

Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033

Background Paper

BP75: Tests of Soundness Report

Deposit Plan
December 2025



Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council is in the process of preparing the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) for Cowy (excluding that area contained within the Eryri National Park). The Plan will set out planning policies and the allocation of sites for different types of development. Once adopted, the Council will use the Plan for assessing planning applications through until 2033. The Council will continue to monitor and review the Plan's content to ensure it remains relevant and is working as intended. The Plan will guide and manage development by providing the foundation for consistent and clear decision making.
- 1.2 This paper sets out the self-assessment as to how and why the Council considers the Plan to have satisfied the Tests of Soundness, specified by the Welsh Government. This document represents a double-check that the Plan complies with the preparatory requirements and that it meets the 3 tests of soundness (as identified below).

2. Tests of Soundness

- 2.1 The fundamental requirement for a Local Development Plan (LDP) to be 'sound' is prescribed in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and in national Planning Policy. As part of the process of establishing soundness, the Council is required to undertake a self-assessment of its own LDP's soundness.
- 2.2 The soundness of the LDP will be assessed at an independent examination in public by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Welsh Government. The examination will assess whether the Plan's preparatory requirements have been followed and will determine whether it is 'sound' - namely that it meets all 3 soundness tests as set out below.
- 2.3 Welsh Government's LDP Manual Edition 3 (March 2020) identifies a series of questions to assist in indicating those matters that may be relevant under each test of soundness.

Preparation Requirements:

Has preparation complied with legal and regulatory procedural requirements? (LDP Regulations, CIS, SEA Regulations, SA, HRA etc?)

Is the plan in general conformity with the NDF and/or SDP? (when published or adopted respectively)

Soundness Tests:

Test 1: Does the plan fit? (i.e. is it clear that the LDP is consistent with other plans?)

Questions

- Does it have regard to national policy (PPW) and the WSP (NDF when published)?
- Does it have regard to the Well-being Goals?
- Does it have regard to the Welsh National Marine Plan?
- Does it have regard to the relevant Area Statement?
- Is the plan in general conformity with the NDF (when published)?
- Is the plan in general conformity with relevant SDP (when adopted)?
- Is it consistent with regional plans, strategies and utility provider programmes?
- Is it compatible with the plans of neighbouring LPAs?
- Does it regard the Well-being Plan or the National Park Management Plan?
- Has the LPA demonstrated it has exhausted all opportunities for joint working and collaboration on both plan preparation and the evidence base?

Test 2: Is the plan appropriate? (i.e. is the plan appropriate for the area in the light of the evidence?)

Questions

- Is it locally specific?
- Does it address the key issues?
- Is it supported by robust, proportionate and credible evidence?
- Can the rationale behind plan policies be demonstrated?
- Does it seek to meet assessed needs and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development?
- Are the vision and the strategy positive and sufficiently aspirational?
- Have the 'real' alternatives been properly considered?
- Is it logical, reasonable and balanced?
- Is it coherent and consistent?
- Is it clear and focused?

Test 3: Will the plan deliver (i.e. is it likely to be effective?)

Questions

- Will it be effective?
- Can it be implemented?
- Is there support from the relevant infrastructure providers both financially and in terms of meeting relevant timescales?
- Will development be viable?
- Can the sites allocated be delivered?
- Is the plan sufficiently flexible?

- Are there appropriate contingency provisions?
- Is it monitored effectively?

2.3 In undertaking the self-assessment, the following tables use the questions identified above in relation to each test. This template allows it to consider the Plan's soundness to date.

Preparation Requirements:

Has preparation complied with legal and regulatory procedural requirements? (LDP Regulations, CIS, SEA Regulations, SA, HRA etc?).

Yes. The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the procedural requirements. Reference should be had to the publication of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Habitat Regulations Assessment.

This is further considered against the respective LDP Regulations:

Regulation 5 Community Involvement Scheme Preparation:

The community involvement scheme (CIS) sets out how the Council intends to consult and engage with stakeholders and partners in a meaningful way throughout the LDP process. Contained within the Delivery Agreement (DA) it contains lists of those groups, bodies and individuals that will be consulted during the LDP preparatory process. The Council has engaged and consulted widely on the preparation of the CIS and as part of the preparation of the LDP. Further details can be found in the Initial Consultation Report. It must be stated that certain 'terms' used have changed over the RLDP production process and therefore may not reflect the original terms identified in the DA/CIS.

