



Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033

Background Paper

July 2019

**BP 04: SA/SEA of Preferred Strategy
Non-Technical Summary**

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Conwy LDP Review

Non-Technical Summary - Sustainability Appraisal of Local Development Plan
Pre-Deposit Documents (LDP Preferred Strategy)

On behalf of **Conwy County Borough Council**



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1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Peter Brett Associates (PBA), now part of Stantec, has been commissioned by Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC) to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), of the Conwy LDP Review and the emerging Replacement Conwy LDP ('the emerging RLDP'). This Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Sustainability Appraisal Report ('the SA Report') documents the findings of the SA carried out in respect of the Conwy LDP Pre-Deposit Documents published in accordance with Regulation 15 of the Development Planning (Wales) Regulations 2005, including the Conwy LDP Preferred Strategy ('the LDP Preferred Strategy').
- 1.1.2 Under Section 62(6) of the 2004 Act, emerging LDPs need to be subject to Sustainability Appraisal, which is statutorily required to guide the selection and development of policies and proposals for inclusion in LDPs in terms of their potential social, environmental and economic effects. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 ('the SEA Regulations') require Responsible Authorities, including local authorities such as CCBC, to assess the likely significant environmental effects of implementing relevant plans and programmes, as defined within the regulations. SA and SEA share a common focus on assessing environmental and wider sustainability performance and can therefore be undertaken and reported together.

1.2 The Conwy LDP Preferred Strategy

- 1.2.1 In accordance with statutory requirements, the Conwy LDP Preferred Strategy is being published to inform the emerging Conwy Replacement LDP ('the emerging RLDP'). The LDP Preferred Strategy sets out a proposed strategic framework to underpin the emerging RLDP, comprising an LDP Vision, Strategic Objectives and Growth Strategy, supported by proposed Key Strategic Sites and Strategic Policies. These strategic elements will be subject to further development to take account of the findings of this SA and all representations submitted in respect of the Conwy LDP Pre-Deposit Documents, with the final proposed content of the emerging RLDP confirmed within the Conwy LDP Deposit Documents (expected January 2021).

1.3 How to Comment on this SA Report

- 1.3.1 This NTS of the SA Report is being consulted on alongside the Conwy LDP Pre-Deposit Documents, including the LDP Preferred Strategy. Comments in respect of all these documents can be provided by email to cdll-ldp@conwy.gov.uk. Further details of how to participate in the consultation will be provided on CCBC's dedicated LDP Review website: <http://www.conwy.gov.uk/RLDP>.

2 Environmental and Policy Context

2.1 Key Sustainability Issues

2.1.1 A summary of the key sustainability issues which need to be considered within the emerging RLDP and the associated SA is provided in **Table NTS 2.1** below. Both the emerging RLDP and this SA are focused towards addressing these sustainability issues.

Table NTS 2.1: Key Sustainability Issues relating to the Conwy LDP Review

SEA Topic	Key Sustainability Issues
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	<p>The need to conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity including important species and sites designated for reasons of biodiversity conservation or ecological importance. This relates to the protection of designated sites located within the CCBC area (including within and outwith the area covered by Snowdonia National Park) as well as designated sites in neighbouring authorities, all of which have the potential to be affected by the LDP Review and development activity within the CCBC area.</p> <p>The need to safeguard and enhance the green infrastructure network in the CCBC area and green infrastructure connections to neighbouring authorities. Green networks are of particular importance for providing ecosystem services and habitat connectivity in a changing climate.</p>
Population (including relevant socio-economic issues)	<p>The need to maximise socio-economic benefits from the implementation of the emerging Growth Deal for North Wales.</p> <p>The need to align with the preparation of a potential Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the A55 corridor.</p> <p>The need to deliver a sufficient quantum of good quality and well located new housing to meet a range of identified needs.</p> <p>The need to deliver economic growth and increase employment opportunities, including for local residents.</p> <p>The need to tackle deprivation, including areas with existing deprivation linked to poor accessibility to key services, facilities and economic opportunities.</p> <p>The need to ensure that community facilities and services are appropriate and accessible to users to meet the diverse needs of residents and workers.</p> <p>The need to improve the accessibility of key destinations within the CCBC area and to other key locations through enhancing the transport network.</p>
Human Health	<p>The need to enhance all aspects of the health and wellbeing of the population, including physical health, mental health, social wellbeing, safety and security.</p> <p>The need to protect and enhance access to high quality open space provision and active travel routes.</p> <p>The need to create healthy and liveable urban environments.</p>

SEA Topic	Key Sustainability Issues
Soil	<p>The need to encourage and/or facilitate development on previously developed brownfield land.</p> <p>The need to maximise the efficient the use of available land and prioritise the redevelopment of brownfield land.</p> <p>The need to safeguard geodiversity important soil resources and to remediate areas of known contamination.</p> <p>The need to protect and restore peatlands.</p>
Water	<p>The need to protect and enhance the quality of water sources and the water environment. This extends to the protection of cross-boundary watercourses which flow through the CCBC area and to the River Conwy which flows northwards into the Menai Strait in the Irish Sea.</p> <p>The need to locate new development away from areas of flood risk or to fully mitigate potential risks, considering the effects of climate change and risks of flooding from all sources (sea, rivers, surface water, reservoirs and/or ground water).</p>
Air	<p>The need to minimise the emissions of air pollutants.</p> <p>The need to safeguard and improve air quality, including through addressing areas with poor air quality.</p>
Climatic Factors	<p>The need to ensure that the built environment and infrastructure is resilient and adaptable to the effects of climate change, taking account of the coastal location of the CCBC area.</p> <p>The need to mitigate climate change including through the decarbonisation of key economic sectors.</p>
Material Assets	<p>The need to maximise the efficient use of land, natural resources and existing infrastructure. This includes the need to prioritise the redevelopment of brownfield land.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>The need to preserve, protect and enhance cultural heritage assets and their settings within the CCBC area.</p> <p>The need to safeguard and support the use of the Welsh language.</p>
Landscape	<p>The need to protect and enhance landscape character, townscape character, seascape character, key views and visual amenity. This extends to the protection of landscapes within the Snowdonia National Park and in other neighbouring authorities, as well as heritage coasts and marine character areas.</p>
Inter-related Effects	<p>The need to deliver holistic improvements to wellbeing and to contribute to the delivery of sustainable development across the CCBC area.</p>

2.1.2 The key sustainability issues listed in **Table 2.1** are evidenced within relevant Background and Topic Papers prepared for the LDP Review and reflected in the substantive proposals set out within the LDP Preferred Strategy. In overall terms, this helps to ensure that the direction of travel for the emerging RLDP responds to key sustainability issues as identified through the SA process. However, it is still necessary to examine each emerging substantive component of the emerging RLDP individually and in combination to determine their likely significant effects and to what extent they contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

2.2 Review of plans, programmes and strategies

2.2.1 The following types of plans and programmes were examined for their relevance to the LDP Review and this SA:

- International conventions and treaties;
- European Directives and associated legislation;
- Legislation enacted by the UK Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales; and,
- Policy documents and strategies published at the national, regional and local levels, including by the UK Government, the Welsh Government (and its agencies) and CCBC.

