



Powys Local Development Plan 2011- 2026

Strategic Environmental Assessment
and Sustainability Appraisal

Inspector's Matters Arising Changes -
Addenda to the Environmental Report and
Sustainability Appraisal Report

April 2018

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Section 1- Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Report

Powys County Council (the County Council) submitted the Powys Local Development Plan (LDP) to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in February 2016. Following Examination Hearings held between March 2017 and January 2018, the Inspector's Report¹ was published on 14th March 2018. The Inspector's Report sets out a number of changes to the Powys Local Development Plan 2011-2026, Deposit Draft (incorporating Focussed Changes and Further Focussed Changes) that are needed to meet legal and statutory requirements and to ensure that the LDP is sound.

This report presents the findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Inspector's Matters Arising Changes (IMACs), as contained in Appendix B to the Inspector's Report. The report is an addendum to the following documents:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report of the Powys Local Development Plan 2011-2026, Deposit Draft (incorporating Focussed Changes and Further Focussed Changes) (October 2016);
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report Addendum: Composite Deposit Plan with Focussed Changes and Further Focussed Changes plus Matters Arising Changes (September 2017); and
- Sustainability Appraisal Report Composite Version Incorporating Matters Arising Changes (September 2017).

The following sections of this report:

- provide an overview of the LDP and the plan preparation process to-date;
- describe the approach to identifying the IMACs that are considered significant for the purposes of the SEA and SA;
- set out the approach taken to the assessment of those IMACs considered significant;
- summarise the findings of the SEA and SA of the significant IMACs; and
- details the next steps in the SEA and SA of the LDP.

1.2 The Local Development Plan

Once adopted, the Powys LDP will replace the Powys Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2001-2016 (adopted March 2010). The LDP sets out, inter-alia, the vision and objectives for the future growth of the County, the overarching spatial strategy (in terms of the quantum and distribution of growth), policies for the development and use of land in Powys up to 2026 and site allocations. The LDP applies to all of Powys except land within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

The development of the LDP has been informed by evidence including (but not limited to) a Local Housing Market Assessment, Retail Study, Employment Needs Assessment, Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment and Viability Assessment. This evidence, together with ongoing assessment (which includes the SEA, SA and Habitats Regulations Assessment)

¹ Planning Inspectorate (2018) *Report on the Examination into the Powys Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026*. Prepared by Nicola Gulley.

and extensive public consultation has been used to support the preparation of the LDP's policies and proposals.

Based on this work, the County Council prepared the Powys LDP 2011-2026, Deposit Draft, June 2015 (hereafter referred to as the 'Deposit Draft LDP'). The Deposit Draft LDP was available for public consultation between 8th June and 20th July 2015. Having considered the representations made on the Deposit Draft LDP, the County Council made amendments to the Plan to address some of the matters and issues raised by the submissions. The main changes to the Deposit Draft LDP were as follows:

- the inclusion of a strategic policy section to clarify the Plan's strategy;
- the redrafting of the development management section;
- an amended dwelling requirement, affordable housing target, and housing provision figure, based on a consideration of the representations, and further evidence;
- an amended employment land requirement, based on a further assessment of sites;
- revisions to various policies and reasoned justifications; and
- housing site allocation changes, in particular in the Ystradgynlais area.

These proposed changes were referred to as 'Focussed Changes' and were published for public consultation from 29th January 2016 to 11th March 2016 prior to submission of the LDP to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination by an independent Inspector.

Following an Exploratory Meeting held on 10th May 2016, the appointed Planning Inspector wrote to the County Council on 25th May 2016 outlining her decision to suspend the Examination for a period of six months in order to enable the authority to prepare additional evidence. Having undertaken the additional work, the County Council consulted on Further Focussed Changes to the LDP. The Further Focussed Changes reflected the additional evidence base work undertaken by the County Council, new national planning policy and the advice of the Planning Inspector. The main changes included:

- revision of the Strategy section to provide greater clarity and to include additional and distinct strategic policies;
- the re-drafting of the development management section;
- an amended housing provision figure and affordable housing target;
- inclusion of Local Search Areas for wind and solar PV schemes (based on a Renewable Energy Assessment, August 2016);
- incorporation of site allocations into relevant policies;
- revisions to various policies and reasoned justifications;
- inclusion of new policies including the safeguarding of the Newtown by-pass route;
- deletion of policies relating to the historic environment; and
- amendments to site allocations with regard to densities and introduction of previously committed sites (Housing Land Bank).

Public consultation on the Further Focussed Changes to the Deposit Draft LDP took place between 10th October and 21st November 2016 prior to recommencement of the Examination into the LDP.

Following consultation on the Further Focussed Changes, the Examination recommenced and a series of Hearing sessions took place over a 17 week period starting 28th March 2017. The County Council subsequently consulted on a number of proposed changes that emerged as a result of matters arising during the Hearing sessions. These changes were set out in the Powys Local Development Plan Schedule of Matters Arising Changes (September 2017)² and reflected in the Local Development Plan Composite Version incorporating

² Powys County Council (2017). *Powys Local Development Plan Schedule of Proposed Matters Arising Changes*. Available online:

Matters Arising Changes (September 2017)³. A total of 203 MACs were proposed; the main changes included:

- revisions to policy wording and/or supporting text;
- the deletion and/or merging of policies;
- the inclusion of new policies; and
- changes to proposed site allocations.

Public consultation on the MACs took place between 19th September and 30th October 2017. On 10th January 2018, an additional session of the Examination was held specifically in respect of the revised renewable energy evidence base and Policy RE 1 of the LDP prior to conclusion of the Hearings.

Following the conclusion of the Hearings in January 2018, the Inspector's Report was published on 14th March 2018. The Inspector's Report sets out a total of five changes (IMACs) to the LDP that are needed to meet legal and statutory requirements and to ensure that the LDP is sound. The changes are summarised in **Section 2.1** and concern Policies DM14, H1, SP1, DM2, DM15 and RE1, as well as supporting text.

1.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment

In developing the LDP, the County Council must incorporate the requirements of European Union Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, referred to as the SEA Directive, implemented through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations). The objective of the SEA Directive and regulations is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes such as local development plans.

