

# ***Materion, Gweledigaeth ac Amcanion / Issues, Vision and Objectives***

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Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan

***Papur Pwnc Drafft / Draft Topic Paper  
Mai 2009 / May 2009***

## **How to Have Your Say**

Whilst the following paper is the not subject to a formal consultation, the Council as part of its ongoing community involvement, would welcome your views on its content  
The final date for receipt of comments is 15th June 2009.

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## **Executive Summary**

Carmarthenshire County Council is in the process of preparing a Local Development Plan (LDP) for its area (excluding that part contained within the Brecon Beacons National Park). The aim of the new LDP's is to make the Development Plan System more relevant, inclusive and engaging to local communities. It also serves to encourage a collaborative approach to plan preparation by involving the voluntary, public and private sectors as a means to achieving a cross cutting plan that is based on a wide consensus.

The Plan will have regard to national and regional planning policy and guidance, whilst also acknowledging emerging issues, options and objectives at a local level. Regard will also be given to relevant strategies and other background documents (eg The Community Strategy) where relevant.

## **Purpose of this paper**

The purpose of this paper is to:

- Aid, inform, and consolidate upon the ongoing engagement and participation being undertaken in accordance with the Community Involvement Scheme;
- Aid and inform the other LDP pre deposit Papers currently under development
- Consolidate upon the work already undertaken with regards to identifying the LDP key issues, vision and strategic objectives
- Inform the preparation of the LDP Preferred Strategy and subsequent stages of plan preparation
- Form part of the evidence trail at the independent examination.

The paper is split into 3 main sections:

- Discussion and identification of the key land use planning and sustainability issues facing Carmarthenshire
- Discussion and identification of the LDP Vision
- Discussion and identification of the Strategic Objectives that will deliver the Vision and seek to address the key plan issues

## **Discussion and identification of the key land use planning and sustainability issues facing Carmarthenshire**

The first step in the plan making process is to develop a clear understanding of the pre plan conditions. This provides the means to identify a series of issues and opportunities facing the County so that they can be addressed via the LDP. A review of the environmental, social and economic conditions of the County is an important first step because it informs the baseline and helps identify the issues. The Key issues for Carmarthenshire have been identified and consolidated following:

- The publication of LDP Discussion/issues papers and subsequent public consultation in relation thereto
- Preparation of SA/SEA Scoping Report and subsequent public consultation in relation thereto
- The holding of 2 LDP Stakeholder Forum Events and subsequent public consultation in relation thereto
- The holding of a Town and Community Council Seminar
- A review of statistical social, economic and environmental baseline evidence/ currently to hand

- A review of local, regional and national plans, policies, issues and programmes (PPP)
- Meeting of the LDP Technical Officers Group (TBC)

The Discussion Papers undertook to scope out the key plan issues. These papers ensured that the subsequent consultation undertaken (both with Stakeholders and the general public) was focused around land use relevant topics and not on a wide array of issues/considerations that the LDP vision/objectives would not be able to address (thus hopes were not unduly raised). The Papers engendered an early appreciation of the local, regional and national policy context, whilst also allowing for distinctive local issues to be captured. The Discussion Papers played an important role in setting the context for establishing the LDP baseline and for taking forward a meaningful and inclusive pre deposit consultation strategy in accordance with the Community Involvement Scheme. The Papers (and the discussion paper feedback report) were duly utilised by the Key Stakeholder Forum as a means to inform their choices and strategic deliberations in terms of identifying the LDP key issues, vision, strategic objectives and strategic options. The main issues to emerge from the Discussion Papers (and the subsequent consultation responses in relation thereto) can be viewed in the appendices of the full Paper. Headline issues to emerge from included:

- Sustainable development
- Climate change
- Reducing need to travel
- Affordable Housing
- Rural – urban specific contrasts/ issues
- Welsh language and culture
- Accessibility and integrated transport
- Infrastructure – hard and soft (inc IT and home working)
- Protection of community and recreational facilities
- Character/distinctiveness

Following the capturing of a range of LDP key plan issues via the Discussion Papers, a full review of the sustainability issues facing the County was undertaken. The SA-SEA Scoping Report provides the means to identify the sustainability issues, challenges and opportunities (including environmental problems as required by the SEA directive) facing Carmarthenshire. A detailed account of these sustainability issues and challenges can be viewed at page 20 of the full Paper. These issues are discussed under a range of sustainability headings; including: biodiversity, climatic factors and social fabric. Another key stage in the prioritisation of the LDP key issues was the consultation undertaken with the Key Stakeholder Forum. The publication of the LDP Discussion/Issues Papers and the SA-SEA Scoping Report ahead of the Key Stakeholder Forum Consultation events ensured that the Forum focused on national, regional and local issues that had a land use planning relevance. 14 headline elements of vision/key plan issues were duly agreed by the Forum and these were further prioritised in terms of their importance towards being addressed through the LDP. These prioritised issues/elements of vision have directly informed the LDP Vision (as well as the strategic objectives). A full account of the discussions undertaken by the Forum in respect of the key LDP topics/issues can be viewed within the full Paper.

A wide range of social, economic and environmental challenges/opportunities facing the County have also emerged from a review of the evidence base to hand. A detailed review of this information (which was primarily sourced from the SA Scoping

Report) can be viewed within the full Paper's appendices. Whilst the role of the LDP within the plan period is to shape and mediate the use of land across Carmarthenshire, it clearly has a number of connections with wider national, regional and local policies, issues and strategies. A strong appreciation of these various strategies, issues and policies will thus ensure that the LDP is sound and well informed. The full paper undertakes to briefly review these PPP, whilst the SA Scoping Report undertakes a more detailed review thereof.

The LDP vision, issues and strategic objectives have thus been informed by:

- An appreciation of national, regional and local Plans, Policies and Programmes
- The capturing of distinctive local level issues and challenges via a review of baseline evidence and the undertaking of focused and inclusive pre deposit consultation

The rationale for publishing the Discussion Papers and the SA Scoping Report at the commencement of the pre deposit stage (and ahead of consultation undertaken with the Key Stakeholder Forum) is thus readily apparent, because as well as ensuring that the County specific issues developed were largely relevant to land use planning, the process also allowed for an appreciation of national/regional issues, policies and strategies to be engendered within plan making process from the outset (eg the Wales Spatial Plan). **The consolidated/prioritised list of the key LDP issues/elements of vision is provided in table 1 overleaf.**

### **Discussion and identification of the LDP Vision**

The development of an agreed Vision at the beginning of the preparation of the LDP was imperative because it gives subsequent stages of the plan-making process a general strategic steer. The LDP Vision must clearly communicate what sort of place Carmarthenshire is aspiring towards becoming and must also be linked to the County's unique key plan issues. A meaningful and deliverable LDP Vision will be spatially relevant and will be capable of being delivered through the land use planning system. It will have strong links with the key plan issues and the strategic objectives intended to address them. The Vision will flow from having a clear view of what sort of place the County is aspiring to become.

The vision for the Carmarthenshire LDP must be directly informed by the Carmarthenshire Community Strategy because the Community Strategy is the relevant overarching strategy for the County. The Strategy communicates what sort of place Carmarthenshire wants to become and its 5 pillars/strategic themes are central to the Authority's Corporate Plan.

It was clear from the outset of the LDP plan making process that the Community Strategy's Mission Statement needed to have considerable prominence within the LDP Vision, however concerns soon emerged that the Mission Statement could not directly demonstrate a balance between economic, social and environmental objectives (particularly with regards to the County's key land use planning related issues and challenges). There were also concerns with regards to the chronological relevance of the Strategy given that it is due for review in 2009. There was also a need to evaluate the spatial relevance of the Mission Statement and to evaluate its linkages to the Wales Spatial Plan (as updated 2008). It was thus deemed inappropriate to simply adopt the Community Strategy Mission Statement as the LDP Vision. Accordingly, it was determined that a key objective of the first Key Stakeholder Forum Event (held in Autumn 2008) should be to develop consensus on a range of land use related elements of vision.

**TABLE 1 - Consolidated Summary of the key plan issues/elements of LDP Vision (in no order of importance)**

Table 1 consolidates/prioritises the key Plan issues and groups them under the 5 pillars of the Community Strategy so as to secure a robust link is made between the LDP and the Community Strategy. All of these issues are land use planning related and have thus contributed towards the development of a deliverable LDP vision. They can also be addressed through land use planning based strategic objectives. These headline issues have been fully endorsed by the Key Stakeholder Forum and reflect the unique social, economic and environmental issues facing Carmarthenshire (as well as national issues/policies) as captured in the Discussion Papers and SA-SEA Scoping Report.

Feeling Fine		
Health and wellbeing – tackling the causes of ill health by looking at life in the round		
<b>Suitable mix of housing</b>	<b>Health and recreation</b>	<b>Equality</b>
Investment and Innovation		
Regeneration – building resources, creating opportunities and offering support		
<b>Attracting inward investment</b>	<b>Enough infrastructure for new development</b>	<b>Joined up/integration</b>
<b>Access to public transport</b>		
Feeling secure		
Safer communities – offering security, tackling crime and fear of crime, helping us to look out for each other		
<b>Community Facilities</b>	<b>Providing safe environments</b>	
A Better Place		
Environment – improving the world around us, today and for tomorrow”		
<b>Good Quality Environment Safeguard</b>	<b>Green and Sustainable</b>	<b>Distinctiveness</b>
Opening Doors-		
Lifelong learning – helping everyone to achieve their potential, from childhood to old age”		
<b>Access for all</b>		
<b>UNDERPINNED BY KEY NATIONAL ISSUES OF : SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND REDUCING THE NEED TO TRAVEL</b>		

The consultation undertaken with the Key Stakeholder Forum has proved pivotal to the development of the LDP Vision. A key objective of the first Key Stakeholder Forum Event was to achieve consensus on a range of land use related elements of vision. These elements of vision were built upon a wide range of viewpoints and reflected the key land use planning relevant issues that the Stakeholders deemed to be in need of addressing via the LDP. The Wales Spatial Plan was also utilised in order to provide some spatial context to the LDP vision and to ensure that it demonstrates an awareness of the local and regional settlement context and inter relations

During January 2009, the LDP Team utilised the agreed key plan issues, the Community Strategy Mission Statement, the Wales Spatial Plan and the visioning & strategic objectives work undertaken by the first Key Stakeholder Forum in order to develop a summary vision for the Carmarthenshire LDP. This vision is outlined below:

**Carmarthenshire will be a prosperous and sustainable County of contrasts. It will have distinctive rural, urban and coastal communities, a unique culture, a high quality environment and a vibrant and diverse economy.**

**The County will offer a high quality of life in safe, accessible and inclusive communities. Everyone will have access to good quality employment, a suitable mix of housing and to community and recreational facilities – all within a clean and green environment**

The above vision sets the context for the Plan to mediate the various concerns and pressures that will emerge across the County within the plan period. The Vision also sets the context for the Plan to address the key plan issues via its strategic objectives. Accordingly, the Carmarthenshire LDP has been provided with a place making function which accords with the overarching direction of travel as set out within the Community Strategy. The Summary Vision set out above is intended to be taken forward into the Preferred Strategy and has already been approved by the Key Stakeholder Forum. The LDP Team may build upon the summary Vision by focusing on enhancing its spatial relevance. This could be achieved by adding reference to the preferred settlement framework/hierarchy (as set out in the Strategic Spatial Options and Settlement Hierarchy Paper) in order to produce a detailed vision. A detailed vision may therefore appear in the Preferred Strategy in due course.

### **Discussion and identification of the Strategic Objectives that will deliver the Vision and seek to address the key plan issues**

As well as developing a vision for the LDP, it is important that Strategic objectives are also developed at an early stage (ideally in tandem with the vision). Strategic Objectives are statements of a “condition which the authority wants to bring about” and represent broad intentions to which the more detailed policies and proposals within the LDP will be intended to deliver in due course. Strategic objectives are a guide for describing what the plan is trying to achieve. They link the vision & the spatial strategy with the detailed land use planning policies and the allocations that will ultimately deliver the plan. The Strategic Objectives should also put further meaning onto the LDP vision and cement the deliverability of the LDP. In a similar

way to the development of the LDP Vision, the development of the Plan's strategic objectives was achieved in an inclusive and iterative manner, with the emphasis placed firmly on participation and deliverability. In this regard, the strategic objectives were derived from the development of key plan issues as well as key elements of Vision. The key plan issues and the Vision were developed via:

- LDP Discussion/issues papers and subsequent public consultation in relation thereto
- Preparation of SA/SEA Scoping Report and subsequent public consultation in relation thereto
- The holding of 2 LDP Stakeholder Forum Events and subsequent public consultation in relation thereto
- Town and Community Council Seminar
- A review of statistical social, economic and environmental baseline evidence/studies currently to hand as well as an awareness of relevant PPP

**Table 2 overleaf outlines the 14 strategic objectives for the Carmarthenshire LDP.** These Objectives are fitted under the relevant pillars of the Community Strategy. This allows for a direct link to be made between the LDP and the Community Strategy. It should also be noted that all of the LDP objectives are land use planning related and are thus capable of delivering the vision and tackling the key plan issues.

**Table 3** then undertakes to test the suitability of the strategic objectives developed in terms of:

**(a) Corporate fit** - The objectives have been grouped under the 5 pillars of the Community Strategy and are thus capable of demonstrating adherence to the Authority's Corporate Plan for 2007-12. It follows that for any plan to be deliverable it must adhere to the Council's Corporate Plan.

**(b) Links to the LDP Vision** - Column 1 of table 3 demonstrates how the elements of vision developed via the Key Stakeholder Forum, Community Strategy and the Wales Spatial Plan are linked to the development of the Strategic Objectives. Accordingly, despite being land use planning focused, the Strategic Objectives also flow from having a clear view of the sort of place that the Authority wants the County to become and are thus represent a spatial planning approach to plan making in Carmarthenshire.

**(c) Capability to address the key plan issues** - Column 1 of table 3 demonstrates how the prioritised key plan issues have directly informed the Strategic Objectives and that they are thus interlinked. The most appropriate strategic objective has been matched to the most appropriate issue. These land use relevant key plan issues were initially contextualised via the Discussion Papers, the SA Scoping Report, a review of evidence and policy and were then prioritised via the pre deposit consultation undertaken with the Key Stakeholder Forum's diverse composition of delegates. Column 3 also shows that all 14 objectives have been fully endorsed by the Key Stakeholder Forum.

**(d) Deliverability in land use planning terms** - Column 4 of table 3 shows how the objectives can deliver the vision and tackle the issues via the plan's preferred strategy & its various detailed policies and allocations. The objectives have also been tested by the Key Stakeholder Forum in order to evaluate their deliverability in land use planning terms.

**(e) Link to the SA – SEA** - The LDP objectives will also be tested against the SA Objectives at the preferred strategy stage. The SA Scoping Report have been utilised throughout the pre deposit stage and has informed the development of the vision, strategic objectives and spatial options.

**TABLE 2 – The LDP Strategic Objectives (in no order of importance)**

<b>A BETTER PLACE - Environment – improving the world around us, today and for tomorrow</b>
<b>SO1</b> To protect and enhance the diverse character, distinctiveness, safety and vibrancy of the County’s communities by ensuring sympathetic and high quality standards of design.
<b>SO2</b> To ensure that the principles of sustainability are upheld by (a) encouraging new development on previously developed land and (b) enabling development in the most sustainable locations in order to minimise the need to travel.
<b>SO3</b> To make provision for an appropriate mix of quality homes; access to which will be based around the principles of sustainable development and equality of opportunities.
<b>SO4</b> To ensure that the natural, built and historic environment is safeguarded and enhanced.
<b>SO5</b> To assist with tackling the cause and affect of waste, climate change and pollution through promoting recycling, renewable energy, green innovation and the effective use of resources.
<b>OPENING DOORS - Lifelong learning – helping everyone to achieve their potential, from childhood to old age</b>
<b>SO6</b> To assist in widening and promoting education and skills training opportunities for all.
<b>SO7</b> To assist in protecting and enhancing the County’s unique cultural identity, assets and social fabric
<b>FEELING FINE - Health and wellbeing – tackling the causes of ill health by looking at life in the round</b>
<b>SO8</b> To assist with widening and promoting opportunities for everyone to utilise the County’s community, leisure and recreational facilities.
<b>SO9</b> To ensure that the principles of equal opportunities and social inclusion are upheld by promoting access to a high quality and diverse mix of public services, health services, shops, leisure facilities and work opportunities.
<b>INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION - Regeneration – building resources, creating opportunities and offering support</b>
<b>SO10</b> To contribute to the delivery of an integrated and sustainable transport system that is accessible to all.
<b>SO11</b> To encourage investment & innovation (both rural and urban) by: (a) making provision for the business and employment developmental needs of indigenous and new employers, particularly in terms of hard & soft infrastructural requirements (including telecommunications/ICT); and (b) adhering to the principles of sustainable development and social inclusion
<b>SO12</b> To promote and develop sustainable & high quality <i>all year round</i> tourism related initiatives
<b>FEELING SECURE - Safer communities –offering security, tackling crime and fear of crime, helping us to look out for each other</b>
<b>SO13</b> To assist with the development and management of safe and vibrant places & spaces across the County
<b>SO14</b> To assist with the delivery and management of mixed & sustainable communities by: (a) promoting safe, vibrant and socially interactive places and (b) promoting the utilisation of local services and produce whenever possible.