Regulation 6 Content of Community Involvement Scheme (CIS):

The CIS sets out:

- a) General and specific consultation bodies
- b) Principles of the participation strategy for preparing the Plan
- c) The timing and method of participation at each stage and response by the Council
- d) How responses will be used in developing the content of the LDP

Regulation 7 Timetable Preparation:

The relevant consultation bodies, groups and individuals were consulted as part of the preparation of a timetable in the DA as agreed by the Welsh Government. Comment received by such bodies are contained within the Representation Reports.

Regulation 8 Timetable:

The timetable within the DA identifies the timeline for the production of the Plan and the key stages in its preparation. This includes definitive and indicative dates for the preparation of the Plan. The newly revised DA (2025) was updated to include the new definitive timetable from the Deposit to Adoption.

Regulation 9 and 10 Delivery Agreement:

The DA has been approved by Welsh Government in accordance with the Regulations. The Delivery Agreement has been published and made available.

Regulation 11 Form and content of the LDP:

The Revised LDP is clear in containing the necessary information relating to the name of the area, that it is an LDP and the stage reached. The policies of the LDP both strategic and specific are supported by an appropriately clear and distinguishable supporting text.

Regulation 12 Proposals Map:

The Proposals Map has been produced in electronic format on the Council's website and is also available to view in hard copy at the relevant Deposit locations and drop-in events.

Regulation 14 Pre-Deposit Participation:

An extensive period of engagement and consultation was undertaken including sessions as part of the preparation of the Pre-deposit Preferred Strategy. Consultation and engagement was undertaken across a range of consultation bodies as well as the Key Stakeholder Groups/Forums and individual subject based working groups involving internal and external representatives.

Further details can be found in the Initial Consultation Report.

Regulation 15 and 16 Pre-Deposit public consultation:

The Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy was published for consultation in early 2019. The responses received were reported to Council and fully considered via a presented Representations Report. Where appropriate, agreed changes have been made in preparing the Deposit Plan

Further details are available within the Initial Consultation Report, Planning Aid Wales (PAW) Reports and Representations Reports.

Regulation 17 Deposit of Proposals:

The Deposit LDP consultation has complied with the Regulations in terms of publishing and making documents available to view and consulting relevant bodies.

Regulation 18 Representations on the Deposit LDP:

The variety of methods through which to participate on the content of the Deposit LDP (including using the on-line consultation JDI portal) have been made available to view at the specified locations.

Regulation 19 Handling of Deposit representations:

As soon as reasonably practicable, the representations will be made available for inspection. The Council will publish on its website details of all representations received together with a statement of how they can be inspected.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations – European Directive 2001/42/EC Sustainability Appraisal - The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004:

The Council has prepared a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Replacement LDP. The SA/SEA also considers health impact, which is further supported by a wider Health Impact Assessment. The SA/SEA has played an iterative role in the plan making process. SA/SEA reports have been prepared at Scoping, Initial and now at Deposit Stage.

The above has been prepared as part of an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal of the Deposit LDP.

Habitats Regulations Assessment – Planning and the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994:

A Habitats Regulations Screening Report was published for consultation alongside the pre-deposit (Preferred Strategy) consultation. A Habitats Regulations Assessment Report is also being made available for consultation as part of the consultation on the Deposit LDP.

Equalities Impact Assessment:

An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken as part of the preparation of the Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy and published to accompany the document. A Health Impact Assessment was also prepared and published at this stage. The Deposit LDP has also been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Test 1: Does the plan fit?**(i.e. is it clear that the LDP is consistent with other plans?)**

Yes, the Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy was primarily prepared in the context of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 9 and the Wales Spatial Plan (WSP). However, the preparation of the Deposit LDP and its policies and proposals have been prepared within the context of PPW (Edition 11) and Future Wales 2040 'The National Plan' to ensure it is consistent and compliant.

The formulation of the Deposit LDP has been prepared with full regard to the relevant Plans and strategies, whilst recognising that it will need to respond and develop as it progresses through its preparatory process.