The County Council undertook a formal screening exercise on 5th July 2011 which determined that the LDP required environmental assessment under the SEA Directive. Subsequently, SEA has been undertaken throughout the development of the LDP in order to integrate environmental considerations into the development of the Plan. The main stages of the SEA process as it has been applied to the preparation of the LDP are summarised below:

- **SEA “Baseline Scoping”** - the County Council consulted on the scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report between 29th July 2011 and 2nd September 2011.
- **Pre-Deposit LDP draft Environmental Report** - from 19th March to 30th April 2012 the County Council issued the Pre-Deposit LDP documents for public consultation, including a draft Environmental Report.
- **Initial Deposit Stage Environmental Report 2014** – Initial Deposit LDP documents were issued for public consultation, including the Initial Deposit Stage Environmental Report 2014, from 28th July to the 8th September 2014.
- **Deposit Stage Environmental Report 2015** – following consideration of representations made during the Initial Deposit Stage in 2014, the County Council determined to issue revised Deposit LDP documents for public consultation, including a revised Deposit Stage Environmental Report, from June 8th 2015 to July 20th 2015.

http://pstatic.powys.gov.uk/fileadmin/Docs/Planning/LDP/LDP_2015/LDP_Stages/2017_MAC/Schedule_of_Matters_Arising_Changes_Written_Statement_September_2017_En.pdf

³ Powys County Council (2017) *Powys Local Development Plan Composite Version Incorporating Matters Arising Changes*. Available online:

http://pstatic.powys.gov.uk/fileadmin/Docs/Planning/LDP/LDP_2015/LDP_Stages/2017_MAC/Composite_Version_incorporating_Matters_Arising_Changes_September_2017_En.pdf

- **Deposit Stage (incorporating Focussed Changes) Environmental Report 2016** - having considered the representations made on the Deposit Draft LDP, the County Council made amendments to the Plan to address some of the matters and issues raised by submissions and a revised Environmental Report was prepared and consulted on alongside the Focussed Changes between 29th January and 11th March 2016 prior to submission of the LDP for Examination.
- **Examination and Further Focussed Changes** – following an Exploratory Meeting held on 10th May 2016, the appointed Planning Inspector wrote to the County Council on 25th May 2016 outlining her decision to suspend the Examination for a period of six months in order to enable the authority to prepare additional evidence. Having undertaken the additional work, the County Council consulted on Further Focussed Changes to the LDP prior to the recommencement of the Examination in March 2017. The Further Focussed Changes (the ‘Deposit Plan’) were assessed and the outcomes presented in the October 2016 SEA Environmental Report.
- **Matters Arising Changes (MACs)** - a number of proposed changes to the LDP were identified by the County Council during the Hearing Sessions that took place from March to June 2017 were collated and published as MACs to the LDP. In order to ensure that the environmental effects of these changes were adequately assessed, an addendum⁴ was prepared to the October 2016 SEA Environmental Report⁵.

This report assesses the likely significant effects of the IMACs in order to update the October 2016 SEA Environmental Report (including the September 2017 Addendum) as appropriate. This is to ensure that all the likely significant effects of the LDP (to be adopted) have been identified, described and evaluated. It should be read in conjunction with these reports which can be accessed via the Council’s website: <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/planning-building-control/local-development-plan/ldp-examination/core-documents-library-for-ldp-examination/ldp-documents/>

1.4 Sustainability Appraisal

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on public bodies to sustainably meet defined well-being goals. The Act defines sustainable development as “*the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals*”. In the Act, any reference to a public body doing something “*in accordance with the sustainable development principle*” means that the body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs⁶.

All LDPs are expected to ‘*contribute to the achievement of sustainable development*’ (Section 39 of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) and in this context, the County Council is required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the LDP as an integral part of the plan making process. The purpose of SA is to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of a plan so that decisions on its content are made on

⁴ Powys County Council (2017) *Local Development Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report Addendum*. Available online: http://pstatic.powys.gov.uk/fileadmin/Docs/Planning/LDP/LDP_2015/LDP_Stages/2017_MAC/SEA_Environmental_Report_Addendum_Sept_2017_includes_Appendices_1_2_4_for_publication.pdf

⁵ Powys County Council (2017) *Local Development Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report Addendum*. Available online: http://pstatic.powys.gov.uk/fileadmin/Docs/Planning/LDP/LDP_2015/LDP_Stages/2017_MAC/SEA_Environmental_Report_Addendum_Sept_2017_includes_Appendices_1_2_4_for_publication.pdf

⁶ It should be noted that the LDP is exempt from the requirements of the Act as it was submitted before 1st April 2016.

an informed basis. The SA considers how implementation of a plan will help to meet sustainable development objectives.

The County Council has also signed the Sustainable Development Charter for Wales. Undertaking SA to inform the LDP acts on the County Council's commitment to sustainable development by embedding sustainable development into decision-making.

Alongside SEA, SA has been undertaken as an integral part of the preparation of the LDP. The SA methodology was subject to a formal Baseline Scoping consultation during 2011. The final selected methodology was arrived at through consultation and involvement with stakeholders including statutory consultees, the County Council's internal LDP Working Group and the County Council's Sustainable Development Co-ordinator.

The emerging LDP has been subsequently subject to SA with the findings presented in a series of SA Reports issued for public consultation during the following stages of plan preparation:

- Preferred LDP Strategy (2012);
- Initial Deposit Draft LDP (2014);
- Revised Deposit Draft LDP (2015);
- Deposit Draft LDP (Incorporating Focussed Changes) (2016);
- Deposit Draft LDP (Incorporating Focussed Changes and Further Focussed Changes);
- Composite Plan (incorporating Matters Arising Changes (2017)⁷.

The Sustainability Appraisal Report Composite Version Incorporating Matters Arising Changes (September 2017) presented the results of the appraisal of the Composite Plan and set out proposed mitigation measures to enhance the sustainability performance of the LDP and a monitoring framework to track the performance of the LDP against significant sustainability issues identified as part of the assessment. It updated the October 2016 SA Report prepared in support of the Deposit Draft LDP (incorporating Focussed Changes and Further Focussed Changes – the 'Deposit Plan') in order to take account of, and appraise, the proposed MACs to the Deposit Plan.

This report appraises the likely sustainability effects of the Inspector's IMACs in order to update the September 2017 SA Report. This is to ensure that the sustainability effects of the LDP (to be adopted) have been identified, described and evaluated. It should be read in conjunction with the September 2017 SA Report which can be accessed via the Council's website: <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/planning-building-control/local-development-plan/ldp-examination/core-documents-library-for-ldp-examination/ldp-documents/>

1.5 Integration

This report presents the findings of the likely environmental and sustainability effects of the Inspector's IMACs. In this regard it combines the SEA and SA into a single report: this reflects the potential overlap between the effects considered by the assessments, the need for concision and an ambition to avoid providing unnecessary documentation. The presentation of the findings of the two assessments is however clearly labelled throughout this report.