2.2.2 A detailed review of the other plans and programmes identified as relevant to the LDP Review is provided in **Appendix B**. From this review it is clear that the emerging RLDP should:

- Align with relevant national planning policy requirements as set out within Planning Policy Wales (PPW) – 10th Edition (December 2018);
- Seek to capitalise on the socio-economic opportunities presented by the emerging Growth Deal for North Wales;
- Align with the emerging National Development Framework (NDF) for Wales and the preparation of a possible SDP for the A55 Corridor;
- Seek to enhance all aspects of health and wellbeing for the population of the CCBC area, including through providing high quality health infrastructure, improving physical and mental health and providing opportunities to enhance social wellbeing. The LDP must seek to implement the locally defined wellbeing objectives set out within the Conwy Wellbeing Plan (2018-2023);
- Secure sustainable economic growth and inward investment across the CCBC area through allocating suitable sites for development and by delivering the infrastructure required to increase connectivity, improve community and social infrastructure and increase access to high quality employment and economic opportunities. It will also be important for the LDP to set out a spatial strategy which maximises the economic competitiveness of the CCBC area and improves social wellbeing, taking account of its rural setting and current socio-economic conditions;
- Identify and plan to meet the needs of all residents and workers within the CCBC area, in particular with respect to the provision of adequate community infrastructure;
- Deliver well-designed and affordable homes to meet identified housing needs, including providing a range of sizes and tenures;
- Reduce car dependencies and improve active travel infrastructure;
- Deliver improved and expanded transport links, public transport and enhanced communications infrastructure, both to communities within the CCBC area and to key destinations in neighbouring authorities;

- Protect and enhance access to high quality outdoor sports facilities, parks and open spaces;
- Conserve, preserve, protect and enhance sites designated at international, national and local levels for reasons of biodiversity conservation, ecological importance, geological importance or heritage significance, in ways appropriate to their status;
- Develop effective community engagement techniques to respond to the views of wider communities and facilitate effective community cohesion;
- Promote the efficient use of resources, including moving towards a low carbon economy, use of waste as a resource, energy efficient buildings, and appropriate renewable and low carbon energy;
- Take measures to protect air quality levels and aim to mitigate any activity which could affect air quality levels across the CCBC area;
- Ensure there are no significant negative impacts on internationally and nationally designated nature sites (refer to separate Habitats Regulations Assessment Initial Screening Report for further details);
- Give full consideration to the potential impacts on water, including water quality, ecosystems, sustainable use of water, capacity of sewerage, flood risk and the opportunities to improve flood risk management;
- Seek ways to maximise multi-functional green infrastructure coverage and ensure they provide a network of linked wildlife corridors (across a wide range of scales and increase ecosystems services including biodiversity);
- Seek ways to maximise the health benefits of green infrastructure;
- Use land efficiently by prioritising the use of previously developed land;
- Consider soil quality and agricultural land classification when assessing potential development sites;
- Recognise the different landscapes in the CCBC area and Snowdonia National Park and their capacity to accommodate change; and,
- Promote development that minimises landscape impacts and protects landscapes appropriate to their significance.

2.2.3 As with the identified key sustainability issues, the identified key policy issues are addressed within relevant Background and Topic Papers prepared for the LDP Review and reflected in the substantive proposals within the LDP Preferred Strategy. In overall terms, this helps to ensure the emerging RLDP responds to applicable legislative and policy requirements.

2.3 Evolution of Baseline Conditions in the Absence of the LDP Review

2.3.1 Taking account of the environmental information provided above, this section responds to the requirement within the SEA Regulations to consider the likely evolution of the current state of the environment in the absence of the plan or programme under consideration, namely LDP Review.

2.3.2 CCBC has determined that a review of the existing LDP (adopted October 2013) is needed to allow a replacement LDP to be prepared and adopted prior to the expiration of the current LDP in 2022. The Conwy LDP Review Report (CCBC, April 2018) concludes that the 'Full Review' procedure is needed to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing LDP and prepare a replacement LDP, as opposed to the 'Short Form' procedure which would only result in minor revisions (e.g. changes to the wording of individual policies or the addition of individual allocated sites) to the existing LDP. It is considered that a replacement LDP is needed to take account of a range of new Acts, policy

frameworks, initiatives, evidence and spatial issues at national, regional and local levels since the adopted of the current LDP.

- 2.3.3 In the absence of any LDP Review taking place, CCBC would be unable to either prepare a replacement LDP (as proposed) or propose minor revisions to the existing LDP before it expires in 2022. This would result in a policy vacuum at the local level as the 2004 Act does not permit Welsh LDPs to continue in force after their expiry date. This means that post 2022 the extent of the CCBC area outwith Snowdonia National Park (which is covered by a separate LDP) would be devoid of a competent statutory Development Plan. It would also be contrary to TAN1, which advises that the identification of any shortfall in an authority's five-year land supply should trigger a LDP review to ensure that a sufficient land supply can be maintained. The Conwy LDP Review Report (April 2018) makes clear that the absence of a competent statutory Development Plan for the CCBC area would be likely to be exploited by the development industry, not least due to the identified housing land supply shortfall. In these circumstances, development is likely to come forward that is not in accordance with the existing LDP's spatial strategy and there would be significant pressure to release greenfield sites in unsustainable locations.

3 The Sustainability Appraisal Process

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section provides an overview of the SA process, incorporating SEA, which has been undertaken to date for the emerging Conwy RLDP. In doing so the section explains the approach which has been adopted for undertaking the SA of the Pre-Deposit Documents.

3.2 SA Project Team

3.2.1 The SA of the emerging RLDP is being undertaken independently by PBA on behalf of CCBC. PBA previously carried out the SA, incorporating SEA, of the first Conwy LDP, which was adopted by CCBC in 2013.

3.2.2 The independence of the consultant team involved in carrying out this SA helps to ensure the objectivity of the SA and to identify components requiring improvement throughout its development. This allows independent mitigation and enhancement recommendations to be developed and implemented as the emerging RLDP evolves in order to improve its effectiveness.

3.3 Previous SA and SEA Reporting

3.3.1 Two previous stages have been carried out in the SA process (incorporating SEA) for the emerging RLDP:

SA and SEA Screening and Scoping

3.3.2 In August 2018 a SA Scoping Report, incorporating SEA screening, was consulted on with the SEA Consultation Bodies¹, followed by the publication of a statutory SEA Screening Determination by CCBC.

3.3.3 The dual purpose of the SA Scoping Report was to provide relevant information to enable the SEA Consultation Bodies to consider the need for SEA and to form a view on the consultation period and scope/level of detail appropriate for SA Report(s) to accompany each substantive component of the emerging RLDP. A key objective of the SA Scoping Report was to identify an evidence-based SA Framework to assess in a systematic way the likely sustainability effects from substantive components of the emerging RLDP. Taking account of minor modifications requested by the SEA Consultation Bodies through the Scoping process, the final Conwy LDP Review SA Framework which is being used to assess the emerging RLDP is provided in full within **Appendix A – SA Framework**.

Conwy LDP Vision, Objectives and Options SA Report

3.3.4 The assessment phase of the SA process commenced in December 2018 with a proportionate SA, incorporating SEA, of the initial proposed LDP Vision, Objectives and Options (growth levels and spatial distribution) as set out in a suite of consultation papers. An SA report accompanied these consultation papers and included a set of recommendations to inform the LDP Preferred Strategy, including a suggested alternative LDP Vision which has since been taken account of by CCBC.

3.4 Preparation of this SA Report

3.4.1 In accordance with Regulations 14 and 15 of the 2005 Regulations, the LDP Preferred Strategy is being consulted to inform the emerging RLDP and sets out a proposed strategic framework and strategic implementation proposals, comprising:

¹ Cadw; Natural Resources Wales; and Welsh Government.

- Strategic Framework: LDP Vision, Strategic Objectives; and Growth Strategy; and,
- Implementation: Key Strategic Sites; and Strategic Policies.