**TABLE 3-**  
**Testing the compatibility of the Key Plan issues/elements of vision with the Strategic Objectives**  
**(NOTE THE SA STAGE B WILL ALSO ‘SUSTAINABILTY TEST’ THE LDP OBJECTIVES)**

KEY PLAN ISSUES & ELEMENTS OF THE LDP VISION (developed largely by KSF)	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE BEST PLACED TO ADDRESS ISSUE/DELIVER ELEMENT OF VISION	HAS THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE BEEN ENDORSED BY KSF?	POTENTIAL OF THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TO DELIVER THE ELEMENT OF VISION AND ADDRESS THE KEY PLAN ISSUE THROUGH DETAILED LDP POLICIES AND/OR ALLOCATIONS?
<b>A BETTER PLACE – The Environment</b>			
Distinctiveness/character	SO 1	YES	Policies for design, density and safeguarding the built & natural environment
Suitable mix of housing	SO 2	YES	The spatial strategy & growth option will ensure that the new homes allocated across the plan period are based upon local need and that they are located in sustainable & deliverable locations. Also brownfield development % targets
	SO 3	YES	Targets & policies for meeting the need for affordable units across the County
A good Quality Environment	SO 4	YES	Landscape & historic environment designations & settlement limits
Green and Sustainable	SO 5	YES	Policies for minerals, waste, climate change, renewables, green innovation, flooding/ water abstraction and regard to the R.W.P.
<b>OPENING DOORS – Education and Life Long Learning</b>			
Community Facilities	SO 6	YES	The distribution and location of new development will adhere to the provision of community facilities. Planning gain policy framework.
Safeguard (social fabric)	SO 7	YES	Policies for language (LSA), social fabric & culture as well as scale & phasing
<b>FEELING FINE – Health and Well Being</b>			
Health and recreation	SO 8	YES	Policies for provision of community, recreational, educational & leisure facilities
Equality and Access for All	SO 9	YES	Policies for inclusive design (DDA), accessibility to services, equal opportunities and planning for marginalised groups eg Gypsies and Travellers
<b>INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION – Regeneration and the Economy</b>			
Access to public transport Joined up/integration	SO 10	YES	Policies for promoting reduction of car use & utilisation of alternative modes of transport. LDP will have regard to the existing transport hierarchy & the R.T.P.
Attracting inward investment Enough infrastructure for new development	SO 11	YES	Policies for employment, retail and hard/soft infrastructure (inc IT and home working). The current provision of services, infrastructure and the existing retail hierarchy (along with the Spatial Strategy) will inform employment & retail policy.
Green and Sustainable	SO 12	YES	Policies for promoting sustainable all year tourism and suitable diversification
<b>FEELING SECURE – Safer Communities</b>			
Providing safe environments	SO 13	YES	<i>Safety by design</i> policies & urban design (inc public realm) policies
	SO 14	YES	Vibrant & inclusive communities via policies that promote mixed uses

## **1. Introduction**

Carmarthenshire County Council is in the process of preparing a Local Development Plan (LDP) for its area (excluding that part contained within the Brecon Beacons National Park). The aim of the new LDP's is to make the Development Plan System more relevant, inclusive and engaging to local communities. It also serves to encourage a collaborative approach to plan preparation involving the voluntary, public and private sectors as a means to achieving a cross cutting plan that is based on a wide consensus.

The LDP will set out the Local Planning Authority's proposals and policies for the future development and use of land within its administrative area. Upon its adoption, the LDP will supersede the existing Unitary Development Plan (UDP). Decisions on planning permissions will thus be primarily based on the content of the LDP. The LDP will provide a measure of certainty about what kind of development will (and will not) be permitted during the plan period.

The LDP will contain detailed policies and proposals for the protection of the environment and will also guide investment in the delivery of services and infrastructure. The Plan will also determine the number and location of new housing and employment opportunities. It will set the framework for considering all land use proposals during the plan period.

The Plan must have regard to national and regional planning policies, issues and guidance, whilst also acknowledging emerging issues, options and objectives at a local level. Regard will be given to relevant strategies and other background documents where relevant.

## **2. Purpose of this Paper**

The purpose of this paper is to:

- Aid, inform, and consolidate upon the ongoing engagement and participation being undertaken in accordance with the Community Involvement Scheme;
- Aid and inform the other LDP pre deposit Papers currently under development
- Consolidate upon the work already undertaken with regards to identifying the LDP key issues, vision and strategic objectives
- Inform the preparation of the LDP Preferred Strategy and subsequent stages of plan preparation
- Form part of the evidence trail at the independent examination.

The paper is split into 3 main sections. Whilst these sections are split up for ease of reference and formatting, they should not be considered in isolation of each other, (particularly given the prominent links that exist between them - eg between the key plan issues and the strategic objectives).

- Section 3 will discuss and identify the key land use planning and sustainability issues facing Carmarthenshire
- Section 4 will discuss and identify the LDP Vision
- Section 5 will discuss and identify the Strategic Objectives that will deliver the Vision and seek to address the key plan issues

This paper is likely to be updated and therefore evolve as the plan making process progresses. Such updates will ensure that the LDP process is appropriately informed and that the plan making process continues to be iterative and sound. The Paper should be read in tandem with the other pre deposit Papers currently under development (particularly the Spatial Options & Hierarchy Paper).

## **2.1 Discussion and identification of the key plan issues**

The first step in the plan making process is to develop a clear understanding of the pre plan conditions. This provides the means to identify a series of issues and opportunities facing the County so that they can be addressed (or consolidated upon). Section 3 commences by outlining an introductory Spatial Portrait of Carmarthenshire before undertaking to briefly appraise the WAG guidance currently in place with regards to determining the pre change baseline and identifying the key plan issues. The Section then proceeds to discuss how the key plan issues (unique to Carmarthenshire) have been identified following:

- The publication of LDP Discussion/issues papers and subsequent public consultation in relation thereto
- Preparation of SA/SEA Scoping Report and subsequent public consultation in relation thereto
- The holding of 2 LDP Stakeholder Forum Events and subsequent public consultation in relation thereto
- The holding of a Town and Community Council Seminar
- A review of statistical social, economic and environmental baseline evidence/ currently to hand
- A review of local, regional and national plans, policies, issues and programmes (PPP)
- Meeting of the LDP Technical Officers Group (TBC)

Section 3 concludes by outputting a consolidated/summary list of the headline issues facing the County. It is these issues that will require LDP policy intervention via the Strategic Objectives and any resulting policies and allocations. These issues will also directly inform the Plan's aspirations as communicated within the LDP Vision.

## **2.2 Discussion and identification of the LDP Vision**

Section 4 undertakes to discuss the development of the LDP Vision. A Vision developed and agreed at the beginning of the preparation of the LDP is imperative because it gives subsequent stages of the plan-making process a general direction (or 'strategic steer'). It is important that a clear vision is developed and that it clearly communicates what sort of place Carmarthenshire is aspiring to become. The LDP vision must be capable of being delivered by the Strategic Objectives and the Plan's subsequent policies and allocations. Section 4 proceeds to discuss how the Carmarthenshire LDP Vision has been developed following:

- A review of WAG guidance in respect of developing and identifying the LDP Vision
- A review of the Carmarthenshire Community Strategy
- A review of the Wales Spatial Plan and Area Action Plans
- The development of key elements of Vision at Key Stakeholder Forum 1
- The endorsement of an LDP Summary Vision at Key Stakeholder Forum 2 (held in February 2009)
- The testing of the Summary Vision against WAG guidance and an evaluation of its spatial relevance
- The utilisation of the Spatial Options & Hierarchy Topic Paper in order to further supplement the Summary Vision with a spatially aware detailed vision

### 2.3 Discussion and identification of the LDP Strategic Objectives

It is important that Strategic objectives are also developed at an early stage (ideally in tandem with the vision). Strategic Objectives are statements of a condition which the Authority wants to bring about. They represent broad intentions to which the more detailed policies and proposals within the LDP will be intended to deliver in due course. Section 5 proceeds to discuss how the LDP Strategic Objectives have been developed following:

- A review of WAG guidance in respect of developing and identifying the LDP Strategic Objectives
- The development of a strategic framework that adheres to the corporate objectives of the Authority in order to assist with ensuring deliverability and corporate fit
- The consideration of key plan issues at Key Stakeholder Forum 1 and the prioritisation of Strategic Objectives as a means to address these issues
- The development of 14 Strategic Objectives following consideration of draft objectives at Key Stakeholder Forum 2
- The testing of the 14 proposed strategic objectives against the key plan issues and the Vision
- An initial appraisal of the Objectives against the Sustainability Objectives set out within the SA Scoping Report

**The Strategic Objectives may appear in the Preferred Strategy in an amended format so as to enhance their spatial relevance. This will ensure accordance with the detailed vision and the preferred spatial option & strategic policies that will be contained within the preferred strategy. This may mean that references to settlements/strategic sites may be included in the strategic objectives as included within the preferred strategy.**

### **3 Discussion and identification of the key plan issues**

#### **3.1 A Spatial portrait of Carmarthenshire**

Carmarthenshire is the third largest County in Wales covering some 2,365 square kilometres, which represents 11.5% of the total land mass of Wales. Carmarthenshire is a County of contrasts. The agricultural economy and landscape of rural Carmarthenshire is juxtaposed with the urban and industrial south-eastern area. Within the Plan area, the former coal, steel and other heavy industries have left their environmental legacy and now the County is diversifying into a modern economy inclusive of light engineering, new technological and service industries together with other business enterprises.

With a resident population of 178,000 at mid-2006, the County's rate of population growth is estimated at 2.5% which is greater than the Welsh average of 1.9%. The County has a growing population which grew by 4,300 people from 2001 to mid-2006. The average growth per year has been 0.5 per cent since mid-2001.

As a primarily rural County the population density is low at 71 persons per sq. kilometre, compared with 140 persons per sq. kilometre for Wales as a whole. This scarcity of population is more apparent in rural Carmarthenshire than it is in the south and east of the County where 65% of the population reside on approximately 20% of the land area. The main urban centres of the County include Llanelli, Carmarthen, Ammanford and due to its central geographic location, Carmarthen typically serves the needs of the County's rural hinterland. There are a number of rural villages and settlements that are self-sufficient in terms of facilities and services, yet other smaller settlements lack services and facilities, meaning that the needs of residents in these areas are typically met by clusters of villages.

Carmarthenshire has a rich natural and cultural environment, including sites designated at the international level to protect important biodiversity features, as well as striking landscapes and distinctive historic towns and villages. The County has the highest number of Welsh speakers in Wales.

The need to deliver social and economic development within the County, whilst conserving the County's natural and cultural assets, is currently driven by the Carmarthenshire Unitary Development Plan (UDP) adopted in July 2006. This is set to be superseded by the Carmarthenshire LDP.

#### **3.2 Welsh Assembly guidance**

The first step in the plan making process is to establish the pre change conditions. This provides the means to identify the challenges and opportunities facing the County so that the LDP can be strategically shaped to address, or consolidate upon, these issues. The key LDP issues have been captured at pre deposit stage via the production of discussion/issues papers, the drafting of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report, the undertaking of community consultation via the LDP Stakeholder Forum, the review of social, economic and environmental evidence/studies to hand and through the review of local, regional and national planning policy.

The WAG LDP manual (p44) states that the LDP baseline should be based around determining:

(A) Facts that assist in understanding current conditions in the area, including social, economic and environmental conditions, as well as opportunities and constraints and the current provision of service infrastructure

(B) Past trends and future projections (longitudinal evidence), which will be valuable in identifying structural forces and the realistic scope to make a difference in the future

(C) Current and future drivers for change and the potential for policy levers for intervention

### **3.3 The pre change social, economic and environmental baseline**

The first step in the LDP plan making process is to develop a robust pre change plan baseline. This provides the means to identify a series of issues and opportunities facing the County. A review of the environmental, social and economic conditions of the County is an important step because it informs the baseline and helps identify the issues. The Key issues for Carmarthenshire have been identified and consolidated following:

- LDP Discussion/issues papers and subsequent public consultation in relation thereto
- Preparation of SA/SEA Scoping Report and subsequent public consultation in relation thereto
- The holding of 2 LDP Stakeholder Forum Events and subsequent public consultation in relation thereto
- Town and Community Council Seminar
- A review of statistical social, economic and environmental baseline evidence/studies currently to hand (including meetings with public private and voluntary sector agencies – e.g Dwr Cymru and the EA)
- A review of local, regional and national policies, issues and an awareness of sustainability criteria

It was important to establish the plan baseline because the issues identified have directly informed the strategic discussions undertaken at pre deposit stage in terms of establishing what the plan will be seeking to change and address through its vision and strategic objectives.

### **3.4 The LDP Discussion Papers**

Discussion Papers, setting the context for the preparation of the LDP through individual topic areas, were prepared during spring 2008 and were made available for public consultation over a 6-7 week period from the first week in June 2008. These Papers set the context for the preparation of the LDP by developing on, and identifying, some of the potential key plan issues. This was an important first step towards the development of the baseline for the plan. The papers were not exhaustive and were intended to illustrate the scope of the Plan and facilitate a response. The Discussion papers, and the consultation responses received in relation thereto, are available on the Authority's website and have been reported to the LDP Advisory Panel and Executive Board.

It was important that the initial pre deposit consultation was undertaken via the discussion papers because these papers ensured that the resulting consultation undertaken was focused around land use relevant topics and not on a wide array of issues/considerations that the LDP vision/objectives would not be able to address. The Discussion Papers played an important role in setting the context for establishing the LDP baseline and taking forward a meaningful and inclusive pre deposit consultation strategy in accordance with the Community Involvement Scheme.

The Discussion Papers set out a range of land use planning relevant topics and issues. These included a review of national and regional issues and ensured that key national issues such as sustainable development and climate change will drive the plan from the outset. The Papers also underpinned, and directly informed, the discussions that took place on key plan issues and topics at the first the Key Stakeholder Forum that was held in October 2008. The Discussion Papers also assisted in identifying any evidence gaps (both in terms of past trends and future projections). In terms of scoping the sustainability issues facing the County, the Discussion Papers provided a useful pre cursor to the drafting of the SA Scoping Report in August 2008.

142 responses were received in total during the Discussion Papers Consultation, with almost half of these coming from Town or Community Councils within Carmarthenshire. Other well represented interests included statutory agencies, the housing sector, utility companies, local interest groups and businesses, neighbouring local authorities and other sections within the County Council. The consultation responses were collated into a feedback report. The issues contained within this report duly informed the deliberations undertaken with regards to identifying the LDP Vision and Strategic Objectives.

As well as scoping out the key plan issues for the LDP, the Discussion Papers (and the discussion paper feedback report) were utilised by the Key Stakeholder Forum as a means to inform their choices and strategic deliberations in terms of identifying the LDP key issues, vision, strategic objectives and strategic options. An appreciation of the issues raised within the Discussion Papers has thus proved paramount to the development of subsequent stages of plan preparation. Whilst facilitating a means for the capturing of local distinctive issues, the Papers also engendered an appreciation of relevant national, regional and local policies (including an awareness of sustainability drivers). **The main issues to emerge from the Discussion Papers (and the subsequent consultation responses thereto) can be seen at appendix 1.** Please view the Key Stakeholder Forum 1 and 2 Consultation Reports and the delegate packs (available on the Council Website) to see how the Forum has utilised the Discussion Papers in order to inform their pre deposit strategic deliberations and the development of the key plan issues.

### **3.5 The SA-SEA Scoping Report**

Following the capturing of the LDP key plan issues/strategic context via the Discussion Papers, it was important that a full review of the sustainability issues facing the County was undertaken. The SA Scoping Report provided the means to identify the sustainability issues, challenges and opportunities (including environmental problems as required by the SEA directive) facing Carmarthenshire.

The SA Scoping Report informed the key issues for the LDP and allowed for the development of SA objectives. The LDP vision and strategic objectives will be measured against these SA objectives in due course.

The consultation period on the SA Scoping Report ran from the 3 September to the 8 October 2008. As well as yielding valuable information with regards to the key sustainability issues facing the County, the SA Scoping Report has also been utilised by the Stakeholder Forum as a means of evaluating their strategic deliberations in terms of issues, objectives and strategic options. The SA has thus been an integral component of the plan making process from the very outset and has been used as a reconciliatory tool for achieving consensus. The responses received from the SA Scoping Report consultation are available on the Corporate Website. Copies of the full SA-SEA Scoping Report and a Non Technical Summary are also available on the Corporate Website. The Consultation Responses received in respect of the SA Scoping Report will be taken forward by the Authority's SA Consultants into Stage B of the SA process. The consultation responses received are available on the Authority's website and have been reported to the LDP Advisory Panel and Executive Board.