⁷ Powys County Council (2017) *Sustainability Appraisal Report Composite Version Incorporating Matters Arising Changes*. Available online: http://pstatic.powys.gov.uk/fileadmin/Docs/Planning/LDP/LDP_2015/LDP_Stages/2017_MAC/Sustainability_Appraisal_Powys_LDP_Sept_2017_Includes_Appendices_1_2_3_ready_for_publication.pdf

Section 2- Determining the Significance of the Inspector's Matters Arising Changes

2.1 Screening

The SEA and SA of the IMACs to the Deposit Plan has comprised two stages. The first stage has involved screening of the modifications to determine whether or not they are significant and the need for any consequential changes to the previous SEA and SA work. The second stage has involved SEA and SA of the significant changes identified.

It should be noted that there is no detailed guidance on how to determine significance in this context for either the SEA or SA. As such, the screening exercise and justification for the determination of whether the changes are significant are presented in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1 IMACs Considered Significant for the Purposes of the SEA and SA

Inspector's Matters Arising Change	IMAC Summary	Is the Inspector's Matters Arising Change Significant for the Purposes of the SEA and SA?
IMAC 1	Amendments to Policy DM14 and supporting text to clarify LDP requirements in respect Welsh Language Impact Assessment and Language Action Plans.	No. The proposed amendments to Policy DM14 provide guidance as to the types of development that will require a Welsh Language Impact Assessment and, where applicable, a Language Action Plan. The proposed amendments are in accordance with the requirements of Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language (October 2017).
IMAC 2	Removal of housing allocation Llangynog Glebe from Policy H1 (including Appendix 1 and the Inset Map) and consequential revision of the overall housing target from 5,596 to 5,588 (Strategic Policy SP1).	No. The housing allocation at Llangynog Glebe has been removed from Policy H1 to ensure compliance with the requirements of national policy in respect of flood risk. Llangynog Glebe was proposed to include eight units and as such, the effect of its deletion on the overall housing target (a reduction from 5,596 to 5,588 dwellings, as per Strategic Policy SP1) is considered to be negligible.
IMAC 3	Amendment to Policy DM2 to remove reference to Wildlife Trust Reserves, Road Verge Nature Reserves, Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation and Local Wildlife Sites.	No. The proposed amendment deletes Wildlife Trust Reserves, Road Verge Nature Reserves, Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation and Local Wildlife Sites from the list of locally important site designations set out in Policy DM2. This is due to the fact that the location of such sites is considered to be sensitive information by the Biological Information Service who do not make the details of the locations publicly available. However, the information would be made available to developers whose proposals are in close proximity to these sites. As such, the change would have a negligible effect on the level of protection afforded to these assets.
IMAC 4	Minor amendment to Policy DM15 and supporting text.	No. Minor changes to wording and supporting text seek to simplify Policy DM15 and ensure improved protection for the historic environment.

Inspector's Matters Arising Change	IMAC Summary	Is the Inspector's Matters Arising Change Significant for the Purposes of the SEA and SA?
IMAC 5	Deletion of Policy RE1 and insertion of new policy wording.	Yes. Policy RE1 has been extensively reworded and as such, this IMAC is considered to have the potential for a significant effect.

As highlighted in **Table 2.1**, only IMAC 5 has been identified as potentially having a significant effect; this reflects the extent of revisions to Policy RE1 proposed in the IMACs. In consequence, the revised policy has been subject to additional SEA and SA, the results of which are set out in **Section 3**.

2.2 Revisions to Policy RE1 – Renewable Energy

Representations received during the Further Focussed Changes public consultation raised concerns regarding the Local Search Areas (LSAs) identified for local authority-wide onshore wind power and solar PV farm technologies in Policy RE1 – Renewable Energy Development. In acknowledgement of the number of representations received, the County Council's Cabinet requested that additional work be undertaken to review the renewable energy assessment that informed the identification of the LSAs to take into account additional constraints including a landscape assessment of the LSAs.

As a result of this work, the County Council made revisions to Policy RE1, proposed through MAC 123, in order to take into account updates to the Powys Renewable Energy Assessment⁸ and a Landscape Sensitivity Study⁹. In particular, proposed LSAs for wind energy proposals were removed whilst LSAs for solar PV have been amended. The revised policy wording is reproduced below:

Policy RE1 – Renewable Energy

Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development will be permitted subject to the following criteria. Appropriate locations will be defined by demonstrating compliance with Criterion 3.

- 1. Proposals for wind energy development greater than 5 MW:**
 - i. Wind energy proposals (greater than 25MW) will be directed to appropriate locations within the boundaries of the Strategic Search Areas (SSAs).**
 - ii. Wind energy proposals (10 – 25 MW) will only be permitted in appropriate locations and where they are in the national interest for meeting energy contributions.**
 - iii. Wind energy proposals (5 – 10 MW) will only be permitted in appropriate locations.**
- 2. Proposals for Solar PV energy development greater than 5 MW:**
 - i. Solar PV proposals (5 – 50MW) will be directed to appropriate locations within the boundaries of Local Search Areas (Solar LSAs).**
 - ii. Outside Solar LSAs, solar PV proposals will only be permitted for:**
 - a) 10 – 50MW in appropriate locations and where they are in the national interest for meeting energy contributions.**
 - b) 5 – 10 MW in appropriate locations.**

⁸ AECOM (2017) *Powys Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Assessment*.

⁹ ENPLAN (2017) *Landscape Sensitivity Study*.

- 3. Proposals for all types of renewable and low carbon energy development and associated infrastructure either on their own, cumulatively or in combination with existing and or approved development, must comply with all other relevant policies in the LDP but in particular shall not have an unacceptable impact on:**
- i. The landscape including visual amenity in accordance with Policy DM3 – Landscape;**
 - ii. The natural and historic environment in accordance with Policy DM2 – The Natural Environment and Strategic Policy SP7 – Safeguarding Strategic Resources and Assets;**
 - iii. Residential amenity, groundwater quality, and highway safety, including during construction, in accordance with Policy DM15 – Design and Resources; and**
 - iv. Radar, air traffic control systems, telecommunications links, television reception, radio communication and emergency services communications.**
- 4. There are satisfactory proposals in place for site restoration and aftercare.**

The policy was subject to both SEA and SA in September 2017 and the results of the assessments were presented in the following reports:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report Addendum: Composite Deposit Plan with Focussed Changes and Further Focussed Changes plus Matters Arising Changes (September 2017); and
- Sustainability Appraisal Report Composite Version Incorporating Matters Arising Changes (September 2017).