SA of Strategic Framework Elements

- 3.4.2 The SA of the strategic framework elements of the LDP Preferred Strategy is detailed in **Appendix D** of the main SA Report and summarised in **Section 4.2** below. Owing to the high-level nature of the proposed strategic framework elements of the LDP Preferred Strategy (LDP Vision, Objectives and Growth Strategy) it was not possible to identify with any certainty whether these components would themselves be likely to result in significant effects. Rather, the focus of the SA at this stage was on ensuring sufficient coverage of the identified key sustainability issues within the strategic framework when read as a whole to allow these issues to be addressed in more detail through other components of the LDP which will ultimately seek to implement the strategic framework elements. The matrices and scoring system adopted also allowed for any incompatibilities, inconsistencies or uncertainties to be noted and for associated mitigation and enhancement recommendations to be developed.

SA of Candidate Sites

- 3.4.3 All 35 reasonable alternative candidate strategic sites have been subject to an equal level of assessment, as reported within **Background Paper 6 – Strategic Sites Delivery** prepared by CCBC, with all sites also examined for potential effects on designated European Sites within the Conwy LDP Review Pre-Deposit Documents HRA Screening Report (PBA, June 2018). On this basis, and mindful of the need to avoid duplication, this SA Report does not reproduce the assessment of candidate strategic sites. Instead, **Section 5.3** below provides a review of the site assessment process and criteria adopted by CCBC to demonstrate compliance with core SA and SEA requirements and to highlight key assessment findings.

SA of Strategic Policies

- 3.4.4 The SA of the suite of proposed strategic policies within the LDP Preferred Strategy is detailed in **Appendix E** of the main SA Report and summarised in Section 4.4 below. For reasons of proportionality, each thematic group of strategic policies was assessed together in a single matrix. Whilst the policies are necessarily high level, the inclusion of specific commitments, requirements and policy tests within them allowed a relatively detailed level of SA (incorporating SEA) to be undertaken. The policy appraisal matrices therefore focus on identifying likely significant effects where possible, rather than simply considering the compatibility of proposed strategic policies with the Conwy LDP SA Framework (**Appendix A**).
- 3.4.5 Where the SA identified uncertainties, inconsistencies or the potential incompatibility of an assessed component with a SA Objectives (or, more widely, with the Conwy LDP Review SA Framework), corresponding mitigation and enhancement recommendations to address these issues were developed by the SA project team. A schedule of all recommendations is included in **Section 6** These recommendations should be considered by CCBC in the next iteration of the emerging RLDP, i.e. in the preparation of the Conwy LDP Deposit Document.

4 SA Findings

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The SA, incorporating SEA, has been undertaken for each constituent part of the Conwy LDP Pre-Deposit Documents, i.e. the LDP Preferred Strategy. The following plan components have been subject to SEA and are considered below in turn:

- Strategic Framework:
 - LDP Vision;
 - Strategic Objectives; and,
 - Growth Strategy
- Implementation:
 - Key Strategic Sites; and,
 - Strategic Policies

4.1.2 **Section 5** of the main SA report summarises the findings from the SA, whereas the detailed SA matrices for each plan component are provided separately in the following appendices of the main SA report:

- Appendix D – SA of LDP Strategic Framework; and,
- Appendix E – SA of Strategic Policies

4.2 SA of Proposed LDP Strategic Framework

4.2.1 The LDP Vision, Strategic Objectives and Growth Strategy components of the LDP Preferred Strategy seek to provide an overarching strategic framework to underpin all other components of the emerging RLDP including policies and site allocations. As such it is vital that the LDP Vision and Objectives include sufficient and unambiguous coverage of all key sustainability issues to allow them to be addressed in more detail through other, non-strategic components of the RLDP. Recommendations to enhance the overall effectiveness and strategic purpose of these strategic framework elements of the emerging RLDP are summarised in **Section 5** of this NTS, and they should be considered by CCBC in preparing the LDP Deposit Document.

Vision

4.2.2 The LDP Preferred Strategy sets out a Vision for the growth of Conwy over the RLDP period to 2033. This Vision is designed to integrate the Conwy RLDP with the Conwy and Denbighshire Well-being Plan, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Welsh Government's National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes and the thematic structure within PPW – 10th Edition (2018). In consequence, the proposed LDP Vision is based around using placemaking to achieve broad wellbeing focused outcomes.

A.1.1 At the previous stage of plan preparation, the SA of the original draft LDP Vision noted the emphasis placed on placemaking but raised concerns regarding the absence of coverage of specific sustainability issues or planning problems. An alternative LDP Vision, which retained a focus on placemaking whilst also identifying key spatial problems, attributes and outcomes for Conwy, was therefore devised through the SA process and consulted on in December 2018.

Building upon this previous work, the LDP Preferred Strategy now sets out a fuller version of the LDP Vision previously consulted on. The key changes are:

- A focus on the demographic challenge faced by Conwy;
- The identification of some types of development to be encouraged where compatible with the need to mitigate against the causes and effects of climate change;
- The removal of a paragraph which focused on implementation and delivery.

4.2.3 The proposed LDP Vision focuses on placemaking as an enabler of positive wellbeing outcomes and now usefully addresses the key spatial challenges and opportunities facing Conwy. As a high-level statement, the LDP Vision is therefore likely to support a greater emphasis on the delivery of a new spatial strategy and place-based policies within the emerging RLDP than the existing adopted LDP, which would enhance local distinctiveness and the ability to meet the differential needs of communities. The proposed LDP Vision is therefore considered to be compatible with achieving sustainable development. Furthermore, the direct alignment of the LDP Vision with the priorities detailed within the Conwy and Denbighshire Well-being Plan (2018) and the themes within the Planning Policy Wales – 10th Edition (2018) should allow the emerging RLDP to contribute to positive wellbeing outcomes and support the implementation of national planning policies. As wellbeing is used as the cross-cutting thread to bind all SA Objectives within the Conwy LDP Review SA Framework, the proposed LDP Vision should therefore be able to contribute, whether directly or indirectly to the achievement of these SA Objectives.

Objectives

- 4.2.4 At the previous stage of plan preparation, the SA of the original draft LDP Objectives raised concerns regarding their individual thematic focus and extensive number, which if unresolved could lead to implementation difficulties and unintended conflicts between policies being developed to address each thematic Objective. In response, one of the previously proposed and most unclear original Objectives (regarding the de-risking of development) has been removed, but all other original Objectives have been carried forward and retitled as Strategic Objectives. This means that the appraisal of the LDP Objectives remains broadly similar to that previously presented in the Conwy LDP Vision, Objectives and Growth Options SA Report (PBA, December 2018).
- 4.2.5 The proposed LDP Vision is supported by a set of 15 Objectives which indicate how the vision will be achieved, as listed in **Table NTS 4.1** below.