**There follows overleaf a synopsis of the key sustainability issues and challenges facing Carmarthenshire.** These are extracted from the SA-SEA Scoping Report. An appreciation of these issues has proved useful in informing the proposed LDP vision, strategic objectives and spatial options. Please view the Key Stakeholder Forum 1 and 2 Consultation Reports and the delegate packs (available on the Council Website) to see how the Forum has utilised the SA Scoping Report and the SA Objectives to inform their pre deposit strategic deliberations and the development of the key plan issues.

**The key sustainability issues and challenges for Carmarthenshire (SOURCE: SA-SEA scoping report, 2008)**

**s1 - Sustainable Development**

The importance of conserving and carefully using natural resources is recognised at international and national level. Carmarthenshire's ecological footprint is currently exceeding sustainable levels with respect to food and drink, energy, capital investment (transport/buildings) and consumables.

**s2 - Biodiversity**

There are numerous sites of biodiversity value in the County with designations ranging from the international to the local level. These need to be protected and, where possible, enhanced. A significant number of protected sites in Carmarthenshire are identified as being in unfavourable condition, and therefore likely to be highly sensitive to external pressures.

**s3 - Air Quality**

Air quality targets at the European and national level need to be met. Air quality in Carmarthenshire is generally good, however ozone levels can be high in rural areas.

**s4 - Climatic Factors**

Climate change is an internationally recognised issue and a key Government priority. Carmarthenshire needs to play its part in minimising impacts on climate change and in being prepared to adapt for the impact climate change may have on the County. In particular, populations within coastal and fluvial floodplains may be at increased risk of inundation. Changes in the distribution of sites that are suitable for the growth of particular agricultural crops may also be anticipated. New development will need to use energy efficiently, and seek to produce energy from renewable or low carbon sources.

**s5 - Water**

Biological and chemical water quality in the County is typically good. However pressures on watercourses in terms of previous industrial activity and diffuse pollution from agriculture within the river catchments exist. In addition, surface water and groundwater are used for abstraction for public and industrial supplies. Groundwater levels in the Teifi catchment are declining. There are also quite a high number of LSOAs in which 20% of the population are at risk from flooding. Many of the main settlements in Carmarthenshire developed upon flat, fertile floodplains and consequently a number of settlements are at risk from flooding. In light of climate change, more people are likely to be put at risk of flooding and flood events are anticipated to occur more frequently.

**The key sustainability issues and challenges for Carmarthenshire (SOURCE: SA-SEA scoping report, 2008)**

**s6 - Material Assets**

Carmarthenshire is a large, predominantly rural County with typically large distances between regional and local centres. Consequently, a high proportion of people travel to work by car and there is reliance upon the private car for accessing services. There has historically been a reliance upon landfilling as a method of waste disposal for controlled waste. However, rates of recycling of municipal waste in Carmarthenshire are just above the national average.

**s7 - Soil**

There are few areas of soils of highest agricultural quality. Grade 3 agricultural land in the County is typically associated within river valleys. Soil is an important carbon store and should be conserved. Soils in Wales are typically at risk from acid deposition and eutrophication that may cause critical loads to be exceeded. Areas of contaminated land have been identified by Carmarthenshire County Council. These areas are associated with previously developed/urban land.

**s8 - Cultural Heritage**

There is the potential for damage to occur to important archaeological sites and the historic environment within the County from development through both destruction/disturbance of features of cultural heritage importance but also through disrupting the setting of such features.

**s9 - Landscape**

There are several sites designated as of landscape or townscape value within the County. These features need to be protected, and where possible enhanced.

**s10 - Population**

There is a trend of out-migration amongst young people from the County and the population structure of the County is becoming skewed towards older age groups. The County has a strong Welsh identity, with a high proportion of people residing in Carmarthenshire that were born in Wales. The proportion of the population from ethnic minority groups is low.

**s11 - Health and Well-Being**

A lower proportion of people in Carmarthenshire state that their level of health is generally 'good' and a higher proportion of people live with a long-term limiting illness than the national average. Rates of obesity are also above the national average.

**s12 - Education and Skills**

A high proportion of people in Carmarthenshire have no qualifications, although levels of attainment of 19-21 year olds are just above the national average. Literacy and numeracy rates compare unfavourably against the national average.

**The key sustainability issues and challenges for Carmarthenshire (SOURCE: SA-SEA scoping report, 2008)**

**s13 - Economy**

The dominant economic activities in the County are based around tertiary activities including retail, health care and education with quite a high proportion of manufacturing activities. Employment rates are slightly below average in Carmarthenshire. A relatively low proportion of people work from home.

**s14 - Social Fabric**

Rates of rough sleepers are above average in Carmarthenshire. Levels of violent crime, vehicle theft and theft from vehicles are below the national average, however the actual rates have been increasing since 2002. Seven LSOAs in Carmarthenshire are in the top 10% of the most deprived LSOAs in Wales. Geographical access to services and employment are the two main domains that contribute to deprivation in Carmarthenshire. The ratio of average house price to average earnings ratio is high, indicating a lack of affordability.

### 3.6 Consideration and prioritisation of key plan issues at the first Key Stakeholder Forum

A key stage in prioritising the key issues for the LDP was the pre deposit consultation undertaken with the Key Stakeholder Forum. 2 Stakeholder Events were held at the pre deposit plan stage and these were both facilitated by representatives of Planning Aid Wales alongside the Authority's Forward Planning Section. A further consultation was undertaken with Town and Community Councils via an innovative partnership seminar held in conjunction with Planning Aid Wales and One Voice Wales. The commissioning of independent facilitators, coupled with the subsequent undertaking of early discussions in respect of key strategic issues for the LDP (eg sustainable development, spatial strategies and settlement patterns/frameworks) has resulted in an inclusive approach towards plan making within Carmarthenshire.

**The publication of the LDP Discussion/Issues Papers and the SA-SEA Scoping Report ahead of the Key Stakeholder Forum events ensured that the Forum focused on local issues that had land use planning relevance.** This became apparent at the first Forum Meeting because discussions centred on land use planning issues and challenges, rather than a wide array of topics/issues that the LDP would be unable to address. It was important that hopes were not unduly raised to unrealistic levels and that the pre deposit consultation was meaningful and focused on strategic spatial planning. The Discussion Papers and SA also acted an useful pre cursor to the deliberations of the Forum because they engendered an awareness of national, regional and local policies/issues whilst allowing for relevant issues to emerge and be noted accordingly.

The first Key Stakeholder Forum (KSF1) was held in Kidwelly on the 28 October 2008 and was attended by delegates from a wide range of organisations (voluntary, public and private sectors) as identified within the LDP Delivery Agreement. The day was designed to be informal, with the emphasis placed primarily on participation and the sharing of ideas. Delegate Packs were provided that contained the day's itinerary along with a range of relevant background information (including a synopsis of the LDP issues outlined within the Discussion Papers and the sustainability issues and objectives outlined within the SA-SEA) A copy of the Key Stakeholder Forum 1 Consultation Report (and delegate pack issued), which captures the day's events and deliberations, is available for viewing on the Authority's website.

The First Forum built upon the issues already identified via the Discussion Papers and the SA Scoping Report. The Forum outputted some key issues for the LDP to address and contextualised these issues into elements/words for inclusion within the LDP Vision.

A synopsis of the discussions undertaken by the Forum in respect of the key LDP topics/issued are outlined below:

- Sustainable Development
- Reducing the need to travel
- Climate change
- Appropriate level of new housing provision based on need
- Affordable housing
- Housing needs in rural areas
- Scale of development
- Accessibility to services

- Job Opportunities
- Improving the accessibility of different forms of transport
- Reducing private car use through controlling the location of new development
- Providing and safeguarding mineral resources
- Waste issues
- Reconciling conflict caused by the need to protect the environment and the need for new development
- Protecting and enhancing the distinctive qualities of the County's landscapes and historic remains
- Making sure that conflict between the needs of tourism and other LDP topic areas is reconciled transparently
- Protecting and enhancing existing sport, recreation and open space facilities
- Safeguarding existing community facilities must be a key objective for the LDP
- Taking account of the impact on the Welsh language when identifying land for new development, and also in terms of site densities and phasing of development;
- Flood risk, telecommunications, ICT/broadband

Stakeholders also determined that the broad framework for the contextualising of the LDP Key issues should adhere to the 5 pillars of the Carmarthenshire Community Strategy. These 5 pillars provide an aspirational and strategic direction for the County and adherence thereto ensured that a direct link was made between the Community Strategy and the LDP could be evidenced from the outset of the plan making process. The LDP is therefore being shaped to act as a delivery mechanism to address the land use related aspects/issues of the Community Strategy by virtue of the LDP's own vision and strategic objectives.

The visioning elements that the Stakeholders highlighted are outlined below. Stakeholders fitted these issues under the 5 pillars of the Community Strategy.

**A better place:** Environment – improving the world around us, today and for tomorrow.  
*“greener/environmentally friendly transport”, “play areas and green spaces”  
 “community facilities” “safeguard and improve the world around us – today and for tomorrow” “quality recreational infrastructure”*

**Opening doors:** Lifelong learning – helping everyone to achieve their potential, from childhood to old age.  
*“equality for all”, “accessibility to learning opportunities for all”*

**Feeling fine:** Health and wellbeing – tackling the causes of ill health by looking at life in the round.  
*“improving health/environment with more access to facilities and play areas/recreation” “location and accessibility of facilities – eg sport or healthcare”*

**Investment and innovation:** Regeneration – building resources, creating opportunities and offering support.  
*“sustainability”, “greening”, “local sourcing”, “location and sustainability of high quality work opportunities”, “sufficient land for investment”*

**Feeling secure:** Safer communities – offering security, tackling crime and fear of crime, helping us to look out for each other.  
*“safer and inclusive communities” “high quality design” “secure by design principles – design out crime” “crime down, well being up”*

**Other visioning ideas/priorities** developed that were not specifically grouped under the Community Strategy pillar headings:  
*- “free transport – location of facilities” “Equity and equality throughout the County” “range and choice of housing (inc affordable) that are of high standard and close to services”, “appropriate economic infrastructure appropriate to the County’s business demographics”, “linking communities to regeneration”, “future proofed transport and sustainable travel choices”, “keep young people in Carm’s”, “infrastructure – sewerage and transport”*

Key Stakeholder Forum 1 achieved consensus in that it was agreed that the LDP can help address many of the Community Strategy’s land use relevant planning aspirations and issues. 14 headline elements of vision/key plan issues were agreed and prioritised and the results of the prioritisation exercise is outlined below :

Key Plan Issues/elements of vision as prioritised at KSF 1	Score/Weight
Good Quality Environment	11
Suitable mix of housing	10
Community Facilities	10
Green and Sustainable	9
Attracting inward investment	6
Enough infrastructure for new development	5
Providing safe environments	5
Joined up/integration	4
Access for all	3
Access to public transport	2
Health and recreation	2
Equality	2
Distinctiveness	1
Safeguard	0
<b>UNDERPINNED BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND REDUCING THE NEED TO TRAVEL</b>	

(source: KSF 1 consultation report – available on Council website)

The Second Key Stakeholder Forum was held on the 24/2/09. The objectives of the day were to firstly consolidate and elaborate on the main outcomes of the issues/ vision/ strategic objectives work undertaken at the First Forum event and then proceed to draw out any new ideas/thoughts for taking forward. A copy of the Key Stakeholder Forum 2 Consultation Report, along with the delegate pack issued, is available on the Authority’s website.

### **3.7 Past trends and future projections (longitudinal evidence)**

An on going review of statistical information is important to the LDP and the subsequent policies included therein. Information of particular relevance for consideration within the evidence base are demand side factors (including demographics, housing market analysis, retail expenditure) and supply side factors (housing land availability, employment land availability and transport accessibility).

Evidence Base Topic papers will be continually developed and published throughout the plan making process. An Evidence Base page is available for viewing at [www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk). An iterative approach to plan making will allow for much of this information to become available during the plan period. Studies are being undertaken at present to look at retail and employment in the County and the Housing Land Availability Study (2008) is ongoing.

A wide range of challenges/opportunities facing the County have emerged from the evidence base review. The issues captured are available for viewing at appendix 2 of this paper. These issues/challenges reflect many of the key plan issues that have emerged via the pre deposit engagement undertaken (i.e. discussion papers, Key Stakeholder Forum and the SA/SEA Scoping Report). The baseline evidence outlined in appendix 2 is primarily sourced from the SA Scoping Report's baseline review chapter.

The development of the LDP evidence base is an ongoing and iterative process. In terms of establishing the baseline and identifying the key plan and sustainability issues, the pre deposit engagement and consultation has provided a relevant and robust starting point for considering the changes that the LDP vision and strategic objectives should seek to deliver over the plan period.

### **3.8 National, Regional and Local Policy review**

Whilst the role of the LDP within the plan period is to shape and mediate the use of land across Carmarthenshire, it clearly has a number of connections with wider national, regional and local policies, issues and strategies. A strong appreciation of these various strategies, issues and policies will thus ensure that the LDP is sound and well informed. It is important that national and regional issues are captured so that the preferred strategy is well informed and deliverable.

An appreciation of relevant policies, issues and strategies has been forthcoming from the outset of the Carmarthenshire LDP plan making process. Whilst facilitating an opportunity to scope out the County's social, economic and environmental characteristics and issues, the Discussion Papers and the SA Scoping Report also engendered an awareness of national, regional and local level policies and issues throughout pre deposit plan making and consultation. The Discussion Papers briefly reviewed the relevant policies and strategies for the issues/topics discussed, whilst the SA Scoping Report undertook to analyse an array of influential plans, policies and programmes (PPP) that will influence the LDP and the SA-SEA.

The LDP vision, issues and strategic objectives have therefore been informed by:

- An appreciation of national, regional and local PPP and issues
- The capturing of distinctive local level issues and challenges.

The rationale for publishing the Discussion Papers and the SA Scoping Report at the commencement of the pre deposit stage (and ahead of consultation undertaken with the Key Stakeholder Forum) is thus readily apparent, because as well as ensuring that the County specific issues developed were largely relevant to land use planning, the documents also allowed for an appreciation of relevant policies, issues and strategies to be engendered within plan making process from the outset.

All of the pre deposit consultation undertaken with the Key Stakeholder Forum has been privy to an awareness of national, regional and local policies/issues and strategies as well as an awareness of the local characteristics and issues. This section duly proceeds to outline the most significant National, Regional and Local PPP's and issues. A full PPP review for Carmarthenshire is available as part of the Scoping Report for the SA, whilst headline topic/issue specific PPP reviews can be viewed within the Discussion Papers. The SA Scoping Report and Discussion Papers (together with the consultation responses received in relation thereto) can be viewed on the Authority's Website.

### **3.8.1 National Policies and Issues**

#### **Planning Policy Wales**

Planning Policy Wales (March 2002) (PPW) stresses the importance of promoting sustainable patterns of development that will improve accessibility to services via a range of modes of travel. The need to maintain and improve the vitality and viability of service centres, along with the need to address the links between town and country, are also key national issues that are particularly relevant to Carmarthenshire. The LDP will need to minimise the need to travel and therefore major trip generators will need to be located in areas that are well served by public transport and infrastructure. The main challenges for the LDP in addressing these key national issues at a local level is to acknowledge the County's rural/urban contrasts by planning in a manner which is consistent with national policies and issues but also addresses local level issues and challenges. The vision and objectives offer a means to reconcile these varying demands and it is clear at this early stage of plan making that any new development will need be well serviced through existing infrastructure. Where development is proposed within the County's rural areas, it will need to be located within, or adjacent to, established settlements. Established settlements are better served by infrastructure and access and are thus better placed to accommodate sustainable development proposals. New developments in the countryside (outside defined settlements) will require strict control. The strategic objectives will therefore need to set the context for mediating and balancing these various pressures within the land use planning system, while also communicating what sort of place the County is seeking to become.

The LDP Team and the Key Stakeholder Forum acknowledge that the following national issues/priority areas will influence the contents of the Preferred Strategy and the preferred spatial option and settlement hierarchy contained therein. The Preferred Strategy will balance these key plan drivers alongside the local level issues in order to develop a sound and robust spatial planning framework.

**(a) Sustainable Locations** - Developing a settlement framework which seeks to direct the majority of development towards sustainable locations in the County's urban areas with a view to: -

- Maximising and promoting the efficient use of land.
- Reducing pressure on green field locations.

**(b) Climate Change** - Addressing the challenges presented by Climate change and the role of the land use system therein. This raises a number of issues which will impact upon the LDP (including its reinforcement of the sustainability principles which underpin much of current thinking and guidance). The Assembly is committed to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and to respond in an effective manner to the change already underway. The links between climate change and the sustainability agenda raises key plan issues such as flood risk and coastal erosion.

