



Non-Technical Summary

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Non-Technical Summary

Introduction

As a Local Planning Authority, Flintshire County Council (CC) has a duty to prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP) that sets its strategy for development within its area and the policies that will be used to direct development and determine applications for planning permission across the entire County. The LDP which will cover the time period between 2015 and 2030, will provide the framework to facilitate the sustainable delivery of growth and development.

When preparing the LDP Preferred Strategy, it is a legal requirement to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to ensure that it is developed within the principles of sustainable development. The term Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) can be used to describe the process of covering more than one type of impact assessment into a single process. Integrating different types of impact assessment into a single process can improve efficiencies in both the assessment itself, as many of the issues covered in the different forms of assessment overlap, as well as simplifying outcomes and recommendations for policy makers. Where more detail on certain issues is required or necessary, this can be undertaken and included within the IIA. This approach has been adopted across Wales, where an integrated approach to assessing the impacts of the strategies, incorporating the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), SA, Health Impact Assessment (HIA), and Equalities Impact A

Equalities Impact Assessment

The Equality Act 2010 includes a public-sector equality duty which requires public organisations and those delivering public functions to show due regard to the need to:

Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation;

Advance equality of opportunity; and

Foster good relations between communities.

Consequently, we are undertaking a high-level assessment of the possible equalities impacts of the Local Plan. This has been integrated into the IIA process. As part of the rescoping exercise, we have considered how equality concerns and objectives can be incorporated within the updated SA framework, especially in light of the Well-being for Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act

In March 2015, the National Assembly for Wales approved the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, helping place Wales on a more sustainable path towards achieving well-being. The Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales developed around the principle of sustainable development. It gives a legally-binding common purpose – the seven well-being goals – for national government, local government, local health boards and other specified public bo

The LDP's Strategic Policies.

The IIA process is iterative, with regular feedback occurring between the plan-makers and the IIA team as plan options and policies are developed.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

To ensure that a robust assessment of the emerging LDP is undertaken, it is necessary to understand the existing conditions and characteristics of the Flintshire area, for example, population dynamics, levels of deprivation, health, employment patterns and the condition of housing stock and its affordability. These are detailed in the IIA Report. The list below identifies the sustainability topics covered in the IIA. Details of the identified issues and opportunities are provided in the IIA Report.

Population: pressure on health services, residential housing, services for the older generation, the fall in the numbers of young people resulting in less care for the elderly.

Education and qualifications: number of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs - a geographic area to better report on small area statistics in the UK) in the bottom 10% as a percentage of working residents with National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level 4 or above.

Biodiversity: impacts on national and international sites from development, effects on species from increasing populations, variation across the County of residents able to access green space.

Landscape and townscape: vulnerability of the valuable townscapes / landscape character of County to, for example, new developments.

Soil and geology: Mining, in its various guises, as well as heavy industry, has left a legacy of land contamination and residual contaminated land and the need for remediation. The geology of the County results in there being considerable mineral resources.

Water: increased threat from surface water flooding, coastal flooding and flooding and the mobilisation of contaminants linked to contaminated land. Potential consequences for the River Dee and the Dee Estuary associated with water supply and abstraction for new developments, should problems like drought be stimulated.

Air quality and climate change: climate change could lead to increased flood and or drought events. New development in areas such as Deeside could impact on the Dee Estuary.

Cultural Heritage: risks associated with climate change, including extreme weather events posing problems for managing and conserving cultural heritage. Also there is potential for undiscovered archaeological remains to exist.

Minerals and Waste: Depletion of valuable finite mineral resources. Opportunities should be sought to safeguard mineral assets for future generations, this would also be supported through the sustainable extraction of minerals.

Human health: varying levels of deprivation occur across the County with the coastal strip particularly affected. There are pressures associated with an increasingly ageing population, associated health service and care needs. There are opportunities for health improvements, quality of life and the economy through the provision of healthcare and key services.

Local economy: There are pockets of deprivation along the coastal strip, with income and employment levels comparatively low compared to the more rural parts of the County. There is an increased number of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA – benefit paid to those seeking work) claimants. There are currently two Flintshire LSOAs in the bottom 10% for employment deprivation. There has also been a fall in the proportion of Flintshire residents economically active which may lead to a labour shortfall.

Housing: high percentage of LSOAs in the bottom 10% of housing deprivation,

Transportation: accessibility and connectivity; congestion; opportunities for more sustainable modes of transport and improved connectivity, increasing commuter distances. Accessibility is a particular issue in rural areas.

IIA Framework for Assessment

The IIA Framework underpins the assessment methodology and comprises a series of sustainability objectives (covering social, economic and environmental issues) that are used to test the performance of the plan being assessed. The IIA Objectives have been developed using the review of other relevant plans, programmes and environmental objectives, the baseline data and the key issue and opportunities. The IIA Framework was amended following receipt of the Scoping Report consultation responses from statutory consultees in 2015. The following IIA Objectives form the basis of the IIA Framework. These are supported by a series of sub-objectives, indicators and targets, which can be found in the IIA Report (Table 3-5):

- 1 To reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime
- 2 To improve levels of educational attainment for all age groups and all sectors of society
- 3 To improve physical and mental health and wellbeing for all and reduce health inequalities
- 4 To provide access to good quality, affordable housing that meets the needs and requirements of the community
- 5 To improve sustainable access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups
- 6 To build strong and cohesive communities
- 7 To promote a sustainable economy, business development and investment
- 8 To provide employment opportunities across the County and promote economic inclusion
- 9 To maintain and improve the quality of life in rural areas
- 10 To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity
- 11 To conserve and enhance the County's landscape and townscape character and quality
- 12 To protect and enhance the cultural heritage assets
- 13 To protect and enhance the quality of water features and resources
- 14 To reduce the risk of flooding
- 15 To protect and improve air quality and limit greenhouse gas emissions
- 16 To increase energy efficiency, require the use of renewable energy and sustainable building design
- 17 To ensure sustainable use of natural resources
- 18 To encourage the protection and promotion of the Welsh Language

Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects:

Spatial Options

Government guidance advises that only reasonable alternatives should be considered and they should be sufficiently distinct to enable a meaningful comparison of their different environmental effects.

The LDP Spatial Options and growth scenarios were assessed and reported on in October 2016.

Spatial Vision and Objectives

Good practice guidance recommends that the key aims and principles of the plan should be assessed

along with this accompanying IIA Report and associated appendices will be consulted on. Following the close of the consultation period, Flintshire CC will review the feedback and incorporate it into the Deposit LDP.

If you would like to comment on this IIA Report, please send comments to:

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or

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Abbreviations

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CC	County Council
cSAC	Candidate Special Area of Conservation
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
EqIA	Equalities Impact Assessment
HER	Historic Environment Record
HIA	Health Impact Assessment
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
HMO	Houses in Multiple Occupation
IIA	Integrated Impact Assessment
JSA	Job Seekers Allowance
LDP	Local Development Plan

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