Table NTS 4.1: Proposed LDP Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objective Title	Strategic Objective Wording
Contribute to the creation and enhancement of Sustainable Places in Conwy through inclusive Placemaking	
Strategic Objective 1: Creating Sustainable Places in Conwy	Contribute to the creation of sustainable places, social inclusion and improved wellbeing overall in Conwy through the delivery of inclusive placemaking and regeneration that ensures future growth levels and development takes place in sustainable and accessible locations, seeks to promote good design and healthier places, protects Welsh language and is supported by the necessary social, environmental, cultural and economic infrastructure to create great places.
Active and Social Places in Conwy	
Strategic Objective 2: Housing	Promote a holistic and co-located employment and housing growth strategy by delivering new homes, including affordable homes and gypsy and traveller accommodation needs in sustainable and accessible locations, and ensuring that the right range of housing types, sizes and tenure are brought forward alongside the necessary community infrastructure.
Strategic Objective 3: Retailing and Commercial Centres	Achieve vibrant, attractive and viable town and commercial centres in Conwy by redefining their role and by encouraging a diversity of activities and uses.
Strategic Objective 4: Community Facilities	Contribute to a sense of place and overall health, wellbeing and amenity of local communities by ensuring that the existing and future population groups have access to a sustainable mix of community facilities.
Strategic Objective 5: Recreational Spaces	Encourage physical and mental wellbeing through the provision and protection of high quality, accessible green spaces and recreation space networks.
Strategic Objective 6: Transport	Deliver sustainable development and seek to tackle the causes of climate change by extending the choice of sustainable transport to enable Conwy’s communities to access jobs and key services through the promotion of shorter and more active and efficient walking, cycling and public transport use and by influencing the location, scale, density, mix of uses and design of new development.
Productive and Enterprising Places in Conwy	
Strategic Objective 7: Economic Development	Support long-term economic prosperity, diversification and regeneration, by taking advantage of Conwy’s strategic position within the wider regional growth deal and by promoting a holistic and co-located employment and housing growth strategy, which will facilitate new jobs growth of the right type in sustainable and accessible locations, support business networks and clusters, increase skills in high value employment and provide the necessary new infrastructure, which overall will enable new businesses to locate in Conwy and existing business to grow.

Strategic Objective Title	Strategic Objective Wording
Strategic Objective 8: Tourism	Encourage and support the provision of sustainable tourism where it contributes to economic prosperity and development, conservation, rural diversification, regeneration and social inclusion, while recognising the needs of visitors, businesses, local communities and the need to protect historic and natural environments.
Strategic Objective 9: Rural Economy	Promote and support sustainable and vibrant rural communities by establishing new enterprise, expanding existing business and by adopting a constructive approach to agriculture and changing farming practices.
Strategic Objective 10: Energy and Climate Change:	Secure an appropriate mix of energy provision, including the promotion of a Tidal Lagoon, which maximises benefits to Conwy’s economy and communities whilst minimising potential environmental and social impacts.
Strategic Objective 11: Minerals and Waste	Contribute to the implementation of the circular economy, manage waste with minimal environmental impacts and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including for energy generation and providing an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.
Distinctive and Natural Places in Conwy	
Strategic Objective 12: Landscapes and Historic Environments	Conserve and enhance Conwy’s high quality natural and cultural heritage assets.
Strategic Objective 13: Coastal Areas	Support growth, regeneration and development opportunities in Coastal Areas, whilst at the same time being aware and responsive to the challenges resulting from natural pressures.
Strategic Objective 14: Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity and build resilient ecological networks.
Strategic Objective 15: Water, Air, Soundscape and Light	Reduce exposure to air and noise pollution, balance the provision of development and lighting to enhance safety and security, and protect and enhance the water environment and water resources, including surface and groundwater quantity and quality.

Growth Strategy

- A.1.2 In accordance with statutory requirements, the LDP Preferred Strategy sets out a new growth strategy for Conwy (‘the new strategy’) over the RLDP period to 2033. This new strategy presented in the LDP Preferred Strategy builds upon the previous development of a series of contrasting growth options (growth level options, spatial distribution options and settlement hierarchy options). These options, which for the purposes of this SA (incorporating SEA) can be considered as reasonable alternatives, were all subject to consultation and detailed SA at the previous stage of plan preparation, as reported in the Conwy LDP Vision, Objectives and Options SA Report (PBA, 2018).

Growth Level

- A.1.3 The preferred Growth Level set out in the LDP Preferred Strategy calls for the development of 5,150 net additional dwellings and 1,800 new jobs over the LDP period 2018-2033. This employment-led growth strategy is very similar to Growth Option 4 previously identified within Consultation Paper 2 and assessed within Appendix E of the Conwy LDP Vision, Objectives and Options Report SA Report (PBA, 2018). Key findings from the previous SA of Growth Option 4 indicate that the preferred Growth Level would:
- Perform as well as or better than any other identified option in terms of contributing to the achievement of socio-economic SA Objectives. This was because as a ‘Policy On’ option it was well grounded in the housing and economy evidence base including North Wales Growth Deal; and
 - Perform as well as or better than any other identified option in terms of its identifiable contribution to the achievement of environmental SA Objectives, with no significant adverse environmental effects likely to occur.

Spatial Distribution

- A.1.4 The Spatial Distribution Strategy detailed within the LDP Preferred Strategy splits the Conwy LDP area into two zones, the Coastal Development Strategy Area (CDSA) and the Rural Development Strategy Area (RDSA), with 90% of growth over the LDP period directed to the CDSA. Building upon previous analysis of growth options, the LDP Preferred Strategy explains that the strategy of focusing growth in the CDSA and in highly accessible Strategic Areas therein offers the best opportunity to meet identified population needs (including local housing need), promote active travel, create healthier communities, combat climate change, utilise existing infrastructure and integrate new growth with existing employment areas. At the same time, the LDP Preferred Strategy identifies a need to support a strong rural economy, meet identified community needs in existing rural settlements and promote economic diversification within the RDSA, whilst recognising the negative sustainability implications of car dependency and the loss of greenfield land.
- A.1.5 It is therefore clear that the proposal to focus growth in existing population centres whilst supporting development to meet identified socio-economic needs across the wider Conwy LDP area represents a sustainable land use strategy. The identification of the need to address flood risk constraints by limiting growth in the eastern part of the CDSA whilst prioritising growth in the central part of meet existing demands further demonstrates that the spatial strategy and proposed distribution of growth will contribute to sustainable development.

4.3 SA of Strategic Sites

- 4.3.1 In accordance with Welsh Government expectations, an integrated site assessment and selection process is being carried out by CCBC for the emerging RLDP. The methodology aligns with the approach outlined within the Conwy LDP Review SA Scoping Report (August 2018).

- 4.3.2 All 35 strategic sites submitted during the Conwy LDP Review Call for Sites exercise (August 2018) have been considered as potentially being reasonable alternatives, subject to deliverability and the absence of major environmental constraints. As reported in Background Paper 6 – Strategic Sites Delivery, 5 strategic sites have been identified by CCBC as Key Strategic Sites which underpin the LDP Preferred Strategy, with the other candidate strategic sites not considered to represent reasonable alternatives at the present time. Only strategic sites have been considered at this point, as all non-strategic reasonable alternative sites will be assessed at LDP Deposit stage.
- 4.3.3 The strategic site assessments reported within Background Paper 6 – Strategic Sites Delivery adopted the following staged approach:
- i. Deliverability Analysis – Table 2 identifies candidate strategic sites which suffer from deliverability constraints. In the absence of sufficient deliverability information being provided, these sites currently do not constitute reasonable alternatives and thus do not require further consideration at the present time;
 - ii. Initial Filtering – Strategic Sites which passed stage 1 were subject to initial GIS and qualitative analysis to filter-out any sites with major environmental constraints that would be likely to represent a ‘showstopper’ and thus prevent development; and,
 - iii. Detailed SA – Only the five strategic sites which passed the initial filtering stage constitute reasonable alternatives at this point. As reported in Table 1 within Background Paper 6 – Strategic Sites Delivery, these sites were subject to a detailed SA using the suite of sustainability indicators listed against each SA Objective within the Conwy LDP Review SA Framework, as detailed in full within Appendix C the main SA report. This approach provided strong coverage of key sustainability issues (refer to Section 3.2 of the main SA report) and good coverage of all environmental topics prescribed within the SEA Regulations, thereby demonstrating compliance with core SA and SEA requirements. All of the proposed strategic site allocations which were assessed performed well against the Conwy LDP Review SA Framework and no likely significant adverse effects were identified at this stage. However, given the strategic nature of the sites, the phasing and delivery of each site will need to be carefully managed and CCBC intends to prepare developer briefs or other guidance to support this.
- 4.3.4 As noted above, whilst some candidate sites over the strategic site threshold have been found not to be reasonable alternative strategic sites, subject to the provision of further deliverability and environmental information these sites may be re-considered at LDP Deposit stage (whether as candidate strategic or non-strategic sites). A robust and transparent assessment of all proposed allocations and reasonable alternatives (i.e. all candidate sites which cannot be reasonable excluded) will be undertaken to inform the Conwy LDP Deposit Document.