The Inspector's Report proposes the replacement of Policy RE1 to ensure that the LDP provides a clear, consistent and cohesive framework for the generation of renewable and low carbon energy from a range of sources. The revised policy wording as detailed in Appendix B to the Inspector's Report is reproduced below:

Policy RE1 – Renewable Energy

Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development will be permitted subject to the following criteria:

- 1. Within or close to the Strategic Search Areas, proposals for wind energy greater than 25MW will be permitted subject to criteria 3 to 5; all other proposals for renewable and low carbon energy will only be permitted where they can demonstrate they would not prejudice the purpose of the SSA.**
- 2. Within the Local Search Areas, proposals for solar PV between 5 – 50MW will be permitted subject to criteria 3 to 5; all other proposals for renewable and low carbon energy will only be permitted where they can demonstrate they would not prejudice the purpose of the LSA.**
- 3. Proposals for all types of renewable and low carbon energy development and associated infrastructure either on their own, cumulatively or in combination with existing, approved or proposed development, shall comply with all other relevant policies in the LDP.**
- 4. Satisfactory mitigation shall be in place to reduce the impact of the proposal and its associated infrastructure. Proposals shall make provision for the restoration and after-care of the land for its beneficial re-use.**
- 5. Where necessary, additional compensatory benefits will be sought by agreement with applicants in accordance with Policy DM1 – Planning Obligations.**

Section 3- Assessment Approach

3.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Consistent with the approach to the SEA of the Deposit Draft LDP, SEA objectives have been used to support the assessment of Policy RE1. **Table 3.1** lists the SEA objectives used in the assessment.

Table 3.1 SEA Objectives

SEA Topic Area – Biodiversity
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To protect and enhance all designated sites of nature conservation in the Plan area. 2. To protect and enhance all species and habitats identified in the Powys Local Biodiversity Action Plan or Section 42 List.
SEA Topic Area – Population and Human Health
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Enhance the provision of housing, employment and community services to meet the needs of the population and in response to demographic changes (e.g. the ageing population and the need to retain the young working age population). 4. Promote improvement in community safety. 5. Promote improvement in human health and opportunities for healthy living. 6. To prevent or minimise exposure to potential sources of nuisance and risk to human health.
SEA Topic Area – Soil
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. To protect soils that are classified as being important for carbon storage and agriculture. 8. To prevent contamination of land and support remediation as part of new development.
SEA Topic Area – Water
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. To maintain and improve water quality and quantity.
SEA Topic Area – Air
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. To protect and improve air quality in Powys and in particular the Newtown Air Quality Management Area.
SEA Topic Area – Climatic Factors
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. To reduce flood risk. 12. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
SEA Topic Area – Material Assets
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. To protect mineral resources from development that would preclude extraction. 14. To protect important material assets including strategic, transport and location specific infrastructure from incompatible development.
SEA Topic Area – Cultural Heritage
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. To understand, value, protect and enhance Powys' historic environment including its diversity, local distinctiveness and heritage. 16. To protect and enhance Welsh language and culture.

SEA Topic Area – Landscape
17. To protect and enhance Powys rich natural landscape.
SEA Topic Area – Geodiversity
18. To protect Regionally Important Geo-diversity Sites (RIGS) from incompatible development.

The policy has been assessed against the SEA objectives to consider whether it would have positive or negative environmental effects. **Table 3.2** sets out the scoring system that has been used to assess the policy against the SEA objectives. The findings of the assessment have been recorded in a matrix presented at **Appendix A** and are summarised in **Section 4.1**.

Table 3.2 Qualitative Scoring

Key	Detail	Comment
PP	Major Positive	Policy would have a major positive impact on the environment
P	Positive	Policy would have a positive impact on the environment.
?	Uncertain	Policy's impact on the environment is uncertain.
0	Neutral	Policy would have a neutral impact on the environment
N	Negative	Policy would have a negative impact on the environment
NN	Major Negative	Policy would have a major negative impact on the environment.

3.2 Sustainability Appraisal

The SA has considered Policy RE1's integration with sustainability 'capitals' (natural, social, human, infrastructure and financial) using the County Council's Sustainability Integration Toolkit.

To support the assessment, questions have been derived relating to a range of sustainability topics under each capital, as set out in **Table 3.3**. The questions were taken from the Sustainability Integration Toolkit and are consistent with those used to appraise the Deposit LDP.

Table 3.3 Questions Used in the Assessment of Policy RE1

Question Ref. No.	Sustainability Topic	Prompting Questions
Environmental Capital		
2.	Energy	How can this policy/objective reduce the demand for energy? <i>(For example through measures to use less and innovative solutions in energy supply, demand storage and distribution).</i> How can it encourage energy to be produced from renewable sources?

Question Ref. No.	Sustainability Topic	Prompting Questions
3.	Climate Change	<p>How can it reduce our greenhouse gas emissions in line with global efforts to restrict warming to 2°C?</p> <p>How can it encourage measures to adapt to climate change and/ or contribute to the Council's efforts?</p>
4.	Waste	<p>How can it avoid and minimise the production of waste?</p> <p>How can any waste produced be re-used or recycled?</p> <p>How can waste going to landfill be minimised?</p>
5.	Water	<p>How can it reduce the frequency and severity of flooding?</p> <p>Are developments taking place in areas free from flooding?</p> <p>How can it reduce the amount of surface water and ground water appropriated for human activity?</p> <p>How can it increase water efficiency (e.g. by recycling, treating, reusing)?</p>
6.	Green infrastructure	<p>How can it achieve an increase in biodiversity?</p> <p>How can it improve water, air, river and soil quality?</p> <p>How can it prevent water and air pollution (including toxic substances and chemical pollution that natural systems can't process)?</p> <p>How can it protect and expand green spaces?</p> <p>How can it promote food security and local food production?</p>
7.	Resource use	<p>Does it avoid exploiting natural resources beyond their recovery point?</p> <p>How can it improve the land-use efficiency of human activity?</p> <p>How can it improve the material efficiency of the economy? <i>(For example by developing closed-loop material systems)</i></p> <p>How is it using non-renewable resources more efficiently and using more sustainable alternatives where possible? <i>(For example: aluminium, copper, lead, iron, tin and steel; and materials based on petrochemicals).</i></p>
Infrastructure capital		

Question Ref. No.	Sustainability Topic	Prompting Questions
9.	Housing	<p>How can it provide or improve access to sufficient, affordable, high quality housing?</p> <p>How can it provide or improve access to housing that's fit for the future? <i>(For example: energy efficient, environmentally sustainable, easy to maintain, resilient to the effects of climate change, takes account of relevant trends)</i></p> <p>How is it using housing improvements to strengthen communities? <i>(For example, by enhancing the availability and access to public spaces)</i></p> <p>How is it using housing improvements to encourage community participation? <i>(For example, by facilitating the renaissance of Powys' town and village centres and improving access to education, leisure, employment areas)</i></p>
10.	Access	<p>How can it reduce the need to travel?</p> <p>How can it provide users with a range of low carbon transport options and encourage a shift to using more sustainable forms of travel?</p> <p>How can it make better use of journeys that are essential?</p> <p>How can it improve and harness access to digital connectivity?</p>
11.	Regeneration	<p>Is this the most effective way to deliver services for the community?</p> <p>How is this helping to promote Powys and make it a location of choice (including to contribute to tourism)?</p> <p>How can it improve access from residential areas to key education, leisure and employment areas?</p> <p>How can this project harness Powys' natural assets?</p> <p>How can it support an affordable, open flow of information, and opportunities for sharing knowledge?</p>
Social capital		
13.	Community Support	<p>How can it support people to live in the community for longer?</p> <p>How can it help people to live active, fulfilling lives?</p> <p>How can it encourage early intervention and support for families and young children?</p> <p>How is it helping to strengthen communities by building social networks and other assets?</p>

