

Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033

Background Paper

## **BP43: Collaborative working with neighbouring planning authorities**



**Deposit Plan**

**August 2025**

**Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd.**

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**Sir Conwy, yr amgylchedd iawn i fyw, gweithio a darganfod**

**Conwy County, the right environment to live, work and discover**

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	4
2. Collaborative working with neighbouring planning authorities .....	4

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This is one of a series of Background Papers accompanying the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP). When the Council publishes its Deposit Plan, it must also explain how the policy has been formulated based on the evidence base available to the Council at the time.

## 2. Collaborative working with neighbouring planning authorities

2.1 In preparation of the Conwy RLDP, there has been substantial collaboration and consultation with Eryri National Park, Denbighshire and Gwynedd local planning authorities, and with other essential organisations, in order to consider the cross-boundary issues and wider context.

2.2 Collaborative work between local planning authorities has informed RLDP preparation in the following areas.

### North Wales Regional Planning Groups

2.3 Conwy's neighbouring authorities are Denbighshire County Council (DCC) and Eryri National Park Authority (ENPA). Conwy has a number of shared settlements with ENPA. It is essential that Conwy collaborates closely with ENPA regarding spatial strategy, policy formulation, evidence and land designations/allocations. Neighbouring/Regional collaboration takes place at various levels

- Neighbouring local level – Direct meetings with DCC and ENPA to collaborate on evidence, policies and land allocations/designations.
- RLDP Subject-based Working Groups – The governance arrangements for the RLDP include subject based working groups that involve external partners and neighbouring authorities (e.g. housing, economic, renewable energy, tourism, etc.)
- Regional Planning Policy Managers Group – Regional planning policy meeting where neighbouring/regional matters are presented and proposed as part of the RLDP preparation.

- North Wales Planning Officers Group - Regional senior planning officer meeting where neighbouring/regional matters are presented and agreed as part of the RLDP preparation.
- Strategic Development Plan (SDP)/Corporate joint Committee (CJC) Regional Boards and Sub-committees – Opportunities to present local level strategies and ensure they align with regional strategic direction in the SDP.

## Housing

2.4 Regular meetings have been held between Eryri National Park and CCBC planning policy officers to discuss the approach to housing policies and evidence base at shared settlement locations.

2.5 The dwelling requirement calculated in BP1 Growth Level Options Report includes data for past trends on housing completions in the Conwy County Borough part of the Eryri National Park. An allowance was included for future housing completions in this area during the RLDP area.

2.6 Meetings and discussions have been held between CCBC and Eryri National Park planners to discuss the settlement hierarchy and housing policy approaches in the ‘shared’ settlements (those split by the National Park boundary). A consistent approach has been progressed for policies.

2.7 Regular meetings and discussions have also taken place regarding the level of second homes and holiday lets. Some ‘shared’ communities have high proportions. Eryri National Park has progressed an Article 4 Direction to manage these levels. Data has been shared and a consistent policy approach is proposed in RLDP policies.

2.8 Eryri planning authority was included in the process to prepare BP9 Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA). Their views and needs were incorporated into the process and separate data produced as part of the final report. Regular regional level meetings were held to ensure a consistent approach between authorities when preparing the LHMA. Close working continues to take place between CCBC planning policy, housing and Eryri

planning policy to progress evidence base and schemes to meet the affordable housing needs in the Eryri National Park area of the local authority.

- 2.9 Gwynedd shared their experience and best practice when preparing housing evidence base, including for second homes, holiday lets and local need housing. This has been reflected in the Conwy RLDP policy approach and evidence base.
- 2.10 The preparation of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) was managed via a joint steering groups including representatives from CCBC, DCC and ENPA. This ensured a consistent approach to evidence across borders in determining the conclusions and needs of local communities.
- 2.11 Discussions at early stages of the RLDP preparation were essential to determine travel patterns, strategic site locations and impacts on cross border facilities and services.

## Retail

- 2.12 The Town Centres First Study considers the retail catchment areas and spend on a regional basis. Llandudno is classed as a Rub-Regional Shopping Centre, as its catchment area covers parts of neighbouring authorities. The large retail centres in neighbouring authorities, including Bangor, Rhyl and Prestatyn and also large retail centres further afield. Large scale development proposals in neighbouring authorities could impact retail provision and need in Conwy's RLDP area, and so working with neighbouring authorities and sharing information was key to ensuring a sound evidence base.

## Employment

- 2.13 The Employment Land Review considered the relationship between outward and inward commuting between neighbouring counties (Gwynedd and Denbighshire). This was with an aim to rebalance the land uses of the County to ensure that more (and better quality) jobs are provided could help to reverse the trend and 'claw-back' out-commuters, therefore reducing net out-commuting rates.

2.14 Eryri National Park were specifically consulted when compiling the background evidence for the background paper on planning and the rural economy. This was done to establish commonality with issues arising in the rural area, and ensure planning approaches on either side of the border would be complementary.

## Minerals and Waste

2.15 The Minerals and Waste evidence base and planning policies were compiled with the involvement of the North Wales Minerals and Waste Planning Service which is a regional-based service hosted by Flintshire County Council. Due to the regional focus, similarities with minerals and waste planning issues arising in neighbouring and other North Wales planning authorities could be easily identified and best practice shared. In particular, the appointment of mineral reserves and work of the North Wales RAWP (Regional Aggregates Working Party) is another example of collaboration between Conwy and its neighbouring LPAs on this specialised area of planning.

## Natural environment and Environmental Qualities

2.16 The natural environment and environmental qualities sections of the RLDP were prepared in collaboration with neighbouring authorities to ensure cross border impacts, mitigation and designations were aligned. For example, the preparation of the Wind and Solar Pre-assessed areas and Dark Skies evidence, policies and designations were established having been considered collaboratively.

## Tourism

2.17 Promotion of tourism (attractions, accommodation and diversification) must be progressed having collaborated with neighbouring authorities to ensure protection and management of the open countryside, whilst promoting economic prosperity and employment. Conwy have worked closely with Eryri to ensure policies align to achieve these key objectives.