4.4 SA of Strategic Policies

Overview

- 4.4.1 This section provides a summary assessment of proposed strategic policies against the SA Objectives. The detailed appraisal of predicted effects from the strategic policies is provided in Appendix E of the main SA report. The assessment has been undertaken by policy grouping, corresponding with each chapter of strategic policies contained within the LDP Preferred Strategy. This enabled a proportionate assessment to be undertaken of each policy and of the cumulative effects of each policy grouping, focusing on the sustainability issues most relevant to the policy or policies being assessed.

SA Objective 1 - Health and Wellbeing

- 4.4.2 As detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:
- SP6 - Strategic Policy 6 (SP/6) Promoting Healthier Places in Conwy
 - SP12 - Strategic Policy 12 (SP/12): Infrastructure and New Development
 - SP14 - Strategic Policy 14 (SP/14) Sustainable Transport and Accessibility
 - SP15 - Strategic Policy 15 (SP/15): Housing
 - SP19 - Strategic Policy 19 (SP/19): Landscape
 - SP24 - Strategic Policy 24 (SP/24): Biodiversity
 - SP30 - Strategic Policy 30 (SP/30): Transportation Infrastructure;
- 4.4.3 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:
- Improve health outcomes by ensuring adequate provision of social and community infrastructure;
 - Prioritise the remediation and redevelopment of brownfield land;
 - Maximise the accessibility of major and high-footfall developments;
 - Promote and support the uptake of active travel;
 - Support the co-location of housing and employment growth;
 - Recognise the importance of landscape protection for physical and mental health and wellbeing; and,
 - Reduce pollution, address environmental risks and improve ecosystem resilience.
- 4.4.4 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, a range of uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. A number of other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

SA Objective 2 – Equality and Social Inclusion

- 4.4.5 As detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:
- SP12 - Strategic Policy 12 (SP/12): Infrastructure and New Development
 - SP22 - Strategic Policy 22 (SP/22): Culturally-led Regeneration
 - SP23 - Strategic Policy 23 (SP/23): Green Infrastructure

- 4.4.6 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:
- Provide adequate social and community infrastructure to meet the needs of existing and future communities;
 - Support culturally-driven economic development and regeneration;
 - Maximise the accessibility of major and high-footfall developments;
 - Promote and support the uptake of active travel;
 - Support the co-location of housing and employment growth;
- 4.4.7 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on SA Objective 1. However, as detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, a range of uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. A number of other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

SA Objective 3 – Employment and Skills

- 4.4.8 As detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:
- SP12 - Strategic Policy 12 (SP/12): Infrastructure and New Development
 - SP22 - Strategic Policy 22 (SP/22): Culturally-led Regeneration
 - SP27 - Strategic Policy 27 (SP/27): Economic Development
 - SP28 - Strategic Policy 28 (SP/28): Tourism
 - SP29 - Strategic Policy 29 (SP/29): Rural Economy
 - SP31 - Strategic Policy 31 (SP/31): Telecommunications & Business Clusters
- 4.4.9 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:
- Direct employment generating development to accessible and appropriate locations;
 - Set out an employment land strategy to meet predicted employment needs;
 - Recognise the importance of the tourism sector and provide support for tourism development in appropriate locations;
 - Support rural employment and encourage rural economic diversification;
 - Support communication network enhancements which deliver economic and community benefits.
- 4.4.10 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, a range of uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some

assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. A number of other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

SA Objective 4 – Transport and Communications:

4.4.11 As detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP5 - Strategic Policy 5 (SP/5): Placemaking and Good Design
- SP6 - Strategic Policy 6 (SP/6) Promoting Healthier Places in Conwy
- SP11 - Strategic Policy 11 (SP/11): Strategic Sites
- SP12 - Strategic Policy 12 (SP/12): Infrastructure and New Development
- SP14 - Strategic Policy 14 (SP/14) Sustainable Transport and Accessibility
- SP23 - Strategic Policy 23 (SP/23): Green Infrastructure
- SP30 - Strategic Policy 30 (SP/30): Transportation Infrastructure
- SP31 - Strategic Policy 31 (SP/31): Telecommunications & Business Clusters

4.4.12 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Provide adequate transport infrastructure to meet identified community needs and support housing and economic growth;
- Promote sustainable modal shift, including through applying a sustainable transport hierarchy;
- Enhance accessibility for all to key services, amenities, recreation and employment;
- Promote active travel through green infrastructure improvements; and,
- Enhance digital connectivity, particularly focused on rural areas with limited physical accessibility.

4.4.13 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, a range of uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. A number of other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

SA Objective 5 – Housing

4.4.14 As detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP9 - Strategic Policy 9 (SP/9): Placemaking in Rural Areas
- SP11 - Strategic Policy 11 (SP/11): Strategic Sites

- SP12 - Strategic Policy 12 (SP/12): Infrastructure and New Development
- SP13 - Strategic Policy 13 (SP/13): Managing Settlement Form
- SP14 - Strategic Policy 14 (SP/14) Sustainable Transport and Accessibility
- SP15 - Strategic Policy 15 (SP/15): Housing
- SP22 - Strategic Policy 22 (SP/22): Culturally-led Regeneration

4.4.15 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Define and deliver a housing land strategy to meet identified housing needs and support economic growth;
- Provide adequate infrastructure to support housing growth;
- Direct housing development to sustainable and accessible locations; and,
- Manage long-term settlement growth to avoid sprawl.

4.4.16 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, a range of uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. A number of other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

SA Objective 6 – Economic Growth

4.4.17 As detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP9 - Strategic Policy 9 (SP/9): Placemaking in Rural Areas
- SP11 - Strategic Policy 11 (SP/11): Strategic Sites
- SP12 - Strategic Policy 12 (SP/12): Infrastructure and New Development
- SP14 - Strategic Policy 14 (SP/14) Sustainable Transport and Accessibility
- SP15 - Strategic Policy 15 (SP/15): Housing
- SP27 - Strategic Policy 27 (SP/27): Economic Development
- SP28 - Strategic Policy 28 (SP/28): Tourism
- SP29 - Strategic Policy 29 (SP/29): Rural Economy
- SP31 - Strategic Policy 31 (SP/31): Telecommunications & Business Clusters
- SP32 - Strategic Policy 32 (SP/32): Energy
- SP33 - Strategic Policy 33 (SP/33): Minerals
- SP34 - Strategic Policy 34 (SP/34): Waste

4.4.18 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Support new and enhanced infrastructure provision to unlock economic growth and investment;
- Promote culturally-driven economic development and regeneration;
- Set out an employment land strategy to underpin economic growth;
- Support rural economic diversification;
- Prioritise housing and employment growth on strategic sites;
- Support the growth of locally and regionally important sectors.