Question Ref. No.	Sustainability Topic	Prompting Questions
14.	Governance	<p>Are there appropriate, transparent and accountable governance structures in place?</p> <p>How could the project be developed or delivered more effectively (and cost effectively) with other organisations, including public sector bodies?</p> <p>How is it engaging and involving all those that are affected by the project?</p> <p>Is it encouraging cooperation between, and the engagement of businesses, communities and civil society?</p>
15.	Equality	<p>How can it deliver greater respect for human rights?</p> <p>How can it promote equality?</p> <p>How can it foster and protect trust?</p> <p>How can it promote international efforts to achieve fairness and reduce poverty (e.g. fair trade)?</p>
16	Culture and Sense of Place	<p>How can it help develop and support Welsh culture, values and language?</p> <p>How can it help make people feel positive about the area they live in?</p> <p>How can it reduce crime and levels of anti-social behaviour?</p>
17.	Business	<p>How can it deliver or access maximum support for local business enterprises?</p> <p>How can it encourage the development and use of local supply chains?</p> <p>How can it help foster entrepreneurship and innovation?</p> <p>Can it help to diversify the economy?</p> <p>How can it support the development of social enterprises?</p>
Human Capital		
19.	Health	<p>How can it promote healthy living and sustainable behaviours? <i>(For example; physical activity, and active travel, nutrition, self-monitoring of health issues, energy and water saving practices, recycling)</i></p> <p>How can it improve health outcomes for people in the most deprived areas?</p> <p>How can it help to deliver mental well-being?</p> <p>How can it reduce the number of people out of work due to ill health?</p> <p>Does it seize opportunities to help prevent key, chronic diseases?</p>
20.	Education	<p>How can it improve the early years' experience, particularly for hard to reach groups?</p> <p>How can it improve life chances in the most deprived areas?</p> <p>How can it help deliver or access a range of educational choice for post 16 learners?</p> <p>How does it contribute to universal access to education?</p>

Question Ref. No.	Sustainability Topic	Prompting Questions
21.	Skills	<p>How can it attract, retain and nurture the best talent?</p> <p>How can it improve the proportion of highly skilled people in the county?</p> <p>How can it lead to a flexible and adaptable workforce?</p> <p>How does it build the wide ranging skills and capacity of individuals to realise their potential?</p>
22.	Employment	<p>How can it provide or facilitate the creation of satisfying, lasting new jobs?</p> <p>How can it help increase overall employment?</p> <p>How can it help provide employment in the most deprived areas?</p> <p>How can it help citizens to determine and shape their own lives?</p>
Financial Capital		
24.	Maximising Financial Effectiveness	<p>Does it provide a financially viable service that meets needs? (<i>For example, schools or health services</i>)</p> <p>How can this enable other departments to deliver their priorities and services?</p> <p>Does it provide and seize opportunities for income generation?</p> <p>How is it investing in actions that will deliver long-term value?</p> <p>How does it value and report the true costs and impacts of the resources used?</p>

The findings of the SA are presented in **Appendix B**. A summary is presented in **Section 4.2**.

Section 4- Summary of the Assessment of the Inspector's Matters Arising Changes

4.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Appendix A presents the findings of the assessment of Policy RE1 (as amended) against the SEA objectives. Policy RE1 permits proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development, subject to specific criteria. With regard to renewable energy proposals, the policy directs development as follows:

- Wind energy proposals greater than 25 MW are directed to appropriate locations within or close to Strategic Search Areas (SSAs), subject to meeting criteria 3 to 5 of the policy; and
- Solar PV proposals between 5 – 50MW are directed to Local Search Areas (LSAs) subject to meeting criteria 3 to 5 of the policy.

All proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development and associated infrastructure must be in accordance with all relevant policies within the LDP and satisfactory mitigation must be in place to reduce the impact of proposals, including provision for restoration and aftercare. Where necessary, the policy sets out that necessary, additional compensatory benefits will be sought by agreement with applicants in accordance with Policy DM1 – Planning Obligations of the LDP.

Given its support to renewable and low carbon energy development, Policy RE1 has been assessed as having a significant positive impact on SEA Objective 12 (reducing greenhouse gas emissions). This policy has also been assessed as having a positive impact on SEA Objective 3 (provision to meet future needs) as it enables the consideration of a range of proposals including community-led projects and district level schemes which can meet the needs of local communities.

There is the potential for renewable energy and low carbon development to have adverse environmental impacts. However, despite the identification of LSAs for Solar PV, the type, scale and exact location of any development that may come forward is unknown and in consequence, uncertain impacts have been identified against the majority of the other SEA objectives including those that relate to biodiversity, soil, water, air, cultural heritage (the historic environment), landscape and geodiversity.

Notwithstanding the above, Policy RE1 sets out that proposals must comply with other relevant LDP policies. Taking into account the protections provided by Policy RE1 and other LDP policies including the suite of development management policies, significant negative effects are not anticipated.

Overall, the proposed amendments to Policy RE1 do not materially affect the conclusions of the SEA of the Deposit Draft LDP incorporating Focussed Changes and Further Focussed Changes or the subsequent September 2017 Environmental Report Addendum.

4.2 Sustainability Appraisal

Appendix B presents the appraisal of Policy RE1 using the Sustainability Integration Toolkit. This has confirmed that the conclusions of the September 2017 SA Report would not be

materially affected. In particular, significant positive impacts have been identified in respect of energy, climate change and resource use reflecting the policy's support for renewable and low carbon energy development. No significant negative impacts have been identified.

Section 5- Conclusions and Next Steps

5.1 Conclusions

This report has presented the findings of the assessment of the IMACs to the Deposit Plan. Overall, the assessment has confirmed that the conclusions of the October 2016 SEA Environmental Report (and subsequent September 2017 Environmental Report Addendum), as well as the September 2017 SA Report, remain valid. No additional likely significant effects have been identified.