- Promote and encourage responses to changes in the climate.
- Improve on the environmental performance of developments.
- Contribute to the development of community stewardship and environmental citizenship, through corporate compatibility encouraging the move towards sustainable communities.

**(c) Reduced Trip Generation** – Locate development in areas which will not result in the generation of new or longer car journeys.

- Accessible by a range of transport methods including public transport, foot and by cycle.
- Promote social inclusion.

**(d) Sustainability** – This will be key to the development of the Preferred Strategy. The emphasis placed upon sustainability through national planning policy and guidance is clear. Wales is one of only 3 Countries in the World that has incorporated sustainability into its constitution. These requirements will significantly influence the direction taken and choices made within Carmarthenshire. The LDP will need to reflect the commitment made to promote sustainable patterns of development and to address and combat the implications of climate change. The LDP must therefore endeavour to formulate a Strategy which appropriately reflects, and is consistent with, the principles of sustainable development. This means that the following drivers will be implicit within the LDP Strategic Objectives :

- **social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;**
- **effective protection of the environment;**
- **prudent use of natural resources; and**
- **the maintenance of high levels of economic growth and employment**

Sustainable development is commonly defined as, *“development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”*. The environmental issues which face society and the challenges presented through climate change place inevitable requirements on the land use planning system to fulfil its role in the delivery of sustainable development. Integrating and balancing the above objectives and the provision of homes, infrastructure, investment and employment in a manner consistent with sustainable principles represents a central challenge in preparing the LDP.

The requirement for the LDP to have regard to the content of the Wales Spatial Plan is an important consideration in the formulation of its Preferred Strategy and hierarchy. Reference to its provisions will however be made in the light of the need

to establish the level of facilities and services available, and to consider the role of any respective settlements in determining their position within a hierarchical structure.

## **Wales Spatial Plan**

Carmarthenshire is situated within three of the areas contained within the Wales Spatial Plan (WSP) - People Places Futures. These are:

- Pembrokeshire - The Haven
- Swansea Bay - Waterfront and the Western Valleys
- Central Wales.

Carmarthen plays a key role in all three of these areas. The LDP will have regard to the content of the Wales Spatial Plan and will continue to monitor its content in light of the 2008 update. The WSP will be used to inform the pre deposit work undertaken in developing the LDP Vision and Objectives and will also inform the settlement strategy and detailed policies that will ultimately deliver the plan.

Each spatial plan area has developed a hierarchical approach to the identification of settlements. These are based upon their roles, functions and their sustainability benefits, as well as the contribution of the settlement in servicing the area. It also seeks to build upon the existing policy frameworks within the respective areas and is largely reflective of the existing development plan and its sustainable principles. The respective Spatial Plan areas as contained within the consultation update classify the settlements as follows:

Pembrokeshire – The Haven – Carmarthen is identified as Tier 1 settlements, occupying a regional position and being the focus for major investment. Whitland and St Clears are identified as Tier 2 settlements with a local service centre role. Tier 3 includes Newcastle Emlyn as a local centre and Pendine/Laugharne as part of the ‘coastal tourism belt’

Swansea Bay – Waterfront and the Western Valleys - Nine other hubs including Carmarthen, Ammanford/Cross Hands and Llanelli supplement Swansea as the City. Other smaller settlements were identified as supporting communities including Burry Port/Pembrey, Kidwelly/Trimsaran, Llandeilo and the Upper Amman Valley.

Central Wales – Carmarthen is identified as a Primary Key Settlement, with the Teifi Valley and its key settlements including Newcastle Emlyn, Llanybydder constituting a primary settlement cluster. The Towy Valley is also identified as a primary settlement cluster with Llandeilo, Llangadog and Llandovery identified as key settlements.

### **3.8.2 Regional Policies and Issues**

The preferred strategy will take account of, and review, the range of issues and challenges as set out in the below Plans, Policies and Programmes. A full review of the above is undertaken within the first chapter of the SA Scoping Report. The SA Scoping Report is available online and has been privy to public consultation.

### **3.8.3. Local Policies and Issues**

The preferred strategy will take account of, and review, the range of issues and challenges as set out in the below Plans, Policies and Programmes. A full review of

the above is undertaken within the first chapter of the SA Scoping Report. The SA Scoping Report is available online and has been privy to public consultation.

### 3.9 Consolidated summary of the key plan issues & elements of LDP Vision (in no order of importance)

The table below consolidates/prioritises the key Plan issues and groups them under the 5 pillars of the Community Strategy so as to secure a robust link is made between the LDP and the Community Strategy.

These headline issues have been fully endorsed by the Key Stakeholder Forum and also reflect the detailed social, economic and environmental issues facing Carmarthenshire as set out in the appendices (as well as national issues/policies).

Sections 4 and 5 of this paper will proceed to discuss how the below issues have directly informed the LDP Vision and Strategic Objectives.

Feeling Fine Health and wellbeing – tackling the causes of ill health by looking at life in the round		
<b>Suitable mix of housing</b>	<b>Health and recreation</b>	<b>Equality</b>
Investment and Innovation Regeneration – building resources, creating opportunities and offering support		
<b>Attracting inward investment</b>	<b>Enough infrastructure for new development</b>	<b>Joined up/integration</b>
<b>Access to public transport</b>		
Feeling secure Safer communities – offering security, tackling crime and fear of crime, helping us to look out for each other		
<b>Community Facilities</b>	<b>Providing safe environments</b>	
A Better Place Environment – improving the world around us, today and for tomorrow”		
<b>Good Quality Environment</b>	<b>Green and Sustainable</b>	<b>Distinctiveness</b>
<b>Safeguard</b>		
Opening Doors- Lifelong learning – helping everyone to achieve their potential, from childhood to old age”		
<b>Access for all</b>		
<b>UNDERPINNED BY KEY NATIONAL ISSUES OF : SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND REDUCING THE NEED TO TRAVEL</b>		

## **4 Discussion and identification of the LDP Vision**

### **4.1 The role of the LDP Vision**

The development of an agreed Vision at the beginning of the preparation of the LDP is imperative because it gives subsequent stages of the plan-making process a general strategic steer. The LDP Vision will clearly communicate what sort of place Carmarthenshire is aspiring towards becoming and must be linked to the County's unique key plan issues (see 3.9). The Vision must be capable of being delivered via a series of Strategic Objectives and will need to demonstrate a spatial and chronological relevance.

### **4.2 Achieving a meaningful and deliverable Vision**

A meaningful and deliverable LDP Vision will be spatially relevant and will be capable of being delivered through the land use planning system. It will have strong links with the key plan issues and the strategic objectives intended to address them. The Vision will flow from having a clear view of what sort of place the County is aspiring to become.

### **4.3 Welsh Assembly guidance**

The LDP Manual (2006) provides useful guidance on the development of a vision for the plan. The role of the LDP vision is to provide a clear statement clarifying the core purpose of the plan.

The Manual states that:

**“If the relevant over arching document is out of date or of limited spatial relevance, LPA's will need to generate a spatial vision for the LDP and ensure it conforms with the overall view of the future direction of the LA prior to developing LDP objectives...the vision should be well rounded so that there is a balance between economic, social and environmental objectives”**

The WAG encourages strong links between an authority's LDP and its Community Strategy. The Welsh Assembly Government's Local Development Plan Manual states: *'The LDP vision and its objectives will flow from having a clear view of what sort of place the authority wants to become. This should have already been achieved within the authority and with partners through the preparation of the Community Strategy.'*

The tests of soundness for the LDP are outlined below:

#### **Procedural**

**P1** The plan has been prepared in accordance with the Delivery Agreement including the Community Involvement Scheme.

**P2** The plan and its policies have been subjected to Sustainability Appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment.

#### **Consistency**

**C1** It is a land use plan which has regard to other relevant plans, policies and strategies relating to the area or to adjoining areas.

**C2** It has regard to national policy.

**C3** It has regard to the Wales Spatial Plan.

**C4** It has regard to the relevant Community Strategy/Strategies/National Park Management Plan.

#### **Coherence and Effectiveness**

**CE1** The plan sets out a coherent strategy from which its policies and allocations logically flow and, where cross boundary issues are relevant, is not in conflict with the development plans prepared by neighbouring authorities.

**CE2** The strategy, policies and allocations are realistic and appropriate having considered the relevant alternatives and are founded on a robust and credible evidence base.

**CE3** There are clear mechanisms for implementation and monitoring.

**CE4** It is reasonably flexible to enable it to deal with changing circumstances

#### **4.4 A review of the Carmarthenshire Community Strategy**

The vision for the Carmarthenshire LDP must be directly informed by the Carmarthenshire Community Strategy because the Community Strategy is the relevant overarching strategy for the County. The Strategy communicates what sort of place Carmarthenshire wants to become and its 5 pillars/strategic themes are central to the Authority's Corporate Plan. The LDP will function as the delivery mechanism for the land use planning related aspects of the Community Strategy. In order to ensure that the LDP will deliver on these aspects, it is important that the spatial and chronological relevance of the Community Strategy is appraised. It is also important to note that the LDP cannot be relied upon to deliver the aspirations of the Community Strategy that lie outside of the land use planning system.

In light of the above, a key objective of the pre deposit consultation undertaken was to establish a LDP vision that was well informed by the Community Strategy but that also had a land use/ spatial relevance, with proven links to the key land use planning issues identified and the LDP strategic objectives being developed.

The Community Strategy for Carmarthenshire, *'Thinking Together, Planning Together, Doing Together 2004/2020'* describes the County thus:

**"Carmarthenshire: an area of diversity- in its communities, in its culture, its environment, its economic make up. A tantalising mixture of urban, rural, agriculture and light industry, of maritime locations, areas of social needs, dispersed market towns, and sporting prowess. A place of opportunities as well as challenges"**

The strategy then sets out the following mission statement for the future of the County to 2020 :

**"We must have the vision to attract greater opportunities to Carmarthenshire whilst making sure our actions are sustainable. We must make the most of our unique environment by conserving, enhancing and promoting the quality of life in Carmarthenshire. As well as rights, we have responsibilities: to nurture, support and develop our children and young people to equip them for their futures; to look after our citizens who are in need. By working in partnership we want to make Carmarthenshire a key player not only in Wales, but throughout the UK, and internationally"**

The Community Strategy sets out 5 strategic pillars that further communicate the sort of place that the Authority wants Carmarthenshire to become by 2020:

**A better place:** “Environment – improving the world around us, today and for tomorrow”

**Opening doors:** “Lifelong learning – helping everyone to achieve their potential, from childhood to old age”

**Feeling fine:** “Health and wellbeing – tackling the causes of ill health by looking at life in the round”

**Investment and innovation:** “Regeneration – building resources, creating opportunities and offering support”

**Feeling secure:** “Safer communities – offering security, tackling crime and fear of crime, helping us to look out for each other”

The Community Strategy will directly inform the LDP Vision because it offers an aspirational framework that communicates what type of place Carmarthenshire wants to become. It is a vitally important document, particularly given that “*The LDP should be based on a vision for the future which should be clear, realistic, and based on the objectives and priorities of the relevant Community Strategy*” (LDP Wales 2005).

The Community Strategy provides the overarching local vision and strategic priorities and is therefore the main mechanism for ensuring that the link between regional strategy and local priorities is made. The inter dependency between the LDP and the Community Strategy is thus readily apparent.

It was clear from the outset of the LDP plan making process that the Community Strategy’s Mission Statement needed to have considerable prominence within the LDP Vision, however concerns soon emerged that the Mission Statement could not directly demonstrate a balance between economic, social and environmental objectives (particularly with regards to the County’s key land use planning related issues and challenges). There were also concerns with regards to the chronological relevance of the Strategy given that it is due for review in 2009. There was also a need to evaluate the spatial relevance of the Mission Statement and to evaluate its linkages to the Wales Spatial Plan (as updated 2008). Upon noting these matters, and following receipt of the consultation responses from the LDP Discussion Papers, it was determined in the Summer of 2008 that whilst the Community Strategy should provide the overarching framework and direction of travel for the LDP Vision, there was also a need to develop a dedicated Vision for the LDP.

It was thus deemed inappropriate to simply adopt the Community Strategy Mission Statement as the LDP Vision. Accordingly, it was determined that a key objective of the first Key Stakeholder Forum Event (held in Autumn 2008) should be to develop consensus on a range of land use related elements of vision. These elements of vision were built upon a wide range of viewpoints and reflected the key land use planning relevant issues (national, regional and local) that the Stakeholders deemed to be in need of addressing via the LDP.

## 4.5 The Wales Spatial Plan

The Wales Spatial Plan has been utilised to provide some spatial context to the LDP vision and to ensure that the Vision demonstrates an awareness of the local and regional settlement context and inter relations. *“The Wales Spatial Plan provides the overarching policy framework for the preparation of LDP’s. LPA are required to have regard to both the vision and propositions set out in the document” (LDP manual 2006).*

An awareness of the various regional Visions contained within the Area Strategies was critically important in informing the development of the LDP Vision.

Carmarthenshire is covered by 3 different spatial plan areas. This provides a great deal of help with the development of the LDP Vision but it also provides challenges. In terms of the positive aspects, the fact that the County is covered by 3 plans communicates Carmarthenshire’s strategic importance to South West Wales and the County’s subsequent high profile on a national basis. It also helps to clarify the considerable diversity and contrast that exists within the County itself ranging from the rural hinterland to the industrial South East. In terms of challenges, the fact that the County is covered by 3 spatial plan areas implied that considerable thought was required to abstract the necessary elements of vision from the 3 different spatial plan visions for inclusion with the Carmarthenshire LDP vision. Given that there are 3 different spatial plan visions, it was impossible to include detailed reference to each of them within the LDP vision.

The WSP assisted in setting the context and provided some spatial awareness to the emerging LDP Vision.

Central Wales – “High quality living and working in smaller scale settlements set within a superb environment, providing dynamic models of rural sustainable development, moving all sectors to higher value-added activities”

Pembrokeshire – The Haven – “A network of strong communities supported by a robust, sustainable, diverse high value-adding economy underpinned by the Area’s unique environment, maritime access and internationally important energy and tourism opportunities”

Swansea Bay – Waterfront and Western Valleys – “A network of interdependent settlements with Swansea at its heart which pull together effectively as a cityregion with a modern, competitive, knowledge-based economy designed to deliver a high quality of life, a sustainable environment, a vibrant waterfront and excellent national and international connections”

## 4.6 The first meeting of the Key Stakeholder Forum (KSF 1)

The Pre deposit consultation undertaken with the Key Stakeholder Forum was pivotal to the development of the LDP Vision. A key objective of the first Key Stakeholder Forum Event was to achieve consensus on a range of land use related elements of vision. These elements of vision were built upon a wide range of viewpoints and reflected the national, regional and local land use issues that are deemed to be in need of addressing via the LDP.

At the first meeting of the Carmarthenshire KSF on the 28 October 2008, delegates evaluated the spatial and chronological relevance of the community strategy’s

mission statement and 5 thematic pillars. Stakeholders then highlighted some elements of vision that they felt were most appropriate to be taken forward for inclusion within the LDP vision. The ongoing work and consultation with the Forum has therefore helped ensure that the LDP vision is well rounded and reflects the diverse composition of the delegates on the Forum.

The Forum considered the key plan issues facing the County and this informed their thinking with regards to what change the vision should bring about and how the strategic objectives could achieve these changes.

Included within the delegate packs distributed at the first Forum event were the 5 thematic pillars of the County's Community Strategy. Attendees were briefed that these pillars provide a useful starting point for identifying elements of the LDP vision. This ensured that the Stakeholder Forum had due regard to the Community Strategy throughout its deliberations. Groups were then given the task of listing land use related elements of vision/key plan issues under the Community Strategy pillar that they deemed to be appropriate for inclusion within a land use/spatial planning document. This process was useful because it allowed for the evaluation of the potential synergies that exist between the cross cutting and 'place making' Community Strategy and the LDP land use planning delivery tool.

The visioning ideas/key issues developed at the KSF1 workshops are outlined below. These represent the visioning elements that the Key Stakeholder Forum felt would address some of the key LDP and sustainability issues facing the County:

**A better place:** Environment – improving the world around us, today and for tomorrow.  
-“greener/environmentally friendly transport”, “play areas and green spaces”  
“community facilities” “safeguard and improve the world around us – today and for tomorrow” “quality recreational infrastructure”

**Opening doors:** Lifelong learning – helping everyone to achieve their potential, from childhood to old age.  
“equality for all”, “accessibility to learning opportunities for all”

**Feeling fine:** Health and wellbeing – tackling the causes of ill health by looking at life in the round.  
“improving health/environment with more access to facilities and play areas/recreation” “location and accessibility of facilities – eg sport or healthcare”

**Investment and innovation:** Regeneration – building resources, creating opportunities and offering support.  
“sustainability”, “greening”, “local sourcing”, “location and sustainability of high quality work opportunities”, “sufficient land for investment”

**Feeling secure:** Safer communities – offering security, tackling crime and fear of crime, helping us to look out for each other.  
“safer and inclusive communities” “high quality design” “secure by design principles – design out crime” “crime down, well being up”

**Other visioning ideas/priorities** developed that were not specifically grouped under the Community Strategy pillar headings:

- *“free transport – location of facilities” “Equity and equality throughout the County” “range and choice of housing (inc affordable) that are of high standard and close to services”, “appropriate economic infrastructure appropriate to the County’s business demographics”, “linking communities to regeneration”, “future proofed transport and sustainable travel choices”, “keep young people in Carm’s”, “infrastructure – sewerage and transport”*

A consolidated list of 14 land use related elements of vision/key plan issues was then duly agreed at the first Forum meeting. These 14 elements were further prioritised in terms of their importance for inclusion within the LDP vision. The prioritised elements of vision are shown overleaf.