4.4.19 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, a range of uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. A number of other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

SA Objective 7 – Air Quality

4.4.20 As detailed in **Appendix E**, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP8 - Strategic Policy 8 (SP/8): Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
- SP25 - Strategic Policy 25 (SP/25): Water, Air, Soundscape and Light
- SP33 - Strategic Policy 33 (SP/33): Minerals

4.4.21 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Focus on environmental sustainability;
- Reduce exposure to poor air quality;
- Protect and improve air quality; and,
- Safeguard residential and community amenity.

4.4.22 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in **Appendix E**, a range of uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. A number of other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

SA Objective 8 – Climate Change

4.4.23 As detailed in **Appendix E** of the main SA report, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP8 - Strategic Policy 8 (SP/8): Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

- SP14 - Strategic Policy 14 (SP/14) Sustainable Transport and Accessibility
- SP24 - Strategic Policy 24 (SP/24): Biodiversity
- SP25 - Strategic Policy 25 (SP/25): Water, Air, Soundscape and Light
- SP26 - Strategic Policy 26 (SP/26): Flooding
- SP32 - Strategic Policy 32 (SP/32): Energy

4.4.24 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Promote sustainable modal shifts and reduce car dependency;
- Improve ecosystem resilience and increase resilience to climate change impacts;
- Prevent pollution and protect environmental quality;
- Address and manage the flood risk implications of climate change; and,
- Support the deployment of renewable and low carbon energy generation technologies in appropriate locations.

4.4.25 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, a range of uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. A number of other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

SA Objective 9 – Biodiversity

4.4.26 As detailed in **Appendix E**, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP8 - Strategic Policy 8 (SP/8): Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
- SP17 - Strategic Policy 17 (SP/17): Community Facilities
- SP18 - Strategic Policy 18 (SP/18): Recreational Spaces
- SP19 - Strategic Policy 19 (SP/19): Landscape
- SP23 - Strategic Policy 23 (SP/23): Green Infrastructure
- SP24 - Strategic Policy 24 (SP/24): Biodiversity

4.4.27 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Reduce biodiversity loss and increase ecosystem resilience;
- Reduce pollution from all sources;
- Conserve, protect and enhance sites designated at national and local levels for reasons of ecological importance or biodiversity conservation;

- Protect areas of landscape value, thereby indirectly protecting their ecological features; and,
- Protect and enhance the green infrastructure network.

4.4.28 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, a range of uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. A number of other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective due to the absence of coverage of relevant issues.

SA Objective 10 – Water and Flood Risk

4.4.29 As detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP23 - Strategic Policy 23 (SP/23): Green Infrastructure
- SP24 - Strategic Policy 24 (SP/24): Biodiversity
- SP25 - Strategic Policy 25 (SP/25): Water, Air, Soundscape and Light
- SP26 - Strategic Policy 26 (SP/26): Flooding

4.4.30 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Protect and enhance the green infrastructure network.
- Increase ecosystem resilience;
- Protect and enhance surface and groundwater quantity and quality; and,
- Support sustainable flood risk management and increased protection against flood risk.

4.4.31 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, a range of uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. A number of other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

SA Objective 11 – Materials and Waste

4.4.32 As detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP32 - Strategic Policy 32 (SP/32): Energy
- SP33 - Strategic Policy 33 (SP/33): Minerals
- SP34 - Strategic Policy 34 (SP/34): Waste

4.4.33 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Promote energy efficiency, energy storage and renewable energy whilst ensuring a mix of energy sources to meet identified needs.
- Recognise the need to manage mineral resources in a sustainable manner to meet economic needs; and,
- Apply the waste hierarchy and support the growth of the circular economy.

4.4.34 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, a range of uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. A number of other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

SA Objective 12 – Sustainable Placemaking

4.4.35 As detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP5 - Strategic Policy 5 (SP/5): Placemaking and Good Design
- SP6 - Strategic Policy 6 (SP/6) Promoting Healthier Places in Conwy
- SP11 - Strategic Policy 11 (SP/11): Strategic Sites
- SP12 - Strategic Policy 12 (SP/12): Infrastructure and New Development
- SP15 - Strategic Policy 15 (SP/15): Housing
- SP19 - Strategic Policy 19 (SP/19): Landscape
- SP22 - Strategic Policy 22 (SP/22): Culturally-led Regeneration

4.4.36 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Adopt a placemaking approach to the siting and design of all development proposals;
- Recognise the health benefits of good placemaking;
- Bring forward high quality development on 5 Key Strategic Sites through the future development and application of design principles and development briefs;
- Support early consideration of the infrastructure required to unlock development and meet identified needs;
- Support the co-location of housing and employment growth;
- Protect, manage and enhance the special qualities of landscapes;
- Enhance place identity; and,
- Support the protection and enhancement of cultural assets.

4.4.37 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, a range

of uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. A number of other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

SA Objective 13 – Cultural Heritage

4.4.38 As detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP19 - Strategic Policy 19 (SP/19): Landscape
- SP21 - Strategic Policy 21 (SP/21): Historic Environment
- SP22 - Strategic Policy 22 (SP/22): Culturally-led Regeneration

4.4.39 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Protect, manage and enhance designated heritage assets;
- Protect valued landscapes, of which the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting form a key part;
- Promote regeneration through townscape heritage initiatives.

4.4.40 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in Appendix E the main SA report, a range of uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. A number of other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

SA Objective 14 – Landscape

4.4.41 As detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, the following proposed strategic policies are predicted to have Major Positive (i.e. significant beneficial) effects on aspects of this SA Objective:

- SP13 - Strategic Policy 13 (SP/13): Managing Settlement Form
- SP19 - Strategic Policy 19 (SP/19): Landscape
- SP20 - Strategic Policy 20 (SP/20): Coastal Areas and Marine Plans
- SP21 - Strategic Policy 21 (SP/21): Historic Environment

4.4.42 Whilst not at the level of setting out detailed criteria, these strategic policies provide a supportive high-level policy framework to:

- Protect valued landscapes and the special qualities of landscape character; and,
- Manage long-term settlement growth to prevent coalescence and sprawl.

4.4.43 At this stage none of the proposed strategic policies are predicted to have negative (i.e. adverse) effects on this SA Objective. However, as detailed in Appendix E of the main SA report, a range of uncertainties and issues have been identified which presently limit the contribution of some

assessed strategic policies to this SA Objective. A number of other strategic policies have no clear relationship with this SA Objective.

5 Mitigation and Enhancement Recommendations

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 The identification of any assumptions and uncertainties is an important element of SA, as all components of the emerging RLDP need to be unambiguous to ensure they can be implemented as intended. In addition, the SEA Regulations require consideration to be given to “*the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme*”. A key role of the SA process, incorporating SEA, is therefore to devise appropriate mitigation and enhancement recommendations in order to address identified uncertainties, resolve deficiencies and strengthen the sustainability performance of the plan or programme being assessed.
- 5.1.2 The assessment of each substantive LDP component or proposal within the Pre-Deposit Consultation Papers has been undertaken on a pre-mitigation basis to allow any ambiguities and other weaknesses to be identified. This has enabled the independent consultant team undertaking the SA to develop appropriate mitigation and enhancement recommendations, as detailed below.

5.2 LDP Strategic Framework Recommendations

- 5.2.1 This subsection sets out a series of recommendations to enhance the clarity and effectiveness of the strategic framework elements of the emerging RLDP, namely the LDP Vision, Strategic Objectives and Growth Strategy.
- 5.2.2 In addition to recommendations regarding each element (detailed below), through the SA process several opportunities have been identified to enhance the overall cohesion and value of the LDP Vision, Strategic Objectives and Growth Strategy through some restructuring. These are discussed within **Section 6** of the main SA Report.