The national, regional and local context (including those of adjoining areas) are (where relevant) identified within the Plan's supporting background evidence paper.

The Integrated SA Report reviews the relevant plans and policies at international/European, national, regional and local level in order to take account of the relationship between the LDP and other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives. This identifies implications in relation to the LDP..

The influence of the above is also reflected in the identification of priority issues for Conwy. These are subsequently reflected throughout the Plan and have informed the vision, strategic objectives, spatial strategy and strategic policies.

Does it have regard to national policy and WSP (NDF when published)?

Yes. Note: the commencement of the Plan and the pre-deposit preferred strategy was prior to the adoption of Future Wales: The National plan 2040. Initial reference was had to the content of the Wales Spatial Plan (2008) with the provisions of the Plan recognising the role Conwy plays. However, the Deposit Pan (Spatial Plan/Strategy and Hierarchy of Settlements) and supporting background evidence has been further checked and updated against Future Wales 2040 to ensure consistency and compliance.

Does it have regard to Well-being Goals?

Yes. The Deposit LDP has full regard to the provisions of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and to the well-being goals. The promotion and recognition of well-being was interwoven into the early conversations held regarding Plan preparation with a range of stakeholders.

The theme of well-being and the provisions of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is reflected in the use of the local well-being goals in

framing the strategic objectives and the strategic policies. The Deposit Vision encompasses the Joint Conwy Denbighshire Wellbeing Plan In this respect. Appendix 2 of the Deposit Plan seeks to summarise each policy in respect of its compatibility with the Local Well-being Goals with links back to the respective Strategic Objective which in turn relate directly back to the identified issues.

The proposed RLDP Annual Monitoring Report continues this theme and links directly back to the vision, objectives, strategy and policies.

Does it have regard the Welsh National Marine Plan?

Yes. The first Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP) was published by the Welsh Government on the 12 November 2019. Its content has been considered through the preparation of the Deposit Plan.

The Deposit Plan recognises the fundamental challenges posed by climate change and complements the Marine Plan on matters including flood risk and responding to issues such as adaptability and green infrastructure and connectivity. A Net-Zero Planning Framework is proposed to manage these issues.

Does it have regard to the relevant Area Statement(s)?

In the context set out by the Environment Act, NRW has prepared the North-West Wales Area Statement.

The area statement sets out:

- the natural resources in each area and the benefits they provide;
- the key challenges and opportunities at a local level;
- a common evidence base with information, data and evidence.

The Statement identifies the key risks, opportunities and priorities that we all need to address to build the resilience of our ecosystems and support sustainable management of the natural resources.. The Deposit Plan has been informed not only by its content but also by the duties under the Environment Act. Specific reference is made to the declaration of the Climate and Nature Emergencies by the Council which the Plan seeks to reflect – this has a clear synergy with the Area Statement themes on reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity and mitigating and adapting to a changing climate. The Deposit Plan puts in place strategic sections (Natural Environment, Net-zero Planning Framework and Environmental Qualities) to manage these issues.

Is the Plan in general conformity with the emerging NDF (when published)?

The Consultation Draft of the NDF was published on 7th August 2019 for formal consultation. It was published at a point when the RLDP was advanced in terms of its preparation and consequently it was not possible to have full regard to the NDF in that version of the Plan. This Deposit version has been reviewed to take into account Future Wales 2040. Overall, there is no conflict arising as a result of Future Wales 2040 as shown in the background evidence base. In conclusion, the background evidence demonstrates compatibility, whilst recognising that there was no need to review or change the Plan's original strategy.

Is the plan in general conformity with relevant SDP (when adopted)?

There is currently no Strategic Development Plan within the North Wales Region. Note: the progression of Corporate Joint Committees and the progress towards the preparation of an SDP for the Region will continue to be monitored.

Is it consistent with regional plans, strategies and utility programmes?

Yes. The Deposit LDP was prepared within the context of the relevant regional plans, strategies and utility programmes.

The Plan and its supporting background evidence identifies how it has been prepared in the light of regional plans, strategies and any investment programmes. Engagement has taken place with a range of infrastructure and utility providers to ensure deliverability and inform the phasing of the proposed sites.