The key elements of the Carmarthenshire LDP Vision :

<b>Element of vision/Key plan issue</b>	<b>Score/Weight</b>
Good Quality Environment	11
Suitable mix of housing	10
Community Facilities	10
Green and Sustainable	9
Attracting inward investment	6
Enough infrastructure for new development	5
Providing safe environments	5
Joined up/integration	4
Access for all	3
Access to public transport	2
Health and recreation	2
Equality	2
Distinctiveness	1
Safeguard	0

(source: KSF 1 consultation report – available on Council website)

The Key Stakeholder Forum had thus successfully developed some key elements of the LDP vision. The Visioning work had fully evaluated the Community Strategy whilst also developing some new visioning elements that were spatially and chronologically relevant to the land use relevant issues and objectives to hand. The deliberations of the First Forum event were reported to the LDP Advisory Panel on the 17 December 2008 and subsequently the Council’s Executive Board on the 16 March 2009. Copies of the KSF 1 Consultation Report, along with copies of the delegate packs issued, are available on the Council Website. Copies of the KSF 2 Consultation Report, along with copies of the delegate packs issued, have also been provided to the consultants who are undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the LDP. The input of the Key Stakeholder Forum continues to be an integral part of the plan making process.

#### **4.7 The Summary Vision for the Carmarthenshire LDP**

During January 2009, the LDP Team utilised the agreed key plan issues, the Community Strategy Mission Statement, the Wales Spatial Plan and the visioning & strategic objectives work undertaken by the first Key Stakeholder Forum in order to develop a summary vision for the Carmarthenshire LDP. This vision is outlined below:

**Carmarthenshire will be a prosperous and sustainable County of contrasts. It will have distinctive rural, urban and coastal communities, a unique culture, a high quality environment and a vibrant and diverse economy.**

**The County will offer a high quality of life in safe, accessible and inclusive communities. Everyone will have access to good quality employment, a suitable mix of housing and to community and recreational facilities – all within a clean and green environment.**

#### **4.8 The Second meeting of the Key Stakeholder Forum**

The Second Key Stakeholder Forum was held on the 24/2/09 and was attended by delegates from a wide range of organisations as set out within the LDP Delivery Agreement. It was explained to attendees that the objectives of the day were to firstly consolidate and elaborate on the main outcomes of the visioning and objectives work undertaken at the First Forum event and then proceed to draw out any new ideas/thoughts for taking forward into the plan making process.

The outputs of the first Forum event had been utilised by the LDP Team in order to develop a range of background papers. These papers formed the core of the workshop sessions undertaken at the second Forum event. The KSF 1 Consultation Report had been fully utilised by the LDP team in order to develop a proposed LDP vision, 14 strategic objectives and also 5 spatial options. A paper covering each of these proposals was included within the delegate pack provided to attendees at the Second Forum event and these papers were also distributed to all members of the Key Stakeholder Forum a week in advance of the second Stakeholder Forum event.

The Summary Vision (as outlined at 4.7 above) was substantively endorsed at the Second Key Stakeholder Forum. It was agreed that the Vision offers a means for the strategic objectives to elaborate and provide further land use planning relevance and thus a link was made between the vision and objectives. It was also agreed at the Second Key Stakeholder Forum that the Vision does capture the main land use planning elements of the Community Strategy and acknowledges the fact that Carmarthenshire is a County of contrasts in terms of its distinctive rural and urban areas. The highlighting of these contrasts does therefore provide some spatial context to the vision. The Vision also offers a means for the strategic objectives to elaborate and provide further land use planning relevance and consequently there is a link between the Vision and the Strategic Objectives.

Copies of the KSF 2 Consultation Report, along with copies of the delegate packs issued, are available on the Council Website. The deliberations of the Second Forum

event will be reported to the LDP Advisory Panel and the Council's Executive Board on the 16 March 2009. Copies of the KSF 2 Consultation Report, along with copies of the delegate packs issued, have also been provided to the consultants who are undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the LDP. The input of the Key Stakeholder Forum continues to be an integral part of the plan making process.

## **4.9 Testing of the Summary Vision**

The LDP vision sets the context for the Plan to mediate the various concerns and pressures that will emerge across the County within the plan period. The Vision also sets the context for the Plan to address the key plan issues via its strategic objectives. Accordingly, the Carmarthenshire LDP has been provided with a place making function which accords with the overarching direction of travel as set out within the Community Strategy.

### ***4.9.1 Is the Vision adequately informed by the Key Plan Issues?***

The establishment of the national, regional and local issues, together with the capturing of the key challenges and opportunities facing the County, was an important first step towards developing the LDP Vision. Section 3 of this paper evidences how the social, economic and environmental characteristics, issues and opportunities were captured. Section 3 also evidences that these issues have directly informed the strategic discussions undertaken at pre deposit stage in terms of establishing what the plan is seeking to change and address through its vision and objectives. The table at 3.9 evidences how the key plan issues have directly informed the LDP Vision. The key land use and sustainability issues for Carmarthenshire have therefore contributed directly to the development of the Vision and thus the LDP is being strategically structured to tackle the main issues facing Carmarthenshire.

### ***4.9.2 Is the vision up to date and of spatial relevance?***

The roots of the Carmarthenshire LDP vision stem primarily (but not exclusively) from the existing Community Strategy for Carmarthenshire. Given that the Community Strategy is up for review in 2009 and is of limited spatial relevance, it was important that the Key Stakeholder Forum evaluated the Community Strategy Mission Statement and revise it as necessary. The Wales Spatial Plan's Area visions have also been utilised to introduce an additional spatial awareness to the LDP vision. The LDP vision has regard to national and regional policy (Wales Spatial Plan) and the relevant Community Strategy (i.e. the over arching strategy). The Vision also acknowledges the fact that the County is one of contrasts (as suggested by the community strategy and the fact that the County is covered by 3 different spatial plan Area strategies). The vision also acknowledges the County's rural-urban-coastal settlement structure and demonstrates an awareness of the regional context in which it sits within South West Wales. The Community Strategy is currently in the process of being updated and the LDP Team will ensure that the LDP Vision feeds into this process so as to ensure synergy between the two. A detailed vision may be included within the Preferred Strategy once the Spatial Option/Settlement Hierarchy has been substantively developed.

#### **4.9.3 Does the LDP vision flow from having a clear view of what sort of place the authority wants Carmarthenshire to become?**

The Vision communicates the kind of place that Carmarthenshire is aspiring towards becoming by building upon the aspirations already set out within the Community Strategy's Mission Statement. The Community Strategy has been subject to public consultation. The vision does flow from the Community Strategy (which is the relevant overarching document for the LDP) but is also a direct result of consultation undertaken with the Key Stakeholder Forum. In determining the key elements of vision, Stakeholders have acknowledged the key issues that the vision will seek to address. The LDP will be charged with the delivery of the Community Strategy at a local level. The Key Stakeholder Forum has also fully evaluated the thematic pillars contained within the Community Strategy as a basis for drawing out elements of vision/key plan issues that they deemed were most appropriate for inclusion within the vision for the LDP. The LDP Vision draws upon this work to communicate what sort of place the Authority wants the County to become whilst also ensuring that the vision is deliverable in land use terms. The Vision will achieve Corporate fit within the Authority because the Community Strategy Pillars form the core of the Authority's Corporate Plan 2007-12. This will all assist in ensuring the deliverability of the LDP.

#### **4.9.4 Is the vision well rounded so that there is a balance between economic, social and environmental objectives?**

In terms of tackling the key social, environmental and economic issues, the vision sets the context by utilising the prioritised land use relevant elements of vision/key plan issues that were developed by the Key Stakeholder Forum – these include **'green and sustainable', 'high quality of life', 'high quality environment', 'a good mix of housing', 'community facilities', 'safety', 'access/accessibility', 'health and recreation' and 'distinctive(ness)'**. It should be noted that all of the above elements are included within the vision outlined at 4.7. The Vision was also informed by National, regional local level issues and policies (eg W.S.P)

The ongoing input of the Key Stakeholder Forum is important in ensuring that the vision is well rounded, particularly given the diverse composition of the delegates on the Forum. The Forum is made up of delegates from a wide range of organisations from all sectors as set out in the Delivery Agreement.

Local Development Plans Wales – Policy on Preparation of LDPs (December 2005) states that

**“the LDP should seek to address the unique economic, environmental and social characteristics, opportunities and issues of the area. It should be based on a vision of the future which should be clear, realistic and based on the objectives and priorities of the relevant community strategy”.**

The proposed vision acknowledges the Wales Spatial Plan and its awareness of economic, social and environmental objectives across the South West Wales region. The Vision flows from an appreciation of the key issues facing the County as set out in section 3 of this paper. The First Key Stakeholder Forum utilised the social, economic and environmental issues set out within the Discussion Papers and the SA-SEA Scoping Report when they prioritised the key plan issues and the development of a vision for the LDP.

#### **4.10 Towards a detailed Vision**

The Summary Vision as set out in 4.7 is intended to be taken forward into the Preferred Strategy. This Summary Vision has already been approved by the Key Stakeholder Forum.

The LDP Team may proceed to build upon the endorsed summary Vision by focusing on enhancing its spatial relevance. This could be achieved by adding reference to the proposed settlement framework/hierarchy as set out in the Strategic Spatial Options and Settlement Hierarchy Paper in order to produce a detailed vision. This detailed vision may appear in the Preferred Strategy in due course.

In terms of evaluating the detailed LDP vision, it is important that this is not done in isolation of the strategic objectives that will ultimately deliver the vision. Accordingly, a discussion on strategic objectives follows in Section 5 overleaf.

## **5 Discussion and identification of the Strategic Objectives**

### **5.1 The role of LDP Strategic Objectives**

As well as developing a vision for the LDP, it is important that Strategic objectives are also developed at an early stage (ideally in tandem with the vision). Strategic Objectives are statements of a “condition which the authority wants to bring about” and represent broad intentions to which the more detailed policies and proposals within the LDP will be intended to deliver in due course. Strategic objectives are a guide for describing what the plan is trying to achieve and they link the vision & the spatial strategy with the detailed land use planning policies and the allocations that will ultimately deliver the plan. The Strategic Objectives should also put further meaning onto the LDP vision and cement the deliverability of the LDP. The Strategic Objectives will link the vision with the spatial strategy.

### **5.2 Welsh Assembly guidance**

The Welsh Assembly Government Manual for preparing LDPs states that: “LDP objectives should be capable of being addressed through the planning system”. Appropriate Strategic Objectives will ensure that the aspirations set out within the LDP Vision are achievable and deliverable. The Strategic Objectives will tackle the key plan issues and challenges (as listed in section 3 of this paper) by delivering the detailed Vision (outlined in section 4). The Sustainability Appraisal will provide an opportunity to test the Strategic Objectives against the County’s Sustainability Objectives. This paper will undertake to test the Strategic Objectives that have been developed following the pre deposit consultation undertaken in terms of their ability to address the key plan issues/elements of vision that have been developed.

The LDP Manual (para 5.5 2006) states that “The LDP vision and objectives will flow from having a clear view of what sort of place the authority wants (the plan) area to become...this should already have been achieved within the authority and with the partners through the preparation of the community strategy” The Manual also states that: “LDP objectives should be capable of being addressed through the planning system.

Pursuant to the above, this section will undertake to determine whether the LDP Strategic Objectives developed following the pre deposit consultation undertaken are :

- (a) *capable of demonstrating corporate fit so as to facilitate deliverability and Council ‘buy in’ ?***
- (b) *well linked to the LDP Vision ?***
- (c) *derived from the key plan issues ?***
- (c) *deliverable in land use planning terms ?***

### 5.3 Corporate Fit

The strategic pillars contained within the Community Strategy have been utilised to provide the framework for the Strategic Objectives. These strategic pillars also inform the corporate objectives of the Authority and are intrinsic to the Authority's Corporate Strategy for 2007-12. It follows that for any plan (and the objectives contained therein) to be deliverable it needs to be linked to this key corporate strategy because the Strategy contains performance indicators and informs Council budget priorities for the whole plan period. It is also important that the strategic objectives are linked to this framework because the key plan issues are also grouped under these pillars.

**A better place:** "Environment – improving the world around us, today and for tomorrow"  
**Opening doors:** "Lifelong learning – helping everyone to achieve their potential, from childhood to old age"  
**Feeling fine:** "Health and wellbeing – tackling the causes of ill health by looking at life in the round"  
**Investment and innovation:** "Regeneration – building resources, creating opportunities and offering support"  
**Feeling secure:** "Safer communities – offering security, tackling crime and fear of crime, helping us to look out for each other"

### 5.4 The consideration of key plan issues at Key Stakeholder Forum 1 & the prioritisation of Strategic Objectives

In a similar way to the development of the LDP Vision, the development of the Plan's strategic objectives was achieved in an inclusive and iterative manner, with the emphasis placed firmly on participation and deliverability. In this regard, the strategic objectives were derived from the development of key plan issues as well as key elements of Vision. The key plan issues and the Vision were developed via:

- LDP Discussion/issues papers and subsequent public consultation in relation thereto
- Preparation of SA/SEA Scoping Report and subsequent public consultation in relation thereto
- The holding of 2 LDP Stakeholder Forum Events and subsequent public consultation in relation thereto
- Town and Community Council Seminar
- A review of statistical social, economic and environmental baseline evidence/studies currently to hand
- LDP Technical Group Meeting TBC

Included within the delegate packs provided at the First Key Stakeholder Forum event held in October 2009 was a range of relevant background information with regards to the development of Strategic Objectives. This included a synopsis of the key plan issues developed within the Discussion Papers and the sustainability issues and objectives outlined within the SA-SEA. This ensured that, ahead of the development and prioritisation of strategic objectives, the stakeholders were able to discuss, and consolidate upon, the key plan issues for the LDP. A copy of the Key Stakeholder Forum 1 Consultation Report, which captures the day's events and deliberations, is available for viewing on the Authority's website.

Attendees at the First Forum were reminded that it was important to develop realistic objectives so as to ensure that the plan is deliverable – there would be little purpose in arriving at objectives that the LDP cannot deliver. Prioritisation of key/strategic objectives for the LDP was achieved by requesting that delegates place stickers next to the strategic objectives that they deemed to have the highest priority for the LDP.

Prioritised strategic objectives for the Carmarthen LDP:

<b>LDP Strategic Objective</b>	<b>Score/Weight</b>
Appropriate Mix of housing (including local needs affordable)	13
Exemplar of sustainability	12
Integrated Transport	12
Mixed working/living/playing places	8
Employment/investment – inc rural and agricultural	7
Landscape scale conservation (inc urban green space)	6
Develop community/place distinctiveness	3

(source: KSF 1 consultation report – available on Council website)

The First event had therefore developed some key/strategic objectives that were largely relevant to land use planning. The deliberations held at the First Forum event were reported to the LDP Advisory Panel on 17 December 2009 and were reported to Executive Board on the 16 March 2009. Copies of the Consultation Report were provided to the consultants who are undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the LDP. The work of the Forum has therefore played an integral part of the formulation of strategic objectives for the Carmarthenshire LDP.

The outputs of the first Forum event were then utilised by the LDP Team in order to develop a range of background papers. These papers formed the core of the workshop sessions undertaken at the second Forum event. The Key Stakeholder Forum 1 Consultation Report was utilised by the LDP team in order to develop a proposed LDP vision, 14 strategic objectives and also 5 spatial options. A paper covering each of these proposals was included within the delegate pack provided to attendees at the Second Forum event and these papers were also distributed to all members of the Key Stakeholder Forum a week in advance of the second Stakeholder Forum event.

## **5.5 The endorsing of 14 Strategic Objectives at Key Stakeholder Forum 2**

The Second Forum event was held on the 24 February 2009. Delegates undertook to review and elaborate upon 14 draft strategic objectives that had been developed by the LDP Team following feedback attained from the first Forum event. Delegates of the second Key Stakeholder Forum established that the 14 draft strategic objectives were :

- A true reflection the prioritised strategic objectives agreed at the First Forum Meeting
- Linked to the proposed LDP vision and of assistance in delivering it
- Strategically relevant to the Community Strategy's 5 'pillars'

- Deliverable through the planning system i.e. land use planning related
- Linked to the national, regional and local level issues identified

Delegates also considered whether any strategic elements were missing from the proposed list of 14 objectives tabled. The 14 draft objectives were duly amended following the feedback attained from the Second Key Stakeholder Forum. These amendments are shown within the table overleaf.