LDP Vision Recommendations

- 5.2.3 The proposed LDP Vision has already been modified to take account of previous recommendations and now more clearly seeks to address the key spatial challenges and opportunities facing Conwy. No further modifications are considered necessary.

LDP Strategic Objective Recommendations

- 5.2.4 The SA of the proposed LDP Strategic Objectives (Appendix D of the main SA report) concludes that these components are generally compatible with achieving beneficial sustainability outcomes and in many cases their wording is closely matched to the SA Objectives defined in the Conwy LDP Review SA Framework (**Appendix A**). However, the individual thematic focus of the proposed Strategic Objectives and their sheer number (15) means that individually they do not succinctly articulate a clear direction of travel for the emerging Conwy RLDP and may struggle to tackle cross-cutting sustainability issues.
- 5.2.5 To address identified issues and enhance the effectiveness and sustainability performance of the emerging RLDP it is recommended that CCBC should look to rationalise some Strategic Objectives. Providing a clear and manageable set of genuinely strategic priorities will help to steer all other substantive components of the emerging RLDP and minimise policy tensions. To ensure all relevant sustainability and planning issues remain covered by the LDP strategic framework, individual thematic elements from the proposed Strategic Objectives could be recast as ‘outcomes’ underneath a rationalised set of broader LDP Objectives.

- 5.2.6 CCBC should also look to enhance the visionary tone of all Strategic Objectives (SO) and enhance their clarity. In particular:
- i. For brevity it is recommended that SO1 should be recast to simply focus on delivering/creating sustainable places and improving wellbeing, as both these terms encapsulate many of the design, health and social aspects referenced in the current objective;
 - ii. This change may necessitate moving the protection of the Welsh Language from SO1 to another relevant SO where it can appropriately be retained, e.g. SO12;
 - iii. For brevity, SO4 and SO5 could be rationalised;
 - iv. The support provided for modal shift in SO6 could be strengthened, whilst the wording included regarding active travel could be shortened for brevity;
 - v. The wording of SO9 would benefit from greater clarity, in particular regarding the strategy for rural housing and managing changes in agricultural practices; and,
 - vi. The merits of promoting a specific tidal lagoon through an LDP Strategic Objective should be re-considered, as Strategic Objectives should articulate desired spatial outcomes (e.g. energy generation, climate change mitigation, flood prevention, etc) rather than pre-defining a strategy to achieve them.

Growth Strategy Recommendations

- 5.2.7 The SA of the proposed Growth Strategy (**Section 5.2** and **Appendix D**) indicates that the target growth levels (housing and employment) and spatial distribution strategy are appropriate and likely to support the delivery of sustainable development. However, there still remains a need to identify and address the likely environmental and sustainability effects from the development of individual sites forming part of the wider growth strategy.
- 5.2.8 The principal measure to avoid and mitigate adverse impacts and to enhance the sustainability performance of the emerging RLDP will be through adopting an evidence-based approach to the development of sub-area strategies and the selection of appropriate site allocations, e.g. by minimising growth in areas of known high nature conservation value, allocating sites with good access to a range of services, jobs and facilities in walking distance or with direct public transport connections; avoiding areas of high landscape sensitivity, etc. The SA of candidate sites being undertaken by CCBC should also allow appropriate policy level mitigation and site-specific design principles to be identified to help mitigate potential effects from allocated sites.

5.3 Implementation Mechanism Recommendations

Strategic Site Recommendations

- 5.3.1 As noted in **Section 4.3**, at this stage only candidate sites identified by CCBC as being strategic in nature (owing to site size) and not being subject to deliverability of major environmental constraints have been identified as reasonable alternative strategic site allocations. Five Key Strategic Sites are identified within the LDP Preferred Strategy.
- 5.3.2 Whilst some candidate sites over the strategic site threshold have been found not to be reasonable alternative strategic sites, subject to the provision of further deliverability and environmental information these sites may be re-considered at LDP Deposit stage (whether as candidate strategic or non-strategic sites). A robust and transparent assessment of all proposed allocations and reasonable alternatives (i.e. all candidate sites which cannot be reasonably excluded) will need to be carried out at this point.

- 5.3.3 At LDP Deposit stage, the site assessment exercise should apply the sustainability indicators listed within the Conwy LDP Review SA Framework (**Appendix A**) and devise appropriate thresholds and scoring criteria to allow likely significant environmental effects to be identified. Where likely significant adverse effects are predicted from proposed site allocations, appropriate mitigation options (e.g. design principles for site allocations, additional impact assessment requirements, additional policy criteria, etc.) will need to be developed and incorporated within the LDP Deposit Document.

Strategic Policy Recommendations

- 5.3.4 Through undertaking the SA of proposed strategic policies a number of recommended mitigation and enhancement measures have been identified to enhance their clarity, effectiveness and environmental performance. These recommendations, detailed in full in **Section 6** of the main SA Report, generally relate to:
- Developing additional policies to address key issues not fully addressed within the proposed strategic policies or to mitigate specific predicted impacts;
 - Adjusting or expanding policy wording to ensure policies can be implemented as intended and effectively address relevant issues; or,
 - Setting requirements for applicants to show how their development proposal addresses key environmental and sustainability issues, whether through specific policies or site-specific allocations.

5.4 Next Steps

- 5.4.1 This Sustainability Appraisal Report ('the SA Report') has documented the findings of the SA carried out in respect of all substantive components within the Conwy LDP Pre-Deposit Documents, i.e. the LDP Preferred Strategy and associated Background Papers.
- 5.4.2 Following consultation on the LDP Pre-Deposit Documents and associated SA Report, all consultation responses received will be reviewed and used to inform the Conwy LDP Deposit Document, i.e. the full proposed Conwy RLDP. This will build upon the LDP Preferred Strategy to set out all strategic framework elements, policies and site allocations proposed for inclusion in the Conwy RLDP. The Conwy LDP Deposit Document will be accompanied by an updated an expanded SA Report, with both documents expected to be consulted on in tandem in January 2020. Following a subsequent Examination in Public, CCBC then intends to adopt the finalised Replacement Conwy LDP prior to the expiry of the existing Conwy LDP in 2022.

Appendix A Conwy LDP Review SA Framework

A.1.1 **Table A1.1** below details the full Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Framework which underpins this SA of the emerging RLDP. The SA Framework has been updated to take account of responses received to the Conwy LDP Review SA Scoping consultation (August 2018).

Table A1.1: SA Framework for Conwy LDP Review

SA Objectives	SA Guide Questions – Will the replacement LDP...	Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
<p>1) Health and Wellbeing: Improve the health and wellbeing of the population, including with respect to physical and mental health, social wellbeing and community safety.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and improve access to healthcare services and facilities? • Reduce health inequalities and improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of communities? • Facilitate or encourage active travel or physical recreation? • Increase the accessibility and quality of open space provision? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to and the capacity of healthcare facilities. • Proximity to existing active travel networks • Proximity to existing open space provision. • Proposed provision of new or upgraded healthcare facilities, active travel networks or open space within candidate sites.
<p>2) Equality and Social Inclusion: Reduce poverty and inequality, tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion, including through enhancing access to community facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a culture of equality, fairness and respect for people and the environment? • Reduce poverty and social exclusion? • Promote social cohesion and integration? • Promote equity between population groups? • Provide access to affordable cultural activities? • Reduce fuel poverty? • Protect and enhance access to high quality community facilities, public services and key amenities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to existing community facilities, public services and key amenities. • Proposed provision of new or upgraded community facilities, public services or key amenities within candidate sites.
<p>3) Employment and Skills: Increase the number and quality of employment opportunities to meet identified needs,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to employment, especially for local people? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment capacity of the site.