Specific joint working has been undertaken with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to ensure population increase and housing can be delivered without impacting negatively on key health services over the plan period.

Is it compatible with the plans of neighbouring LPAs?

Yes. The preparation of the Deposit LDP reflects the close contact with all neighbouring authorities (as well as other essential organisations) both on an individual and policy subject-based working group basis but also through regional frameworks including (where applicable) discussions associated with the formation of the CJC and its duties to prepare a SDP for the region.

Conwy County Borough Council area includes parts of the Eryri National Park. Whilst the Deposit Plan area excludes Eryri National Park it is essential that there is collaboration for shared settlements. BP/42 'Collaborative Working with Neighbouring Authorities' sets out the Council's approach to compatibility.

Does it have regard to the Well-being Plan or the National Park Management Plan?

The Deposit Plan is fully compliant with the Conwy – Denbighshire Wellbeing Plan 2023 – 2028. It has informed the Vision, Objectives and strategy areas as detailed in the background evidence base. Joint working with Eryri National Park has also ensured compliance with the Eryri Management Plan as detailed in BP/42.

Has the LPA demonstrated it has exhausted all opportunities for joint working and collaboration on both plan preparation and the evidence base?

As identified above the LPA has been actively undertaking collaborative working with Neighbouring authorities. Regional Planning Policy Working Groups are fully established and inform collaboratively working, especially where joint/cross border evidence can be prepared. This will continue and further develop as work progresses on the Revised LDP but also on the SDP.

Various collaboratively working evidence/policies have been progressed as part of this Deposit Plan (e.g. Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, Short Term Holiday Lets/Second Homes, Hierarchy of Settlements, shared Settlement Affordable Housing policies, etc)

Test 2: Is the plan appropriate? (i.e. is the plan appropriate for the area in the light of the evidence?)

Yes. The formulation of the Plan is underpinned by evidence and the identification of locally specific Issues, Vision, Strategic Objectives and Strategic Policies.

The emphasis has been on undertaking a series of conversations about the needs of the Conwy Plan Area and what can realistically be delivered to meet community's needs, but at the same time reflecting national, regional and local policies and evidence.

The Conwy/Denbighshire Well-being Plan and local corporate strategies have provided a basis for a Plan that is specific to Conwy. The Plan has considered key constraints and made difficult decisions in meeting local needs (e.g. focussing growth away from populated areas that are vulnerable to flood risk and have infrastructure capacity issues). The Plan recognises the difficulties in meeting needs in the rural area and has put in place a flexible policy strategy to ensure all opportunities to meet needs are explored through the planning process.

Is it locally specific?

Yes. This Plan is a product of effective engagement and consensus building. Since the commencement of the review in 2018 the following have been undertaken at various stages of plan preparation:

- Established RLDP Task and Finish Group/Strategic Planning Group (balanced Member representation)
- Meetings with LDP Key Stakeholders (Via Forums/Subject Based Working Groups)
- LDP Workshops and Training Sessions
- Town and Community Councils
- Developer Workshops (Sites and Viability)
- Planning Aid Wales Placemaking Sessions
- Community arranged Public Events
- Drop-in sessions and public exhibitions
- Public consultations (statutory and non-statutory)
- Specific engagements to progress policies and sites (e.g. affordable housing call for sites, Registered Social Landlord consultation, health, education, commercial, Gypsy and traveller engagement, town centre first, etc)
- Meetings with specific bodies to progress local concern (e.g. BCUHB, Education Department)

Does it address the key issues?

Yes. A golden thread is applied to the RLDP from the evidence/priority issues, which then inform the strategic objectives, vision and supporting strategies/policies (refer to Section 3 of the RLDP Deposit Written Statement and related Background Papers).

Is it supported by robust, proportionate and credible evidence?

Yes. The preparation of the Plan has involved the development of a comprehensive evidence base. This includes research and data gathering as well as the collation of studies already available. Evidence has been updated annually and reflected in the RLDP where necessary. The implications of COVID and impacts on evidence were also considered fully before progressing the Deposit Plan.

The Council has wherever possible sought to enter into the preparation of joint studies with its neighbours or across the region. Such work has included the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The Council will continue to work with neighbouring authorities and those across the region to ensure shared interests and policy areas are explored and as part of a commitment to regional collaboration.