The table overleaf contains the final version of the LDP Strategic Objectives (etched red). Copies of the Key Stakeholder Forum 2 Consultation Report are available on the Council Website.

Original objective derived from 1st Key Stakeholder Forum	Modifications suggested from Second Key Stakeholder Forum	Final version of LDP Strategic Objective
<b>A BETTER PLACE</b>		
To protect and enhance the diverse character and distinctiveness of the County and its communities by encouraging sympathetic and high quality design standards.	<i>Need to emphasise enhanced character and design and Community distinctiveness – safe/vibrant</i>	<b>SO1</b> To protect and enhance the diverse character, distinctiveness, safety and vibrancy of the County's communities by ensuring sympathetic and high quality standards of design.
To adhere to the principles of sustainability by (a) encouraging new development on previously developed land, and (b) enabling development in the most sustainable locations to minimise the need to travel.	<i>Need to emphasise sustainability</i>	<b>SO2</b> To ensure that the principles of sustainability are upheld by (a) encouraging new development on previously developed land and (b) enabling development in the most sustainable locations in order to minimise the need to travel.
To make provision for an appropriate range and choice of quality homes based upon the principles of sustainable development and equality of opportunities.	<i>Need to emphasise quality/mix of housing</i>	<b>SO3</b> To make provision for an appropriate mix of quality homes; access to which will be based around the principles of sustainable development and equality of opportunities.
To ensure that the natural, built and historic environment is safeguarded and enhanced.	No change	<b>SO4</b> To ensure that the natural, built and historic environment is safeguarded and enhanced.
To assist in the minimisation of waste and pollution by promoting recycling and ensuring that energy and resources are utilised effectively.	<i>Micro-macro Renewable energy</i>	<b>SO5</b> To assist with tackling the cause and affect of waste, climate change and pollution through promoting recycling, renewable energy, green innovation and the effective use of resources.

Original objective derived from 1st Key Stakeholder Forum	Modifications suggested from Second Key Stakeholder Forum	Proposed final version of LDP Strategic Objective
<b>OPENING DOORS</b>		
To assist in widening and promoting access to education and skills training for all.	No change	<b>SO6</b> To assist in widening and promoting education and skills training opportunities for all.
To assist in protecting and enhancing the County's unique cultural identity, assets and social fabric.	<i>Emphasise Welsh language</i> (no change – already implied in objective – cultural identity, asset and social fabric)	<b>SO7</b> To assist in protecting and enhancing the County's unique cultural identity, assets and social fabric
<b>FEELING FINE</b>		
To assist in widening and promoting access to community, leisure and recreational facilities for all.	<i>emphasise access to leisure</i> (no change – already implied in objective)	<b>SO8</b> To assist with widening and promoting opportunities for everyone to utilise the County's community, leisure and recreational facilities.
To ensure that the principles of equal opportunities and social inclusion are upheld within the built and natural environment through ensuring equality of access to shops, leisure and work opportunities within the County.	<i>emphasise equal opportunities</i> <i>emphasise choice of quality homes</i> (see better place) <i>emphasise access health services</i> <i>emphasise access to public services</i>	<b>SO9</b> To ensure that the principles of equal opportunities and social inclusion are upheld by promoting access to a high quality and diverse mix of public services, health services, shops, leisure facilities and work opportunities.

Original objective derived from 1st Key Stakeholder Forum	Modifications suggested from Second Key Stakeholder Forum	Proposed final version of LDP Strategic Objective
<b>INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION</b>		
To contribute to the delivery of an integrated and sustainable transport system that is accessible to all.	<i>emphasise integrated sustainable transport +free for young people emphasise integrated and sustainable transport and ICT (No change – see below objective)</i>	<b>SO10</b> To contribute to the delivery of an integrated and sustainable transport system that is accessible to all.
To encourage employment and investment opportunities (both rural and urban) by making provision for the business and employment developmental needs of indigenous and new employers whilst adhering to the principles of sustainable development.	<i>emphasise employment opportunities (eg apprentices)  Emphasise Utilities  ICT</i>	<b>SO11</b> To encourage investment & innovation (both rural and urban) by: <b>(a)</b> making provision for the business and employment developmental needs of indigenous and new employers, particularly in terms of hard & soft infrastructural requirements (including telecommunications/ICT); and <b>(b)</b> adhering to the principles of sustainable development and social inclusion
To promote and develop sustainable tourism	<i>rural diversification</i>	<b>SO12</b> To promote and develop sustainable & high quality <i>all year round</i> tourism related initiatives

Original objective derived from 1st Key Stakeholder Forum	Modifications suggested from Second Key Stakeholder Forum	Proposed final version of LDP Strategic Objective
<b>FEELING SECURE</b>		
To assist with the development and management of safe places and spaces across the County	<i>Emphasise safe and vibrant places</i>	<b>SO13</b> To assist with the development and management of safe and vibrant places & spaces across the County
To assist with the delivery and management of safe and vibrant places that nurture socially interactive and sustainable communities who use local services wherever possible.	<i>Emphasise Mixed places (working living and playing)</i> <i>Emphasise local food production</i>	<b>SO14</b> To assist with the delivery and management of mixed & sustainable communities by: <b>(a)</b> promoting safe, vibrant and socially interactive places and <b>(b)</b> promoting the utilisation of local services and produce whenever possible.

## **5.6 The testing of the 14 proposed strategic objectives against the key plan issues**

This section evaluates the 14 strategic objectives outlined in table 5.5. The table overleaf undertakes to test the strategic objectives against the key plan issues and elements of vision. It also provides analysis in respect of the deliverability of the strategic objective via detailed land use planning policies and allocations.

### **5.6.1 Demonstration of corporate fit so as to facilitate deliverability and Council 'buy in'**

The objectives have been grouped under the 5 pillars of the Community Strategy and are thus capable of demonstrating adherence to the Authority's Corporate Plan for 2007-12.

### **5.6.2 Demonstration of linkages to the LDP Vision**

Column 1 of the table overleaf demonstrates how the elements of vision developed via the Key Stakeholder Forum, the Community Strategy and the Wales Spatial Plan, are linked to the development of the Strategic Objectives. Accordingly, the Strategic Objectives flow from having a clear view of the sort of place that the Authority wants the County to become. The Strategic Objectives may appear in the Preferred Strategy in an amended format so as to enhance their spatial relevance. This will ensure accordance with the detailed vision and the preferred spatial option & strategic policies that will be contained within the preferred strategy. This may mean that references to settlements/strategic sites may be included in the strategic objectives as included within the preferred strategy.

### **5.6.3 Demonstration that the objectives have been derived from the key plan issues**

Column 1 of the table overleaf demonstrates how the prioritised key plan issues have directly informed the Strategic Objectives. These land use relevant key plan issues were initially contextualised via the Discussion Papers, the SA Scoping Report, a review of local, national and regional evidence, issues and policies and were then prioritised via the pre deposit consultation undertaken with the Key Stakeholder Forum's diverse composition of delegates. Column 3 confirms that the 14 objectives have been fully endorsed by the Key Stakeholder Forum as a means of addressing the prioritised issues through the plan.

### **5.6.4 Demonstration that the objectives are deliverable in land use planning terms**

Column 4 confirms that the strategic objectives set the context for the Plan's policies and allocations to deliver. The objectives were also tested by the Key Stakeholder Forum in order to evaluate their deliverability.

**Testing the compatibility of the Key Plan issues/elements of vision with the Strategic Objectives  
(NOTE THE SA STAGE B WILL ALSO 'SUSTAINABILITY TEST' THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES)  
(the strategic objectives references can be found at 5.6)**

KEY PLAN ISSUES & ELEMENTS OF THE LDP VISION (developed largely by KSF)	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE BEST PLACED TO ADDRESS ISSUE/DELIVER ELEMENT OF VISION	HAS THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE BEEN ENDORSED BY KSF?	POTENTIAL OF THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TO DELIVER THE ELEMENT OF VISION AND ADDRESS THE KEY PLAN ISSUE THROUGH DETAILED LDP POLICIES AND/OR ALLOCATIONS?
<b>A BETTER PLACE – The Environment</b>			
Distinctiveness/character	SO 1	YES	Policies for design, density and safeguarding the built & natural environment
Suitable mix of housing	SO 2	YES	The spatial strategy & growth option will ensure that the new homes allocated across the plan period are based upon local need and that they are located in sustainable & deliverable locations. Also brownfield development % targets
	SO 3	YES	Targets & policies for meeting the need for affordable units across the County
A good Quality Environment	SO 4	YES	Landscape & historic environment designations & settlement limits
Green and Sustainable	SO 5	YES	Policies for minerals, waste, climate change, renewables, green innovation, flooding/ water abstraction and regard to the R.W.P.
<b>OPENING DOORS – Education and Life Long Learning</b>			
Community Facilities	SO 6	YES	The distribution and location of new development will adhere to the provision of community facilities. Planning gain policy framework.
Safeguard (social fabric)	SO 7	YES	Policies for language (LSA), social fabric & culture as well as scale & phasing
<b>FEELING FINE – Health and Well Being</b>			
Health and recreation	SO 8	YES	Policies for provision of community, recreational, educational & leisure facilities
Equality and Access for All	SO 9	YES	Policies for inclusive design (DDA), accessibility to services, equal opportunities and planning for marginalised groups eg Gypsies and Travellers
<b>INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION – Regeneration and the Economy</b>			
Access to public transport Joined up/integration	SO 10	YES	Policies for promoting reduction of car use & utilisation of alternative modes of transport. LDP will have regard to the existing transport hierarchy & the R.T.P.
Attracting inward investment Enough infrastructure for new development	SO 11	YES	Policies for employment, retail and hard/soft infrastructure (inc IT and home working). The current provision of services, infrastructure and the existing retail hierarchy (along with the Spatial Strategy) will inform employment & retail policy.
Green and Sustainable	SO 12	YES	Policies for promoting sustainable all year tourism and suitable diversification
<b>FEELING SECURE – Safer Communities</b>			
Providing safe environments	SO 13	YES	<i>Safety by design</i> policies & urban design (inc public realm) policies
	SO 14	YES	Vibrant & inclusive communities via policies that promote mixed uses

## 5.7 Initial testing of the Strategic Objectives against the Sustainability Objectives set out within the SA Scoping Report

The Sustainability Appraisal has played a prominent role in the development of the LDP issues, vision and objectives. The SA- SEA Scoping Report was utilised by the Key Stakeholder Forum and an awareness of the usefulness of the SA-SEA has been forthcoming from the outset of the plan making process (particularly in terms of developing the strategic objectives and spatial options). In order to ensure that the Sustainability Appraisal continues to play an integral role of the plan making process, the Authority's SA Consultants have been made privy to all of the pre deposit work undertaken in terms of developing strategic objectives. In spite of the fact that the pre deposit work will be formally assessed against the SA-SEA as part of the preferred strategy, it is important that an early appreciation of the compatibility of the 14 strategic objectives against the SA-SEA objectives is established within this paper.

Pursuant to the above, the strategic objectives have been initially tested against the SA/SEA objectives so as to ensure that the plan's objectives are sustainable. The results are set out in the table overleaf. As stated above, a detailed compatibility assessment will be undertaken at the Preferred Strategy stage, however this early testing and iterative approach has helped ensure that the LDP Objectives are unlikely to conflict with the SA Objectives,

The compatibility assessment has resulted in an identified trend of strong positive alignment between the LDP objectives and those SA/SEA objectives that are based around socioeconomic issues. The LDP objectives that infer new development align less favourably with those SA/SEA objectives regarding the protection of natural and cultural assets, particularly in terms of biodiversity. Consequently, the environmental/cultural sustainability of the strategic objectives depends upon the nature of the options and policies identified to achieve them, and their interaction with other policies influencing how they are implemented. The cases where there is uncertainty over compatibility are summarised below in the table overleaf.

Delivering development that is sustainable often requires that a balance be struck between the losses and gains across social, economic and environmental components. In this case, the need to achieve social and economic development tends to suggest that there may be incompatibilities with environmental conservation. It will therefore be essential to identify any potential negative impacts of particular significance in the assessment of the LDP, and to put in place mitigation measures that can minimise any impacts associated with delivering development through the LDP. **The Strategic Objectives may appear in the Preferred Strategy in an amended format so as to enhance their spatial relevance. This will ensure accordance with the detailed vision and the preferred spatial option & strategic policies that will be contained within the preferred strategy. This may mean that references to settlements/strategic sites may be included in the strategic objectives as included within the preferred strategy.** These early compatibility tests will be very useful in informing the Preferred Strategy. They also demonstrate how the SA-SEA is being utilised in a meaningful and proactive manner from the outset of the plan making process. Further commentary is provided within the appendices.

LDP Strategic Objective	Potential Incompatibility with SA/SEA Objectives
<p>1 - To protect and enhance the diverse character, distinctiveness, safety and vibrancy of the County's communities by ensuring sympathetic and high quality standards of design.</p>	<p>There are potential incompatibilities with the SA objectives relating to climatic factors and material assets should standards of design rely upon the use of quarried stone as opposed to using sustainably sourced or secondary materials.</p>
<p>2 - To ensure that the principles of sustainability are upheld by <b>(a)</b> encouraging new development on previously developed land and <b>(b)</b> enabling development in the most sustainable locations in order to minimise the need to travel.</p>	<p>There are potential incompatibilities with Biodiversity and Water objectives associated with the development of brownfield land. Brownfield land can support protected species and the redevelopment of brownfield land adjacent to watercourses may incur development in areas at risk of flooding or affect the geomorphology of watercourses. Cultural heritage assets and valued townscapes could be affected should they be located in proximity to brownfield/development sites.</p>
<p>3 - To make provision for an appropriate mix of quality homes; access to which will be based around the principles of sustainable development and equality of opportunities.</p>	<p>This objective infers physical development, and therefore there are likely to be incompatibilities with SA objectives designed to protect natural resources such as soils and floodplains and valued man-made features. The LDP policies will need to protect natural habitats and landscapes and fit with the existing built environment. The LDP policies will need to qualify the type of development delivered in terms of water and energy efficiency. The location of development led by the results of the Strategic</p>

	Flood Consequences Assessment (SFCA) and the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).
4 - To ensure that the natural, built and historic environment is safeguarded and enhanced.	No incompatibilities.
5 - To assist with tackling the cause and effect of waste, climate change and pollution through promoting recycling, renewable energy, green innovation and the effective use of resources.	This objective specifies the promotion of renewable energy, which would require careful consideration of geographical location in terms of landscape and cultural heritage during the planning process should proposals relate to windfarm developments for example.
6 - To assist in widening and promoting education and skills training opportunities for all.	This strategic objective could be incompatible with the SA objectives designed to protect and enhance the natural environment should it infer the need for the development of new schools.
7 - To assist in protecting and enhancing the County's unique cultural identity, assets and social fabric.	No incompatibilities.
8 - To assist with widening and promoting opportunities for everyone to utilise the County's community, leisure and recreational facilities.	This objective will inform development on the ground that could compromise with SA objectives that seek to protect existing natural and built environments. For example, recreation pressure may affect sites protected for biodiversity value
9 - To ensure that the principles of equal opportunities and social inclusion are upheld by promoting access to a high quality and diverse mix of public services, health services, shops, leisure facilities and work opportunities.	Without policy controls or mitigation, this objective, by way of the delivery of services and means of access to services, could compromise the SA objectives designed to protect natural environments.
10 - To contribute to the delivery of an integrated and sustainable transport system that is accessible	The development of transportation interchanges or new road infrastructure

to all.	could result in the fragmentation of habitats and development on previously undeveloped land. Policy controls will be required for example that favours development that minimises the need to travel and that supports the development of public transport services.
11 - To encourage investment & innovation (both rural and urban) by: <b>(a)</b> making provision for the business and employment developmental needs of indigenous and new employers, particularly in terms of hard & soft infrastructural requirements (including telecommunications/ICT); and <b>(b)</b> adhering to the principles of sustainable development and social inclusion.	This objective is likely to lead to economic development and therefore may compare less favourably with environmental themes, particularly in terms of the effects of rural development without policy controls or mitigation.
12 - To promote and develop sustainable & high quality <i>all year round</i> tourism related initiatives.	Similarly to objective 11, without mitigation or policy controls on the nature and location of new tourism developments, pressure may be put on the natural environment and could encourage increased travel.
13 - To assist with the development and management of safe and vibrant places & spaces across the County.	No incompatibilities.
14 - To assist with the delivery and management of mixed & sustainable communities by: <b>(a)</b> promoting safe, vibrant and socially interactive places and <b>(b)</b> promoting the utilisation of local services and produce whenever possible.	No incompatibilities.