SA Objectives	SA Guide Questions – Will the replacement LDP...	Sustainability Indicators for Candidate Site Assessments
<p>whilst improving the level of educational attainment and skills amongst residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase and diversify employment opportunities? • Enhance opportunities for education and lifelong learning? • Improve educational attainment and skill levels, especially within the working age population? • Support the growth of further and higher education institutions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site suitability for mixed use development. • Proximity to existing and planned key employment locations (e.g. business parks, industrial estates and urban employment clusters). • Proximity to and the capacity of education infrastructure. • Proposed provision of new or upgraded education infrastructure within candidate sites.
<p>4) Transport and Communications: Enhance the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets through improving infrastructure and creating a sustainable transport network, whilst also ensuring access to high quality communications and utilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the accessibility of public services, economic opportunities and markets? • Improve connectivity within the CCBC area and to other areas? • Reduce car dependencies and encourage a shift to more sustainable forms of travel, including for people and freight? • Support the increased uptake of active travel? • Improve the accessibility, capacity and safety of the transport network? • Reduce traffic flows and congestion? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to the public transport network (bus stops and train stations). • Proximity to the strategic road network (motorways and trunk roads). • Proximity to existing active travel networks. • Proximity to congestion pinch points. • Availability and the capacity of utilities infrastructure to serve the site. • Proposed provision of new or upgraded transport or communications infrastructure within or connecting to candidate sites.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the quality and integration of public transport? Enhance the provision of high quality communications infrastructure? Improve utilities infrastructure to support economic growth and meet population needs? 	
<p>5) Housing: Provide a sufficient quantum and range of good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help to facilitate the increased delivery of house to meet a range of identified needs? Improve the quality of the housing stock? Reduce homelessness and overcrowding? Increase the mix, range and affordability of housing? Provide housing that encourages a sense of community? Delivery adequate pitches and plots required for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing capacity of the site. Deliverability of affordable housing as a component of any residential development. Site suitability for mixed use development. Adjacent land uses. Proximity to COMAH sites Proximity to European Sites vulnerable to recreational pressures.
<p>6) Economic Growth: Deliver sustainable economic growth and maximise the economic contribution of the CCBC area to the North Wales region, including through diversifying and strengthening the local economic base.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the right type of development and economic activities in the right location to maximise economic competitiveness? Help to diversify the local economy? Encourage inward investment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site capability for industrial and economic uses. Adjacent land uses, including potential agglomeration benefits.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support innovation and new enterprises? • Promote the co-location of synergistic economic activities, industries and land uses? • Support a range of business types and sizes? • Provide the infrastructure and workspace required for new and existing businesses? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to the strategic road and public transport networks.
<p>7) Air Quality: Prevent and reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and minimise exposure to poor air quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or improve air quality? • Reduce exposure to poor air quality? • Prevent and reduce emissions of harmful pollutants? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). • Proximity to congestion pinch points. • Potential operational emissions.
<p>8) Climate Change: Adopt appropriate mitigation and adaption measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from key economic sectors? • Support the minimisation of energy use? • Support the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy and reduce dependency on non-renewable sources? • Facilitate investment in and promote the use of low carbon and sustainable infrastructure? • <input type="checkbox"/> Implement avoidance and adaptation measures to address the likely effects of climate change, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site provision or renewable or low carbon energy generation. • Proximity to the public transport network. • Capacity of the site to include climate change adaptation measures.

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	<p>including increased flood risks by steering development away from areas at risk of flooding?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable design that minimises GHG emissions and is adaptable to the effects of climate change? 	
<p>9) Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil: Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests, including through safeguarding important sites and species, improving green infrastructure provision and safeguarding important soil resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure appropriate safeguards for the integrity and conservation objectives of sites designated at international, national or local levels for reasons of biodiversity or geodiversity value or species protection? Protect and enhance valued species and habitats? Safeguard against habitat loss or fragmentation? Protect or enhance protected trees or important woodland areas? Improve access to nature? Remediate known contamination of land and groundwater? Safeguard the best quality and locally important agricultural land? Protect and enhance important soil resources? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proximity to and potential effects on sites designated at international, national and local levels for reasons of biodiversity conservation, ecological importance or geological importance. Proximity to designated woodlands and important trees or hedgerows. Evidence of valued habitats or species on or adjacent to the site. Potential impacts on habitat fragmentation and connectivity. Agricultural land classification. Soil type and quality.
<p>10) Water and Flood Risk: Conserve, protect and enhance water and coastal environments, water quality and water resources, whilst reducing the risk of flooding. Development must be located so as not to increase the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the quality of waterbodies helping to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proximity to Flood Risk Zones.

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<p>risk of flooding and should be steered away from areas of greatest risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or enhance the ecological and chemical status of the water environment? • Affect surface water drainage and flows, including surface water runoff into or abstraction from water bodies? • Support improvements to water infrastructure (water supply and sewerage)? • Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources of flooding to all people, property, infrastructure and environmental assets? • Manage residual flood risks appropriately and avoid new flood risks? • Seek to minimise new development in areas prone to flood risk or mitigate the potential for such risk? • Promote the deployment of sustainable urban drainage systems? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to waterbodies and aquifers. • Proximity to environmental hazards, such as areas of flood risk and coastal change.
<p>11) Materials and Waste: Contribute to the implementation of the circular economy, manage waste with minimal environmental impacts and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including for energy generation and providing an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the production of waste? • Promote the principles of circular economy? • Treat and process waste with minimal environmental impact? • Minimise the demand for raw materials and the need for minerals extraction? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity of waste collection facilities. • Establishment of locational need for minerals extraction.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of local resources and minimise the importation of minerals? 	
<p>12) Sustainable Placemaking: Maximise the efficient use of land and infrastructure and enhance design quality to create great places for people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote high quality architecture and design which strengthens local distinctiveness and fosters a sense of place? Create and maintain a safe and attractive public realm which encourages people to walk and cycle? Ensure appropriate siting, scale, massing and density of development? Make the best use of land, including through prioritising the redevelopment of brownfield sites and locating high footfall uses close to the public transport network? Reduce opportunities for crime and antisocial behaviour through the siting and design of new development? Provide public realm which feels safe to all users at all times? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previously developed brownfield land or greenfield land. Proximity to active travel networks
<p>13) Cultural Heritage: Conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets, including the use of the Welsh language</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase availability and accessibility of culture, leisure and recreation activities/venues? Conserve, protect and enhance the integrity, character and setting of heritage assets? Protect and enhance the qualities of areas of historical or cultural significance? Promote the sensitive re-use of historic or culturally important buildings? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proximity to and potential effects on heritage assets, areas and their setting. Proposed re-use of historic or culturally important buildings. Proposed inclusion of Welsh language signage within candidate sites.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and, where appropriate, enhance important archaeological resources? • Safeguard and increase the use of the Welsh language? 	
<p>14) Landscape: Protect and enhance the landscape character, visual amenity and legibility of settlements in the CCBC area, taking account of the special qualities of Snowdonia National Park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance landscape character? • Safeguard important landscape and townscape features? • Protect the special qualities of Snowdonia National Park? • Protect visual amenity and valued views? • Prevent urban sprawl? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to and potential effects on nationally and locally designated landscapes; • Evidence of potential impacts on visual amenity or key views; • Evidence of integration or coalescence with, or separation from, existing settlements