The Council's website sets out evidence base and lists those available. At each subsequent stages, more specific and updated evidence will be

produced as necessary to support the preparation and implementation of the Plan.

Can the rationale behind plan policies be demonstrated?

Yes. The Plan flows from the identification of the priority issues through to the Vision, the strategic objectives and to the spatial strategy and then on to strategic policies. These strategic sections/policies set the context for the more detailed area and topic-based policies. Both the strategic and detailed policies are grouped according to themes to ensure consistency across the Plan.

Each strategic policy is accompanied by supporting text or reasoned justification set out within the appendices of the Deposit Plan and evidence base. The strategic policies are linked to the relevant strategic objective and the relevant issue(s). Appendix 2 of the Deposit Plan also references the Strategic policies to the relevant national policies, plans, strategies and programmes.

Each Strategic Policy is accompanied by a series of specific policies which are also accompanied by supporting text or reasoned justification. Where relevant and necessary, links to supporting documents, evidence and Supplementary Planning Guidance is included in order to further explain the policy approach and its implementation.

Does it seek to meet assessed needs and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development?

Yes. The achievement of sustainable development is a central component of the Plan. The Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (ISA) process has provided an invaluable sounding board in the preparation of the Plan.

The Plan seeks to meet an evidenced provision for growth whilst recognising and making provision for the environmental diversity across the Plan area. This is based on the relevant evidence and reflects the Plans and strategies of the Council but also those within the regional level.

The Plan seeks to propose a balanced and sustainable level of growth. The focus of growth approach is consistent with Future Wales and seeks to direct it to the Regional Growth Areas.

The Plan also recognises the importance of sustaining rural communities and their contribution to the economy, environment and culture of the County Borough.

The hierarchy of settlements has been developed taking account of the respective sustainability credentials of each settlement which define settlements and how they can contribute in their wider communities. This

hierarchy recognises and acknowledges the availability of services and facilities, accessibility issues and other considerations.

Are the vision and the strategy positive and sufficiently aspirational?

Yes. The RLDP vision has been formed having regard to the high level priority issues and drivers set out in supporting documents. It also informed by national, regional and local legislation, policies and evidence base detailed in sections 2, 3 & 4. It was then refined and shortened further for this Deposit RLDP through the ongoing SA/SEA process and to reflect the key themes of the Conwy and Denbighshire Local Well-being Plan (2023-2028). Importantly, the vision is now more succinct, embraces placemaking and emphasises the importance of creating sustainable places and improved wellbeing for all.

The compatibility of the vision and objectives have been considered against the WFG goals, the Conwy and Denbighshire Well-being Plan and other key documents such as the North Wales Growth Deal. This vision for the Conwy RLDP will be achieved by working collaboratively with all stakeholders involved in planning following the 5 ways of working (collaboration, prevention, integration, long term and involvement) and striving to deliver sustainable places and improved well-being. Placemaking and regeneration efforts will therefore be focused on delivering place-based solutions to social, economic, environmental and cultural challenges facing the area. The vision will therefore be implemented through addressing the objectives set out in the next section, and in turn through implementing associated policies and proposals detailed in the RLDP placemaking policy framework.

It should be noted that the Vision has been updated from that which was contained with the pre deposit Preferred Strategy as a result of representations to the Strategy and the recommendations of the Sustainability Appraisal and adoption of the Conwy and Denbighshire Wellbeing Plan (2023 – 2028).

Have the ‘real’ alternatives been properly considered?

Yes. The Plan is considered to be realistic and appropriate having been developed through and from several ‘real’ alternatives. The preferred approach also considers lessons learnt from the first LDP, especially with regards to rural development and sustaining rural communities.

The assessment of the Spatial options identified a growth option in line with the Wales Spatial Plan (2008) originally. This was reviewed when Future Wales 2040 was released, resulting in no changes to the original preferred growth option.

The Growth Options were also considered in this manner and are underpinned by specialist evidence. Recognising the contextual changes

that have occurred since the publication of the Preferred Strategy, including the implications of COVID 19, a revised set of evidence in relation to Housing and Economic Growth has been prepared. This includes updated projections and scenarios on population and household change.