Some of the particular areas of compatibility include the LDP objectives under the 'Feeling Secure' theme; whereby creating safe and vibrant spaces and sustainable communities can contribute positively to the management of habitats and increase the quality of outdoor recreation. The SA Objectives that are most strongly compatible with the LDP objectives are those relating to Economy and Social Fabric. For example, the LDP strategic objectives would support the SA Economy objectives by encouraging investment through high quality design, preserving land for future development creating viable communities and y creating jobs in sustainable technologies and land management

## **Appendices**

**Synopsis of Key plan issues to emerge from the Discussion Papers and the subsequent consultation undertaken in relation thereto:**

Topic	Issues raised in papers and through consultation in relation thereto:
Vision	Consideration needed on the content and focus of the Community Strategy Mission Statement – particularly its <b><u>land use context and spatial dimension</u></b>
Spatial Strategy	<b>Sustainability – location</b> of development, <b><u>climate change</u></b> and <b><u>reduced trip generation</u></b> ... balance need for development against environmental and social concerns. Consultation responses were largely in favour of option 1, which is probably the most sustainable of the 3 options given, and the one which most closely reflects the sustainable strategic settlement framework set out in the UDP
Hierarchical Classification	<b>Assessment</b> of settlements in terms of <b><u>accessibility, transport, retail, public services and facilities (eg health, education) and community facilities</u></b>
Housing	<p><b>Population and Household Projections</b> - The general trend in the population of Carmarthenshire indicates that the <b><u>population</u></b> in the ten year period from 1991 to 2001 grew by approximately the same amount as the five year period between 2001 and 2006 i.e. <b><u>increases of 4,000 and 4,300 respectively</u></b>.</p> <p><b>Changes in household structures</b> and notably the decline in size can be attributed to a number of <b><u>demographic and social factors</u></b> including <b><u>increases in the elderly population, smaller family sizes</u></b> etc. The LDP will need to consider such changes with a potential for <b><u>greater focus on more 1 and 2 bedroom</u></b> units in communities where such need is identified.</p> <p><b>Vacant units</b> - A continued reduction in <b><u>vacant accommodation</u></b> would see properties being brought back into beneficial use meeting some of the future demand. <b><u>Approximately 3.8% of all homes within the County</u></b> were empty in June 2006.</p> <p><b>Housing Densities</b> - The LDP will need to reflect a number of considerations in determining the densities appropriate for a given site, these include market trends, developer obligations including <b><u>affordable</u></b> provision, an area's <b><u>character</u></b> and any constraints present.</p> <p><b>Affordable Housing</b> - The 2007 LHMA highlights a continuing <b><u>problem</u></b> with <b><u>affordability of homes</u></b> for sale, with 61% of households earning less than the required income.</p> <p><b>Rural Housing</b> - In providing appropriate levels of residential provision, the LDP will need to set out how planning at the local level will contribute to meeting identified <b><u>rural housing needs</u></b>.</p> <p><b>Welsh language</b> - The scale of any land release will be considered in the context of the <b><u>Welsh language and culture</u></b>.</p> <p><b>Gypsies and Travellers</b> – In assessing need it should be noted that accommodation needs can also be addressed through ‘bricks and mortar’ housing and not just through the provision of authorised caravan sites</p> <p><b>Housing Land Availability</b> – how much land is available ?</p>

Topic	Issues raised in papers and through consultation in relation thereto:
<p><b>The Economy and Employment</b></p>	<p><b>Land supply</b> – need to review the current stock of employment land and premises and identify shortfalls in specific areas to meet particular <b><u>business needs</u></b>.</p> <p><b>Sites</b> - identification and selection of employment sites and premises will depend on qualifying criteria many of which will be derived from the principles of <b><u>sustainable development</u></b>.. criteria should be sufficiently flexible to accommodate the desired shift towards a more <b><u>diversified</u></b> manufacturing base including the high technology, creative and knowledge sectors together with policies for rural <b><u>diversification</u></b> and <b><u>‘clean and green’</u></b> enterprises directed at the regeneration of the countryside economy.</p> <p><b>Policies-</b> LDP will need to create the right conditions for businesses to <b><u>establish, grow and prosper in a sustainable manner</u></b> with proper regard for <b><u>environmental considerations</u></b> and for local communities.</p>
<p><b>Retail and Town Centres</b></p>	<p>The LDP retail strategy and supporting policies should seek to ensure the provision of <b><u>appropriate facilities in accessible locations</u></b> throughout the County in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. In so doing, the LDP should also support and promote the larger retail centres as <b><u>attractive shopping destinations</u></b> and retain their <b><u>competitiveness</u></b> in relation to other centres outside the County. Issues – health checks, local shops, retail expenditure and floor space</p>
<p><b>Transport</b></p>	<p><b>Strategic Integration</b> - The need to work closely with our strategic partners and have regard to related strategies is paramount to achieving <b><u>accessibility</u></b> to <b><u>jobs and services</u></b>, and in achieving a <b><u>sustainable and accessible transport system</u></b>.</p> <p><b>Improving Accessibility</b> - Whilst the percentage of households with access to a motor vehicle has risen consistently to 80.7% in 2003 (Source: WAG Statistics), those with lack of access are denied the potential mobility afforded to car owners. A key aspect of the LDP and any integrated planning and transport system should be to ensure that this disparity does not compound the effects of social exclusion and climate change</p> <p><b>Settlement Pattern and Site Selection</b> - The <b><u>proximity of, and access to, transport</u></b> nodes and corridors should be important considerations in the development of a settlement hierarchy for the LDP</p> <p><b>Cycling and Walking</b> - The promotion, improvement and maintenance of the County’s cycle, footpath and bridleway network are important factors in the promotion of <b><u>alternative transport modes</u></b>.</p>

Topic	Issues raised in papers and through consultation in relation thereto:
<b>The Historic and Natural Environment</b>	<p><b>Reconciling Conflict</b> - Creating and supporting a <b><u>dynamic economy and communities</u></b> whilst <b><u>recognising and protecting the area's natural landscape and historic heritage</u></b> is an important challenge in the preparation of the LDP.</p> <p><b>Distinctiveness</b> – The qualities displayed within the County, be they the highly valued landscapes or historic remains, represent important elements which contribute to the <b><u>distinctiveness</u></b> of the area</p> <p><b>Biodiversity</b> – The LBAP represents an important resource in <b><u>safeguarding</u></b> the area's <b><u>diversity of habitats and species</u></b>, and highlights the high representation within the plan area of priority habitats and species recognised within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p><b>Sustainable Design</b> - The incorporation of concepts such as green roofs, with benefits in terms of biodiversity, water run off management and energy efficiency gains are options for inclusion as part of any policy framework, as indeed could the greening of buildings and utilisation of renewable energy sources. The integration of green corridors or “stepping stones” can contribute to the <b><u>protection and enhancement of biodiversity</u></b></p> <p><b>Landscape Protection</b> – The protection the County's high quality landscapes have long been viewed as important considerations, with previous development plans identifying Special Landscape Areas (SLA). However, the information available to the Council in respect of its landscape has been augmented through participation in the Landmap process.</p>
<b>Tourism</b>	<p>Ensure that sufficient land is allocated for <b><u>tourism</u></b>, Protection and enhancement of existing tourist facilities, <b><u>Minimise conflicts</u></b> with other land uses, Environmental enhancement, Economic development and diversification, Tourism and the Welsh Language, Sustainable transport modes</p>
<b>Recreation</b>	<p>Open space assessment – ensure sufficient space, Co-ordinated approach in working with partners and relevant bodies, <b><u>Protecting and enhancing existing sport, recreation and open space facilities</u></b>, Planning for new open space and recreational facilities and major events, row's, cemeteries, off road recreation and golf courses need considering.</p>
<b>Community Facilities</b>	<p><b>Sustainable development and communities must lie at the heart of the LDP.</b> The provision of new, and the <b><u>safeguarding of existing community facilities</u></b> must be a key objective for the LDP. Facilities such as post offices, convenience food shops and other essential village services can play a vital role in the community.</p>

Topic	Issues raised in papers and through consultation in relation thereto:
Welsh language	Carmarthenshire has the <b><u>highest number of Welsh speakers across Wales</u></b> . The percentage of people that possess one or more skills in the Welsh in 1991 was 55% of the and in 2001 it rose to 64%. An increase in the language's use has been seen among young people, particularly between the ages of five and fifteen. Should the LDP identify language sensitive areas? Other issues – housing, phasing, affordability. During consultation, several respondents commented on the importance of <b><u>measures to help safeguard the Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire</u></b>
Infrastructure	The existence <b><u>of suitable infrastructure services</u></b> including water supply, sewerage, land drainage, gas, electricity and telecommunications is vital for future development. Issues – flood risk, sewerage, surface water, SUDS, telecommunications/ICT/broadband.. It is vital that policies in the LDP <b><u>do not unreasonably restrict infrastructure</u></b> development and that the development strategy adopted is <b><u>developed around the availability of existing infrastructure</u></b> .
Sustainable Energy	Carmarthenshire is <b><u>well-placed to make use of renewable energy</u></b>
Minerals	<b><u>Provide and safeguarding mineral resources - Ensuring supply Safeguarding Areas</u></b> of future working Landbanks - and the issue of apportionment, Protect areas of importance to natural or built heritage, Limit the environmental impact of mineral extraction; Achieve high standard restoration and beneficial after-use; <b><u>Encourage efficient and appropriate use of minerals and the re-use and recycling of suitable materials</u></b> .
Waste	<b><u>Sustainable waste management, Allocation of sites</u></b> , Protection of the environment, <b><u>Reconciling conflict</u></b> , consultation and sustainable design, Types of waste
General Comments on key plan issues that arose from consultation	During consultation, there was concern about what was seen as <b><u>overly dense housing</u></b> developments in the more rural settlements, which they said resulted in a <b><u>detrimental effect on the character of the villages</u></b> . Some respondents raised <b><u>concern</u></b> over what they saw as the negative effects of <b><u>wind farms</u></b> on the landscape. Other respondents supported the idea of farm <b><u>diversification</u></b> as a way of increasing the <b><u>viability of rural areas</u></b> . Reference was made to the importance of referring to <b><u>other strategies</u></b> , such as the Authority's Rights of Way Improvement Plan ( <b><u>ROWIP</u></b> ), the <b><u>Regional Transport Plan, as well as national guidance</u></b> . The importance of road safety also featured amongst the responses was support for protection of the <b><u>viability of town centres</u></b> and <b><u>home working</u></b> .

Topic	Issues raised in papers and through consultation in relation thereto:
<p><b>General Comments on key plan issues that arose from consultation</b></p>	<p>Comments included support for <u>home working</u>, and that new developments – both housing and employment - should be <u>sympathetic</u> to the environment and should utilise principles of <u>sustainable design</u>. There was particular reference to the fragility of features such as <u>archaeological remains</u> and the need for <u>protection</u> of these important <u>remnants of our past</u>. Comments supporting <u>local distinctiveness</u> and <u>sustainable design</u> were also received in respect of both listed buildings as well as the <u>historic environment</u> in general. There was general support for the protection of <u>community facilities</u>. It was noted that such facilities form an important role in creating and achieving <u>sustainable settlements</u> and play a critical role in the community. As well as several objections to <u>wind farm development</u>, there was also support for the different ways of obtaining <u>renewable/sustainable energy</u></p>

### Review of pre deposit evidence baseline data

<b>Environmental</b>	
Sustainable development	The <b><u>ecological footprint</u></b> for the UK is 5.4gha; some 65% higher than the available ecological budget. Carmarthenshire's ecological footprint is 5.29gha per person. The components of Carmarthenshire's ecological footprint that demand the greatest consumptive use of natural resources are <b><u>food and drink, energy, capital investment</u></b> (for example investment in fixed assets such as transportation and buildings), <b><u>travel and consumables</u></b> (clothing and appliances etc.)
Biodiversity	Carmarthenshire has <b><u>large areas of land that are designated for their international importance</u></b> for nature conservation (12 sites) There are also 80 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) situated wholly in Carmarthenshire, with a further suite of 9 SSSIs falling within Carmarthenshire and the Brecon Beacons National Park that are designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Of particular <b><u>relevance to Carmarthenshire</u></b> as a <b><u>predominantly rural County</u></b> , is that more than 50% of species of farmland birds decreased in range over the same 20-year period. This trend is consistent with the recorded decline of farmland birds in the UK as a whole (National Assembly for Wales 2007b).
Air quality	<b><u>Air quality</u></b> in Carmarthenshire is typically <b><u>good</u></b> , and no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been designated. The UK Air Quality Archive indicates that for PM <sub>10</sub> (fine particulates) there are no locations in Carmarthenshire that are likely to exceed the annual mean objectives for 2005 and 2010
Climatic factors	The total annual carbon dioxide emission for Carmarthenshire has been estimated (2002) at some 1.7 million tonnes, of which industry (32%), transport (29%), domestic (27%) and point sources (e.g. major industrial works) (12%) are the most significant contributors. The Carmarthenshire Climate Change Strategy identifies that the <b><u>County is vulnerable to the effects of climate change</u></b>
Water	There are a number of <b><u>major surface watercourses</u></b> within Carmarthenshire. The Eastern Cleddau drains the west of the County. Of greater significance are the catchment areas of the <b><u>Rivers Tywi, Taf and Gwendraeth Fawr and Fach</u></b> , which flow in a general southerly direction and, combine to form the <b><u>Three Rivers Estuaries that flow into Carmarthen Bay</u></b> . The management of flooding issues is undertaken sub-regionally in Wales. Carmarthenshire's streams are typically of <b><u>good chemical and biological quality</u></b> .
Material assets – car ownership	According to 2001 Census data, the percentage of the working population in <b><u>Wales travelling to work by car is in line with the national average for Wales</u></b> , at approximately 70% of Carmarthenshire's working population. <b><u>The rate of car ownership in Carmarthenshire is above the national average</u></b> , with 76.9% of households having access to a private car. The number of <b><u>licensed private vehicles</u></b> in Carmarthenshire in 2004 was the <b><u>fourth highest</u></b> of all the Unitary Authorities in Wales and in in 2004, <b><u>1.8billion road vehicle kilometres were driven</u></b> in Carmarthenshire. This

	is the <b>third highest</b> value of road vehicle kilometres driven out of all of the Unitary Authorities in Wales.
Waste	Carmarthenshire falls within the South West Wales regional area for waste management. Industrial waste makes up the most significant proportion of the total controlled waste stream; that is municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial waste, construction and demolition waste and agricultural waste. The proportion of <b>municipal waste recycled</b> or composted in Carmarthenshire (26.3%) is <b>just above the national average</b> of 25.9% (National Assembly for Wales 2007a). For the <b>region as a whole</b> , there is a <b>heavy reliance upon landfill</b> for controlled waste as 60% of controlled waste generated in the region is sent to landfill. Approximately 79,500 tonnes of municipal solid waste was landfilled in Carmarthenshire in 1999/2000 with the majority of domestic and commercial waste sent to the landfill site at Nantycaws
Soil	Five priority Areas (former industrial areas and the key population centre of Carmarthen) have been identified for the inspection of <b>contaminated land in the County</b> . Llanelli Central (2,810ha), Ammanford/Amman Valley (12,786ha) Llanelli Outer (6,963ha), Carmarthen (4,450ha), Gwendraeth Valley (22,653ha). Given that Carmarthenshire is a predominantly <b>rural County, diffuse pollution from agricultural sources</b> and inputs of fine sediment is likely to be of <b>concern</b> for fluvial environments in rural areas. However, <b>water quality data indicate that the chemical and biological quality of the County's streams is typically good</b> . According to the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) data made available by Defra, there is no land of the highest grades (Grade 1 and Grade 2) present in Carmarthenshire. A patchwork of <b>Grade 3 land</b> is situated towards the south and southeast of the County following the <b>Tywi river valley</b> , stretching from Llandovery in the east, through Llangadog, Llandeilo and Carmarthen. <b>The majority of land in Carmarthenshire is classified as Grade 4 land</b> , with a small proportion of Grade 5 land situated towards the northeast of the County. Geology data is also available if required.