5.2 Next Steps

The LDP will be submitted to a meeting of Powys County Council on 17th April 2018 to seek its resolution to adopt the LDP, as amended in line with the recommendations in the Inspector's Report. On its adoption, the LDP will become operative and the County Council will notify all interested persons / parties.

As soon as is reasonably practical after adoption of the LDP, and in compliance with SEA regulation 16 (4), the County Council will complete an 'SEA Post Adoption Statement' that will relate how the final LDP has taken into account the findings of the SEA, consultation responses and environmental considerations, as well as the reasons for the selection of the final LDP and rejection of alternatives.

5.3 Monitoring

The Powys LDP Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will include the monitoring of significant effects of implementing the Plan, as required under the SEA Regulations. The results of monitoring these longer term effects upon wider environmental matters and resources will identify any unforeseen effects of the implementation of the LDP at an early stage and will enable appropriate remedial action to be taken.

The AMR will include the monitoring framework developed as part of the SEA process and which is set out in Appendix 4 to the September 2017 Environmental Report Addendum.

APPENDIX A – SEA of Policy RE1

Significance Assessment

Symbol	Description
PP	Policy is likely to have a significant positive effect
P	Policy is likely to have a minor positive effect
?	Policy is likely to have an uncertain effect
0	Policy is likely to have a neutral effect
N	Policy is likely to have a minor negative effect
NN	Policy is likely to have a significant negative effect

Renewable Energy Policy (RE1)			
SEA Objective	Policy	Cumulative effect	Commentary
	RE1		
1. To protect and enhance all designated sites of Nature Conservation in the Plan Area	?	?	<p>Likely significant effects Policy RE1 permits proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development, subject to specific criteria. With regard to renewable energy proposals, the policy directs development as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind energy proposals greater than 25 MW are directed to appropriate locations within or close to Strategic Search Areas (SSAs), subject to meeting criteria 3 – 5 of the policy; and • Solar PV proposals between 5 – 50MW are directed to Local Search Areas (LSAs) subject to meeting criteria 3 – 5 of the policy. <p>There is the potential for renewable and low carbon energy development to affect designated nature conservation sites. Adverse effects in this regard may occur in both the short term during construction and in the longer term once development is complete. Effects may be direct (e.g. the loss of habitat due to land take) or indirect (for example, adverse effects on interest features due to emissions to air, disturbance or collision). However, the type, scale and exact location of any development that may come forward is unknown. Policy RE1 sets out that proposals must comply with all other relevant policies in the LDP and in this regard, Strategic Policy SP7 – Safeguarding of Strategic Resources and Assets stipulates that proposals must not have unacceptable adverse impacts on (inter alia) land designated at the international, European and/or national level for environmental protection. Policy DM2 – The Natural Environment also requires that all new developments must not compromise, or unacceptably adversely affect either on their own or in combination with existing or approved development, the natural environment and the integrity or conservation objectives of European designated sites. Further, the proposed LSAs for Solar PV have been informed by the REA. Through a staged approach to their identification, statutory designated conservation sites such as European designated sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves have been excluded from the LSAs. In consequence, significant negative effects on this objective are not anticipated. This conclusion is consistent with the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP.</p> <p>Overall, there is an uncertain impact against this objective.</p> <p>Mitigation No further mitigation identified.</p> <p>Assumptions None.</p>

Renewable Energy Policy (RE1)			
SEA Objective	Policy	Cumulative effect	Commentary
	RE1		
			<p><u>Uncertainties</u> The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.</p>
<p>2. To protect and enhance all species and habitats identified in the Powys Local Biodiversity Action Plan or Section 42 List.</p>	?	?	<p><u>Likely significant effects</u> Renewable and low carbon energy development has the potential to result in habitat loss and disturbance of species. Adverse effects in this regard may occur in both the short term during construction and in the longer term once development is complete. Effects may be direct (e.g. the loss of habitat due to land take) or indirect (for example, adverse effects on species due to emissions to air). There may also be opportunities through the development of sites to minimise adverse effects and generate benefits through, for example, biodiversity enhancements. However, the type, scale and exact location of any development that may come forward as a result of the implementation of Policy RE1 is unknown and in consequence, it is not possible to determine whether there would be the potential for adverse effects on biodiversity at this stage.</p> <p>As noted above, Policy DM2 – The Natural Environment requires that all new developments must not compromise, or unacceptably adversely affect either on their own or in combination with existing or approved development, the natural environment, integrity or conservation objectives of European designated sites and a range of reserves and sites important to biodiversity. Policy DM2 also stipulates that proposals for development will be permitted where they ‘protect, positively manage and wherever possible enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests and produce a net gain for the County including the enhanced connectivity of habitats’. In consequence, significant negative effects on this objective are not anticipated.</p> <p>Overall, there is an uncertain impact on this objective.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u> No further mitigation is required.</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u> None.</p> <p><u>Uncertainties</u></p>

Renewable Energy Policy (RE1)			
SEA Objective	Policy	Cumulative effect	Commentary
	RE1		
			The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.
3. Enhance the provision of housing, employment and community services to meet the needs of the population and in response to demographic changes.	P	P	<p><u>Likely significant effects</u> Policy RE1 enables the provision of energy from renewable and low carbon sources including community-led projects and district level schemes which can meet the needs of local communities. This policy has also been derived to help meet legally binding targets resulting from climate change, economic opportunities and security of supply, hence meeting identified future needs. Therefore, this policy has been assessed as having a positive impact on this objective.</p> <p>Overall there is a minor positive impact against this objective.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u> None required.</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u> None.</p> <p><u>Uncertainties</u> The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.</p>
4. Promote improvement in community safety.	0	0	<p><u>Likely significant effects</u> A neutral impact is identified for this objective. Policy RE1 relates to proposals for renewable energy development only and has no direct relationship with community safety.</p> <p>Overall, there is a neutral impact against this objective.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u> None required.</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u> None.</p>

Renewable Energy Policy (RE1)			
SEA Objective	Policy	Cumulative effect	Commentary
	RE1		
			<p><u>Uncertainties</u> The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.</p>
<p>5. Promote improvement in human health and opportunities for healthy living.</p>	0	0	<p><u>Likely significant effects</u> A neutral impact is identified for this objective. Policy RE1 relates to proposals for renewable energy development only and has no direct relationship with human health and opportunities for healthy living.</p> <p>Overall, there is a neutral impact against this objective.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u> None required.</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u> None.</p> <p><u>Uncertainties</u> The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.</p>
<p>6. To prevent or minimise exposure to potential sources of nuisance and risk to human health.</p>	0	0	<p><u>Likely significant effects</u> Whilst the exact location, type and scale of development that may come forward under this policy is unknown, Policy RE1 states that development shall comply with other relevant policies in the LDP. Policy DM15 - Design and Resources (which applies to all development), requires that the amenities enjoyed by occupants or users of nearby properties shall not be unacceptably affected by levels of noise, dust, air pollution, litter, odour, hours of operation, overlooking or any other planning matter. This policy provision will further mitigate against potential sources of nuisance and risk to human health that could arise for renewable and low carbon energy development. It should also be noted that in identifying LSAs for Solar PV, a 500m buffer from buildings has been applied in recognition of the potential for adverse impacts on amenity associated with the construction of solar schemes.</p> <p>Overall, there is neutral impact against this objective.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u></p>

