between Wednesday 11th July 2018 and Monday 27th August 2018. Following the receipt of consultation comments, they will be reviewed and the scope of the SA will be amended as necessary.

The next stage of the LDP process requires the Council to prepare a set of strategic options and alternatives that will represent the different scenarios that the Council may choose to adopt as its preferred strategy for the LDP.

Future SA/SEA reports will detail the assessment process that the LDP options and preferred strategy have gone through. This will conclude in the preparation of the final Sustainability Report that will be subject to consultation alongside the deposited copy of the LDP, and will be considered as part of the Public Examination into the LDP.

The next stage B of the SA/SEA process involves:

- Testing the sustainability of the LDP objectives, using the SA framework as a structure.
- Developing options by which the LDP objectives can be achieved, including reasonable alternatives
- Predict the effects of the LDP preferred options and alternatives, using the SA framework as a structure
- Identify ways that any negative effects can be minimised and positive effects maximised



Contact Information

Copies of the Scoping Report are available from the Forward Planning Section or can be viewed on the Authority's website (www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk).

The report can also be inspected at the Council's Customer Service Centres and at Planning Offices in Carmarthen, Llanelli and Llandeilo.

Response forms may be downloaded from the website and are also available from the above locations or by contacting the Forward Planning Section directly.

Your views on the Scoping Report should be sent in writing to:

Forward Planning Section,
Environment Department,
7/8 Spilman Street,
Carmarthen,
Carmarthenshire,
SA31 1JY

or e mail: forward.planning@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
or online at www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk by the closing date of Monday 29th August 2018.