<b>Economic</b>	
Education and Skills	Data from the 2001 Census indicates that the proportion of Carmarthenshire's 19-21 year olds with at least an <b><u>NVQ Level 2 qualification</u></b> or equivalent rests at 20.6% and falls <b><u>just above the national average</u></b> of 19.78%. The proportion of the Carmarthenshire population that has at least an <b><u>NVQ level 4 qualification</u></b> or equivalent is <b><u>in line with the national average</u></b> . However, the proportion of people in Carmarthenshire with <b><u>no qualifications</u></b> is <b><u>above the national average</u></b> at 34% and is <b><u>particularly high when compared</u></b> against a rate of 25.0% in the neighbouring local authority of <b><u>Ceredigion</u></b> . In Carmarthenshire, 20% of the adult Welsh population have entry level or below literacy skills whilst 59% have entry level numeracy skills. The proportion of the adult Welsh population that have <b><u>Level 2 numeracy skills falls some way below the national rate of 22% at 8%</u></b> .
Economy and Economic Activity	The percentage of people of <b><u>working age in work</u></b> in Carmarthenshire is 65.3% and <b><u>falls some way below the national working age employment rate</u></b> of 73.9%. The proportion of the Carmarthenshire population of working age that is <b><u>economically inactive</u></b> is 27.21% <b><u>and is more in line with the national average</u></b> of 26.6%. The proportion of people in Carmarthenshire that <b><u>claim Job Seeker's Allowance</u></b> is 2.4% of the population and <b><u>falls just below the national average</u></b> of 3%. In Carmarthenshire, <b><u>the types of industries</u></b> in which most people are employed are:- <b><u>Wholesale, retail and repairs, Health and Social, Manufacturing and Education</u></b> . This <b><u>pattern is consistent</u></b> with the trends in the <b><u>neighbouring local authorities</u></b> of Ceredigion and Powys. The percentage of the working population that <b><u>work mainly at or from home</u></b> is 7.9% and <b><u>is lower than the national average</u></b> of 9.7%. The Carmarthenshire Strategy for Prosperity 2005 – 2015 (Carmarthenshire Connexions 2005), states that <b><u>Gross Value Added</u></b> (GVA) per capita and productivity in the County have shown <b><u>strong performance</u></b> by historical standards. In addition, there has been <b><u>growth in jobs</u></b> and unemployment is at a long-term low. There has been <b><u>growth in the establishment of new business</u></b> as well as a trend for an <b><u>increasing number of people gaining higher level qualifications</u></b> and a fall in those without any qualifications. The main <b><u>economic challenges</u></b> that the County faces relate to the needs to <b><u>increase rates of productivity, and to retain talented and qualified young people</u></b> . <b><u>Economic and social exclusion</u></b> are also considered to represent <b><u>challenges</u></b> in the community and <b><u>skill levels fall below</u></b> UK levels. The Strategy also indicates that the <b><u>environmental quality of key towns</u></b> and <b><u>retail centres</u></b> needs to be <b><u>improved</u></b> .

<b>Social</b>	
Cultural heritage and built environment	Given the often <b><u>large distances between regional centres</u></b> in Carmarthenshire, towns and villages have historically developed <b><u>distinctive local identities and cultures, based around industrial and agricultural heritage</u></b> . There are <b><u>seven Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest</u></b> that fall wholly or partly within Carmarthenshire:- Black Mountain & Mynydd Myddfai, Tywi Valley, Preseli, Dolaucothi, Taf and Tywi Estuary, Drefach and Felindre, Lower Teifi Valley. There are also <b><u>352 Scheduled Ancient Monuments</u></b> (SAM) in Carmarthenshire; ranging from Prehistoric to Post-Medieval/Modern features of cultural heritage interest.
Landscape	The Brecon Beacons National Park is one of the most important landscape and nature conservation designations in the country. The National Park is an important geological resource, as well as also being important for biodiversity, and cultural heritage. The management of development in the National Park is covered by a separate National Park Development Plan Document, and as such is not incorporated into the Carmarthenshire LDP. There are also <b><u>sixteen Special Landscape Areas in the County</u></b> (Carmarthenshire County Council 2006a)
Population data	At the 2001 Census, the <b><u>population</u></b> of Carmarthenshire was 172,842. Between 1991 and 2001 the population of Carmarthenshire <b><u>grew by 2.36%</u></b> ; slightly above the national population growth of 1% for the same period. In the <b><u>0-19 and 20-44 age groups</u></b> in Carmarthenshire between 1991 and 2001, the percentage of the Carmarthenshire population making up these <b><u>age groups decreased</u></b> , whilst the component population of <b><u>45-64 and 65+ age groups increased</u></b> . This suggests that there is a <b><u>tendency of out-migration amongst young people</u></b> in Carmarthenshire. Given the decline in people aged 20-44 and wider trends for falling birth rates and increased life expectancy in developed nations, the population structure of Carmarthenshire <b><u>is likely to become skewed towards an older population</u></b> . A <b><u>small percentage</u></b> of people in Carmarthenshire (0.94%) are from <b><u>ethnic minority groups</u></b> . The national percentage population from ethnic minority groups in Wales is 2.0%. The average rate of residents in Wales being born outside the country is 24.6%. Statistics for Carmarthenshire indicate that a <b><u>much lower percentage of the population are born outside Wales</u></b> (19.9%).
Household projections	The <b><u>general trend in the population</u></b> of Carmarthenshire indicates that the population in the ten year period from 1991 to 2001 <b><u>grew by approximately</u></b> the same amount as the five year period between 2001 and 2006 i.e. increases <b><u>of 4,000 and 4,300 respectively</u></b> . The <b><u>UDP sought to introduce an interventionist</u></b> approach aimed at stemming out migration and thus departed from the then trend based Assembly projections to forecast further increased levels of population growth. In doing so it estimated an approximate growth of 24,000 by 2016. By way of comparison the projected estimate for 2006 as contained within the <b><u>UDP was for 176,318 which compares with the 178,000 at mid 2006 (Source: ONS)</u></b> . The Assembly Government are in the process of producing projections for Unitary Authorities in Wales based on a "bottom up" approach which it is understood will be

	available shortly. The Authority will produce estimates for the County based upon <b><u>up to date and robust data</u></b> to inform the future direction through the LDP. These emerging projections will examine the <b><u>propensity for continued population growth with any variations from WAG projections being subject to a robust justification and methodology.</u></b>
Welsh language	<b><u>A high percentage</u></b> of Carmarthenshire's residents <b><u>identify themselves as Welsh</u></b> (23.4%) when compared to the national average (17.9%). Carmarthenshire also has a <b><u>high percentage of Welsh speakers</u></b> (50.3% of the County population) when compared to the average for Wales (20.8%). The Welsh <b><u>language is an important cultural, social and economic component</u></b> of life in Carmarthenshire (Carmarthenshire County Council 2008a). Census data indicates that in Carmarthenshire, the proportion of people using the <b><u>Welsh language is increasing, particularly young people</u></b>
Health and well being	The rate of individuals in Carmarthenshire who rate their general state of <b><u>health as 'good' rests at 62.4% and falls below the national average of 65.1%.</u></b> The rate of individuals in Carmarthenshire with a <b><u>long-term limiting illness is particularly elevated above the national average</u></b> of 23.3% at a rate of 35.6%. However <b><u>life expectancy for individuals in Carmarthenshire is in line with the national average</u></b> for both males and females. The national <b><u>rate of teenage conceptions</u></b> per 1,000 individuals Wales is 45.7. The rate for Carmarthenshire <b><u>falls significantly below</u></b> this at 36.7 per 1,000 population. The proportion of <b><u>adult smokers</u></b> and the <b><u>prevalence of obesity</u></b> in Carmarthenshire are both <b><u>slightly above the national average.</u></b>
Noise	A survey undertaken by the Carmarthenshire Citizen's Panel (2003), indicates that 91% of respondents felt that it was either very or fairly important that they are not disturbed by noise, with 51% of respondents considering that their neighbourhoods had become noisier over time. The Welsh Assembly Government has recently generated strategic <b><u>noise maps</u></b> for major roads, rail, airports, and agglomerations. The mapping indicates that in Carmarthenshire, the following components of <b><u>transportation infrastructure contribute to high noise levels</u></b> (WAG 2008) A40 – St Clears to Carmarthen, A48 – Carmarthen to Hendy, A4183 – Hendy to Llanelli, A484 – Llanelli. The WAG is currently in the process of consulting on the Action Plan to reduce noise where it is deemed to be a problem and to protect quiet areas.
Social Fabric – Welsh IMD	Per 1,000 population, the number of <b><u>rough sleepers</u></b> rests at 3.9 and <b><u>is above the national average</u></b> of 3.4. The Carmarthenshire <b><u>Housing Strategy</u></b> 2007 – 2010 (Carmarthenshire Country Council 2006b) states that the <b><u>number of households applying as homeless has dropped significantly</u></b> , as well as the numbers accepted as homeless and the number of households moving through temporary accommodation. <b><u>Rates of household burglary</u></b> per 1,000 population <b><u>fall quite significantly below the national average.</u></b> Similarly, <b><u>rates of violent crime, vehicle theft and theft from motor vehicles</u></b> in Carmarthenshire also <b><u>fall some way below</u></b> the national average. Although between 2002 and 2006, vehicle theft reduced significantly, the burglary and theft from motor vehicles have seen an increase in

		<p>rates. For Wales as a whole, rates of crime in the aforementioned categories have decreased. In Wales, rates of fear of crime with respect to car theft, burglary and physical attack, are typically lower than in England, particularly in terms of violent crime. The WIMD 2005 indicates that out of a total of <b><u>112 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Carmarthenshire, 7 were in the most deprived 10% of LSOAs in Wales.</u></b> The Wales IMD data 2007 indicates that in Carmarthenshire, <b><u>levels of deprivation</u></b> when compared to overall patterns in Wales <b><u>are highest</u></b> with respect to <b><u>Geographical Access to Services and Employment and lowest for Environment and Housing.</u></b></p>
Housing availability	land	<p>The Joint Housing Land Availability Study – 30th June 2005 (November 2007) as at the 30th June 2005 identified Carmarthenshire as having a <b><u>5 year supply of land sufficient for 2759 dwellings</u></b>, 86% of which were expected to be provided on larger sites (5+ sites) with the remaining contribution (14%) through sites of up to five dwellings. Of the larger sites 2246 units are through the private sector. It identifies 459 units as being under construction on larger sites (90% private sector). It reveals that 1265 units were completed in the study period (98% private sector). The small site contribution to total completions is at an estimated average annual rate of 77 units. <b><u>The 2007 JHLAS will be undertaken in accordance</u></b> with the revised Technical Advice Note 1 and the policy requirements set out within MIPPS 01/2006 and will be prepared on an annual basis.</p>
House prices and affordability		<p><b><u>Household tenure</u></b> in Carmarthenshire is <b><u>dominated by owner occupation</u></b> (72.4%); however the proportion of <b><u>social rented accommodation (17.2%) is more than double that of private rented accommodation (6.6%).</u></b> The cost of housing in Wales, as in the rest of the UK has risen considerably over the last decade. The <b><u>average house price</u></b> in Carmarthenshire in <b><u>April 2007 was £138,525.</u></b> <b><u>In comparison for England and Wales in April 2007, the average house price was £179,935.</u></b> The average price/earning ratio indicates that <b><u>the price of housing is 8 times the average income.</u></b> According to the Carmarthenshire Housing Strategy (2007 – 2010) (Carmarthenshire County Council 2006b), <b><u>affordability is a significant issue</u></b> and there is a <b><u>shortfall of affordable homes.</u></b> The <b><u>greatest housing need in the County is in the rural Tywi, Taf and Teifi Community Network areas.</u></b> <b><u>Demand for social housing is high and exceeds supply.</u></b> Carmarthenshire's Strategy for Prosperity (2007 – 2015) states that <b><u>levels of exclusion are highest in Community First areas, namely Glanymor, Tyisha, Felinfoel, Llwynhendy, Pantyffynnon and Brynamman.</u></b></p>

**Initial testing of the LDP Strategic Objectives against the Sustainability Objectives**

<b>C</b>	Objectives are compatible
<b>?</b>	Uncertainty over compatibility
<b>N</b>	Objectives are not compatible
<b>-</b>	No relationship between objectives

Carmarthenshire LDP Strategic Objectives														
A Better Place				Opening Doors		Feeling Fine		Investment and Innovation			Feeling Secure			
To protect and enhance the diverse character, distinctiveness, safety and vibrancy of the County's communities by ensuring sympathetic and high quality standards of design.				To assist in widening and promoting education and skills training opportunities for all.		To assist with the delivery of an integrated and sustainable transport system that is accessible to all.		To encourage investment & innovation (both rural and urban) by: (a) making provision for the business and employment developmental needs of indigenous and new employers, particularly in terms of hard & soft infrastructural requirements (including telecommunications/ICT); and (b) adhering to the principles of sustainable development and social inclusion.			To assist with the delivery and management of mixed & sustainable communities by: (a) promoting safe, vibrant and socially interactive places and (b) promoting the utilisation of local services and produce whenever possible.			
To ensure that the principles of sustainability are upheld by (a) encouraging new development on previously developed land and (b) enabling development in the most sustainable locations in order to minimise the need to travel.				To assist in protecting and enhancing the County's unique cultural identity, assets and social fabric.		To assist with the delivery of an integrated and sustainable transport system that is accessible to all.		To encourage investment & innovation (both rural and urban) by: (a) making provision for the business and employment developmental needs of indigenous and new employers, particularly in terms of hard & soft infrastructural requirements (including telecommunications/ICT); and (b) adhering to the principles of sustainable development and social inclusion.			To assist with the delivery and management of mixed & sustainable communities by: (a) promoting safe, vibrant and socially interactive places and (b) promoting the utilisation of local services and produce whenever possible.			
To make provision for an appropriate mix of quality homes; access to which will be based around the principles of sustainable development and equality of opportunities.				To assist with widening and promoting opportunities for everyone to utilise the County's community, leisure and recreational facilities.		To assist with the delivery of an integrated and sustainable transport system that is accessible to all.		To encourage investment & innovation (both rural and urban) by: (a) making provision for the business and employment developmental needs of indigenous and new employers, particularly in terms of hard & soft infrastructural requirements (including telecommunications/ICT); and (b) adhering to the principles of sustainable development and social inclusion.			To assist with the delivery and management of mixed & sustainable communities by: (a) promoting safe, vibrant and socially interactive places and (b) promoting the utilisation of local services and produce whenever possible.			
To ensure that the natural, built and historic environment is safeguarded and enhanced.				To assist with the delivery of an integrated and sustainable transport system that is accessible to all.		To assist with the delivery of an integrated and sustainable transport system that is accessible to all.		To encourage investment & innovation (both rural and urban) by: (a) making provision for the business and employment developmental needs of indigenous and new employers, particularly in terms of hard & soft infrastructural requirements (including telecommunications/ICT); and (b) adhering to the principles of sustainable development and social inclusion.			To assist with the delivery and management of mixed & sustainable communities by: (a) promoting safe, vibrant and socially interactive places and (b) promoting the utilisation of local services and produce whenever possible.			
To assist with tackling the cause and effect of waste, climate change and pollution through promoting recycling, renewable energy, green innovation and the effective use of resources.				To assist with the delivery of an integrated and sustainable transport system that is accessible to all.		To assist with the delivery of an integrated and sustainable transport system that is accessible to all.		To encourage investment & innovation (both rural and urban) by: (a) making provision for the business and employment developmental needs of indigenous and new employers, particularly in terms of hard & soft infrastructural requirements (including telecommunications/ICT); and (b) adhering to the principles of sustainable development and social inclusion.			To assist with the delivery and management of mixed & sustainable communities by: (a) promoting safe, vibrant and socially interactive places and (b) promoting the utilisation of local services and produce whenever possible.			
SA/SEA Sustainability Objectives														
<b>1 – Sustainable Development</b>														
1-1 To live within environmental limits				(Refer to the outcomes of the assessment of the SA/SEA Objectives below)										
1-2 To ensure a strong, healthy and just society				(Refer to the outcomes of the assessment of the SA/SEA Objectives below)										
1-3 To achieve a sustainable economy				(Refer to the outcomes of the assessment of the SA/SEA Objectives below)										
1-4 To remove barriers and promoting opportunities for behavioural change				(Refer to the outcomes of the assessment of the SA/SEA Objectives below)										
<b>2 - Biodiversity</b>														
2-1 To avoid damage or fragmentation of designated sites, habitats and protected species and encourage their enhancement				-										
2-2 To protect, enhance and create appropriate wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors in urban and rural areas.				-										
<b>3 - Air Quality</b>														
3-1 To maintain/reduce the levels of the UK National Air Quality pollutants				-										
3-2 To reduce levels of ground level ozone				-										
3-3 To reduce the need to travel, through appropriate siting of new developments and provision of public transport infrastructure				-										
<b>4 - Climatic Factors</b>														
4-1 To deliver a significant reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases														
4-2 To minimise the vulnerability of Carmarthenshire to the effects of climate change through making space for water, coastal retreat and shifting habitat distribution patterns														
4-3 To require all new developments to be climate resilient														
4-4 To encourage energy conservation and higher energy efficiency														
4-5 To minimise energy consumption and promote appropriate renewable energy sources														
4-6 To climate-proof existing development, infrastructure and material assets														
<b>5 - Water</b>														
5-1 To ensure water quality of rivers, lakes, groundwater and coastal areas is improved and ensure that the hydromorphological quality of water bodies is maximised				-										
5-2 To protect and maintain water resources in the public supply chain and ensure enough water is available for the environment at all times of year				-										
5-3 To minimise diffuse pollution from urban and rural areas				-										
5-4 To increase water efficiency in new and refurbished developments				-										
5-5 To make space for water, and minimise flood risk				-										
<b>6 - Material Assets</b>														