Renewable Energy Policy (RE1)			
SEA Objective	Policy	Cumulative effect	Commentary
	RE1		<p>None required.</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u> None.</p> <p><u>Uncertainties</u> The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.</p>
7. To protect soils that are classified as being important for carbon storage and agriculture.	?	?	<p><u>Likely significant effects</u> Whilst it is recognised that new renewable and low carbon energy developments are likely to take place in the open countryside (many of the LSAs identified for Solar PV are in countryside locations for example) which could affect soils, the scale and exact location of new development is unknown at this stage. However, it is noted that in identifying the LSAs for Solar PV, the County Council has excluded areas of thick peat and land of grades 1-2 agricultural quality. It is however noted that ALC Grades 3b and 4 could be used for the growing of biomass to support other technologies.</p> <p>Overall, there is an uncertain impact on this objective.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u> No further mitigation identified.</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u> None.</p> <p><u>Uncertainties</u> The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.</p>
8. To prevent contamination of land and support remediation as	?	?	<p><u>Likely significant effects</u> Contamination of land and support for remediation as part of new development is uncertain because contamination issues and their extent are largely unknown prior to site development. The exact location of new development proposed under Policy RE1 is unknown and therefore an uncertain impact is identified against this objective. However, any contamination issues identified as part of new</p>

Renewable Energy Policy (RE1)			
SEA Objective	Policy	Cumulative effect	Commentary
	RE1		
part of new development.			<p>development supported by Policy RE1 would be mitigated by Policy DM9 – Contaminated and Unstable Land which requires that proposals on contaminated land shall not result in any additional contamination problems and that any new development is assessed to ensure contamination risks are acceptable and addressed.</p> <p>Overall, there is an uncertain impact effect on this objective.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u> None identified.</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u> None.</p> <p><u>Uncertainties</u> The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.</p>
9. To maintain and improve water quality and quantity.	?	?	<p><u>Likely significant effects</u> Renewable and low carbon energy development may result in increased surface water run-off (particularly where development results in the loss of greenfield land) and contamination of water sources (depending on the use, proximity to watercourses and any discharges). The magnitude of effects in this regard will depend on the nature, location and scale of development proposed which is currently unknown. However, Policy RE1 requires that proposals comply with other LDP policies that will help to offset adverse effects. In this context, Policy DM2 – The Natural Environment, in particular, requires that all new developments must not compromise, or unacceptably adversely affect either on their own or in combination with existing or approved development, the achievement of the Water Framework Directive’s overarching objectives. Further, Policy DM2 requires proposals near a watercourse to be acceptably managed to protect water quality whilst Policy DM5 – Flood Prevention and Land Drainage requires satisfactory provision for land drainage and SuDS. Finally, Policy DM15 – Design and Resources requires all development to demonstrate sustainable and an efficient use of resources by including measures to achieve water conservation and efficiency which addresses quantity.</p> <p>It is important to note that in identifying the LSAs for Solar PV, the County Council has excluded watercourses including major, secondary and minor rivers, canals and lakes.</p>

Renewable Energy Policy (RE1)			
SEA Objective	Policy	Cumulative effect	Commentary
	RE1		<p>Overall, there is an uncertain impact against this objective.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u> No further mitigation required.</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u> None.</p> <p><u>Uncertainties</u> The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.</p>
10. To protect and improve air quality in Powys and in particular the Newtown Air Quality Management Area.	?	?	<p><u>Likely significant effects</u> The impact of Policy RE1 is uncertain because the exact location and nature of development proposed is unknown. However, it should also be noted that Policy DM15 – Design and Resources requires that new development should not have a negative impact on amenities including air pollution. Policy DM15A also includes provisions in relation to air quality management and development would need to be in accordance with both of these policies.</p> <p>It should be noted that the Newtown AQMA was revoked during the Examination of the LDP, as detailed in Policy DM14.</p> <p>Overall, an uncertain impact is identified for this objective.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u> No further mitigation required.</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u> None.</p> <p><u>Uncertainties</u> The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.</p>

Renewable Energy Policy (RE1)			
SEA Objective	Policy	Cumulative effect	Commentary
	RE1		
11. To reduce flood risk.	?	?	<p>Likely significant effects Policy RE1 has been assessed as having an uncertain effect on flood risk. Whilst it is recognised that any new development may increase surface water run-off and increase the risk of flooding elsewhere, the scale, type and location of future proposals is unknown at this stage.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, Policy DM5 – Flood Prevention Measures and Land Drainage seeks to implement and reflect the actions identified in the relevant River Basin Management Plans and Catchment Flood Management Plans together with the recommendations of the LDP’s Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment (Stages 1 and 2). This will help to ensure that any new development does not increase flood risk.</p> <p>Overall, Policy RE1 has been assessed as having an uncertain effect on this objective.</p> <p>Mitigation No further mitigation required.</p> <p>Assumptions None.</p> <p>Uncertainties The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.</p>
12. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	PP	PP	<p>Likely significant effects Whilst it is recognised that renewable and low carbon energy development will increase greenhouse gas emissions during construction, the effects of Policy RE1 on this objective are positive because the generation of renewable energy should lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The intent of the policy is to permit proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development subject to a number of criteria.</p> <p>Overall, Policy RE1 has been assessed as having a major positive effect on this objective.</p> <p>Mitigation No further mitigation identified.</p>

Renewable Energy Policy (RE1)			
SEA Objective	Policy	Cumulative effect	Commentary
	RE1		
			<p>Assumptions None.</p> <p>Uncertainties The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.</p>
13. To protect Mineral Resources from development that would preclude extraction.	?	?	<p>Likely significant effects Policy RE1 is considered to have an uncertain impact on this objective because the type, location and scale of development is unknown. However, development permitted in accordance with Policy RE1 will be required to adhere to Strategic Policy SP7 which stipulates that proposals should not have an unacceptable adverse impact on (inter alia) Mineral Resource Areas. This would mitigate against any negative impacts on mineral resources and their extraction.</p> <p>Overall, an uncertain effect is identified against this objective.</p> <p>Mitigation No further mitigation identified.</p> <p>Assumptions None.</p> <p>Uncertainties The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.</p>
14. To protect important material assets including strategic, transport and location	0	0	<p>Likely significant effects The construction of renewable and low carbon energy schemes associated with the implementation of Policy RE1 could have short term and temporary adverse effects on the highways network depending on the scale and location of development which is currently unknown. However, any proposal would be determined in accordance with those policies of the LDP that seek to manage the transport impacts of development (such as Strategic Policy SP7) and Policy RE1 itself sets out that proposals must not compromise highways safety. Finally, it is important to note that in identifying the LSAs for Solar PV,</p>