The Strategic Options were also considered through the SA/SEA and subsequent ISA preparatory process.

The consideration of sites has been informed by the candidate site process and the responses received by both proponents and those commenting on the proposed site as part of the subsequent consultation exercise. This information along with the site assessment work, feedback from technical consultees and the evidence base has informed the selection of sites for inclusion within the Deposit RLDP.

Is it logical, reasonable and balanced”

Yes. The Plan has emerged from a clear understanding of the issues both nationally and also critically those affecting Conwy. It flows and is presented in a logical manner from the evidence base through to issues, objectives and policies, supported where necessary and relevant, by evidence and supporting documents.

It takes a balanced view of the Plan Area in land use planning terms. Where appropriate, it integrates with other plans and strategies whilst ensuring it is reflective of national policy and the need for a sustainable and deliverable Plan.

The Plan has emerged from engagement and evidence and as such is both logical and reasonable and based on a balanced outlook.

Is it coherent and consistent?

Yes. The Plan meets the requirements relating to coherency and consistency as demonstrated by a logical flow through from the issues through to the strategic policies. The preparation of the Plan has allowed an opportunity to evaluate a number of alternative strategic options. Each option has been fully considered.

Test 3: Will the plan deliver (i.e. is it likely to be effective?)

Yes, see answers below.

Will it be effective?

Yes. The Plans objectives have emerged from an understanding of the priority issues and needs of Conwy as well as a sound, logical and robust evidence base. The strategy seeks to integrate and reflect other Plans and

strategies as part of an integrated approach to delivery – it seeks to maximise its opportunities to be effective in its implementation.

The Plan will deliver its vision and objectives in addressing key priority issues through a series of strategic and detailed policies as well as land use allocations. The Plan has set out growth led strategy which is reflective of current delivery rates and the strategic ambitions of the Council.

Can it be implemented?

Yes. The preparation of the Plan is with the clear intention that it will be implementable and that its policies and proposals be delivered within the Plan period.

It sets out a deliverable spatial framework and strategic growth which is based on sustainability principles and is responsive to the needs of the communities of Conwy. The policies and proposals provide the framework through which the Plan's objectives will be implemented and the decision-making process undertaken.

As part of the Deposit LDP, an effective and appropriate monitoring framework has been developed and included within the Plan. This will form the basis for undertaking the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR will represent the main method for measuring and assessing the progress in the implementation of the policies and proposals of the adopted RLDP.

Is there support from the relevant infrastructure providers both financially and in terms of meeting relevant timescales?

Yes. The Plan includes a list of housing, employment and mixed-use sites. Infrastructure providers are an important component in developing the LDP and form a key consultee. The Plan is supported by a Site Deliverability Assessment, Viability Assessments and an infrastructure and phasing implementation plan.

Will development be viable?

Yes. The need for development to be viable is an important aspect in the preparation of the Plan. Conwy have established a robust and consistent methodology for assessing viability working closely with developers. This approach represents an important tool for the assessment of viability in a consistent and accessible way. Where site constraints have been identified (on and off site), the Deposit Plan identifies mitigation and costs where required to demonstrate deliverability of Plan.

An Affordable Housing Viability Study has also been prepared to support the Deposit Plan. The Housing Trajectory detailed in the Deposit Plan also considers key infrastructure and viability requirements

Can the sites allocated be delivered?

Yes. The allocation of sites is supported by a Site Deliverability Assessment. This identifies deliverability issues and supports the inclusion of the site and links to their consideration as part of the ISA.

In this respect the allocation of sites has been informed by input from technical and infrastructural partners. The Plan is accompanied by a housing trajectory which indicates the delivery of sites across the Plan period.

Is the plan sufficiently flexible? Are there appropriate contingency provisions?

Yes. The preparation of the Plan has sought to reflect the need for flexibility, especially with regards to the Town Centre First principle and meeting the needs of the rural communities. The Plan also ensures that sufficient contingency is applied to overcome any uncertainties over the Plan period (e.g. housing employment growth)

Is it monitored effectively?

The Plan has incorporated a Monitoring and Implementation Framework which sets out the arrangements for monitoring the Plan's performance.