Renewable Energy Policy (RE1)			
SEA Objective	Policy	Cumulative effect	Commentary
	RE1		
specific infrastructure from incompatible development.			<p>the County Council has had regard to proximity to transportation infrastructure by excluding (inter alia) land intersected by a class 1 or class 2 highway.</p> <p>Overall, a neutral effect is identified against this objective.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u> No further mitigation identified.</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u> None.</p> <p><u>Uncertainties</u> The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.</p>
15. To understand, value, protect and enhance Powys historic environment including its diversity, local distinctiveness and heritage.	?	?	<p><u>Likely significant effects</u> There is the potential for any new development to adversely affect cultural heritage assets. In terms of renewable energy development, adverse effects may be direct (for example, the loss of or damage to an asset) or indirect (for example, effects on the settings of assets) and may occur in both the short term during construction and in the longer term once development is complete. However, the REA has excluded 'All statutory historic designations' from both wind energy and solar energy and therefore reduced the risks of likely adverse effects occurring.</p> <p>It is not possible to ascertain if Policy RE1 would have effects on Powys' historic environment at this stage as the exact type, scale and location of development proposed is unknown. However, Policy RE1 sets out that proposals must comply with all other relevant policies in the LDP and in this regard, Policy DM15- Design and Resources requires the design, layout, size, scale, mass and materials of any new development to complement and wherever possible enhance the character of the surrounding area and take into account heritage assets. It is also important to note that the County Council has had regard to proximity to (inter alia) scheduled monuments in identifying the LSAs for Solar PVs.</p> <p>Overall, an uncertain impact has been identified for this objective.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u></p>

Renewable Energy Policy (RE1)			
SEA Objective	Policy	Cumulative effect	Commentary
	RE1		
			<p>No further mitigation identified</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u> None.</p> <p><u>Uncertainties</u> The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.</p>
16. To protect and enhance Welsh language and culture.	0	0	<p><u>Likely significant effects</u> A neutral impact is identified for this objective. Policy RE1 relates to proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development only and has no direct relationship with the protection and enhancement of Welsh language and culture.</p> <p>Overall, there is a neutral impact against this objective.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u> None required.</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u> None.</p> <p><u>Uncertainties</u> None identified.</p>
17. To protect and enhance Powys rich natural landscape.	?	?	<p><u>Likely significant effects</u> Renewable and low carbon energy development is likely to be proposed in the open countryside which has the potential to have a negative impact on Powys' rich natural landscape. Negative effects on landscape and visual amenity may occur in the short term during construction (for example, due to the presence of machinery and HGV movements) and in the longer term once development is complete (for example, due to the scale of development resulting in impacts on the prevailing landscape character and views).</p>

Renewable Energy Policy (RE1)			
SEA Objective	Policy	Cumulative effect	Commentary
	RE1		<p>However, it is expected that measures will be implemented to reduce as far as possible adverse landscape effects. In this regard, Policy DM4 – Landscape requires that all new developments must not compromise, or unacceptably adversely affect either on their own or in combination with existing or approved development the characteristics and special qualities of Powys’ landscape and adjacent protected landscapes (National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the visual amenity of those areas.</p> <p>In identifying LSAs for Solar PV, the County Council has excluded (inter alia) designated landscapes including National Parks, AONB and Registered Historic Landscapes (with a 3.5km buffer also applied to National Parks and AONBs). Following the application of constraints information, remaining land parcels have also been subject to a detailed landscape assessment in order to exclude potentially unsuitable land. This has assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the landscape value derived from the National Resources Wales (NRW) LandMap database, drawing on the “particularly informative” and “Main Drivers” criteria as identified in Guidance Note 1, published by NRW; • the susceptibility of the landscape to a particularly development type (in this case, solar PV technology); and • the resultant sensitivity of the landscape defined by a matrix assessing landscape value against susceptibility to the development. <p>Notwithstanding the mitigating factors above, it is not possible to ascertain if Policy RE1 would have effects on Powys’ rich natural landscape because the exact type, scale and location of new development is unknown.</p> <p>Overall, there is an uncertain impact identified against this objective.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u> No further mitigation identified.</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u> None identified.</p> <p><u>Uncertainties</u></p>

Renewable Energy Policy (RE1)			
SEA Objective	Policy	Cumulative effect	Commentary
	RE1		
			The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.
18. To protect Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS) from incompatible development.	?	?	<p><u>Likely significant effects</u> It is not possible to ascertain if Policy RE1 would have effects on RIGS because the exact type, scale and location of development is unknown. Notwithstanding this, Policy DM2 – The Natural Environment requires that all new developments must not compromise, or unacceptably adversely affect either on their own or in combination with existing or approved development RIGS and Geological Conservation Review Sites which would mitigate against any identified negative impacts at the planning application stage.</p> <p>Overall, an uncertain impact has been identified against this objective.</p> <p><u>Mitigation</u> No further mitigation required.</p> <p><u>Assumptions</u> None identified.</p> <p><u>Uncertainties</u> The exact type, scale and location of development which may occur under Policy RE1 is unknown at this stage.</p>

APPENDIX B – SA of Policy RE1

Appraisal of Policy RE1

sustainable development aim	Contribution				
	Impact: - Very Positive - Positive - Neutral / Unknown - Negative - Very Negative	Magnitude: - High - Moderate - Low	Probability: - High - Medium - Low	Significance Figure (I x M x L)	Significance Symbol
2 energy	Very Positive	Moderate	High	18 Significant	++
3 climate change	Very Positive	Moderate	High	18 Significant	++
4 waste	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?
5 water	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?
6 green infrastructure	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?

Appraisal of Policy RE1

7	resource use	Very Positive	Moderate	High	18 Significant	++
9	housing	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?
10	access	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?

Appraisal of Policy RE1

11	regeneration	Positive	Low	High	6 Minor	+
13	community support	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?
14	governance	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?

Appraisal of Policy RE1

15	equality	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?
16	culture and sense of place	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?
17	business	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?
19	health	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?

Appraisal of Policy RE1

20	education	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?
21	skills	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?
22	employment	Positive	Low	High	6 Minor	+
24	maximising financial effectiveness	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?