

Sustainability Appraisal Report Powys Local Development Plan, April 2015

Appendix 3 – Assessment of the Vision, Objectives and Policies of the Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Assessment - Vision

	Contribution					issues raised	assessment / recommendations
	sustainable development aim	Impact: - Very Positive - Positive - Neutral / Unknown - Negative - Very Negative	Magnitude: - High - Moderate - Low	Probability: - High - Medium - Low	Significance Figure (I x M x L)		
2 energy	Positive	Moderate	Medium	8 Minor	+		The vision seeks to provide sustainable development so in turn will reduce energy demands through appropriately designed development. The promotion of towns and larger villages as service centres will reduce travel demands and hence energy consumption. Energy may be produced from sustainable development e.g.. wind, hydro schemes.
3 climate change	Positive	Moderate	Medium	8 Minor	+		The vision seeks to provide sustainable development in in towns and larger villages which will reduce the need to travel and will in turn reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with global efforts to restrict warming to 2°C. The promotion of sustainable development in Powys will reduce greenhouse gas emissions through proactive Development Management and Building Control. The vision in its aim to protect and enhance and sustainably manage natural resources , native wildlife and habitats also contributes to the Visions capacity to adapt to climate change e.g.. protection of areas with high carbon storage.
4 waste	Positive	Moderate	Medium	8 Minor	+	Policies W1 and W2, DM2	The Vision in its aim to promote towns and larger villages that are vibrant and accessible service centres will encourage sustainable settlements that encourage the reduction of waste and re-use and recycling of waste and in turn reduces the need to rely on landfill.

Sustainability Appraisal Assessment - Vision

	Contribution					issues raised	assessment / recommendations
	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		
5 water	Positive	Moderate	High	12 Significant	++		The vision seeks to protect , enhance and sustainably manage natural resources (e.g.. water) and sustainable development would promote water efficiency, provide for sustainable drainage, and address flood management including making space for water and development is directed away from high flood risk areas.
6 green infrastructure	Very Positive	High	High	27 Significant	++		The Vision aims to protect, enhance and sustainably manage natural resources, native wildlife and habitats, heritage and distinctive characteristics which in turn will increase biodiversity and water, air, rive and soil quality., The concentration of development within existing Towns and larger villages will also assist in the protection of the county's Biodiversity by avoiding development on soils of high quality and recognising their value as a finite resource. Development is located in Towns and Larger villages as service centres which will reduce the need to travel and the emissions/pollution generated by cars. Green Spaces are protected through the Vision as it promotes the Green Heart of Wales and a place where sustainable development is set in healthy and safe environments. The vision states that rural areas will be a working countryside .

Sustainability Appraisal Assessment - Vision

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	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		
7 resource use	Positive	High	High	18 Significant	++		The Vision makes efficient use of land by protecting the open countryside and encouraging development within Towns and Larger Villages. The vision includes reference to the management of the county's natural resources in a sustainable manner and protects finite resources such as native wildlife and habitats, heritage and distinctive characteristics such as protected landscapes. The Vision promotes development within Towns and larger villages as service centres which will in turn contribute to the achievement of sustainable development including the sustainable and efficient use of resources. The promotion of sustainable development will ensure the use of more sustainable alternatives such as aluminium, copper, lead etc. through the Development Management system.
9 housing	Positive	High	High	18 Significant	++		The Vision encourages development in settlements particularly Towns and Larger Villages that are well served by services and facilities. High quality housing which is fit for the future (e.g.. energy efficient and environmentally sustainable) are encourages through the Vision through sustainable development and service centres which integrate housing, economic and service development to meet their own needs and the needs of their surrounding communicates. Housing development can encourage planning gain to deliver community infrastructure, access to education and leisure facilities.

Sustainability Appraisal Assessment - Vision

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	sustainable development aim	Impact: - Very Positive - Positive - Neutral / Unknown - Negative - Very Negative	Magnitude: - High - Moderate - Low	Probability: - High - Medium - Low	Significance Figure (I x M x L)		
10 access	Positive	High	High	18 Significant	++		The vision encourages development in Towns and Larger villages which will be vibrant service centres. This will reduce the need to travel by residents and a range of low carbon transport options (e.g.. walking, bus). Sustainable development within these service centres will encourage walking and cycling as the Vision encourages healthy and safe environments. By concentrating development in the most sustainable settlements as encouraged by the Vision will provide a more focused potential for improved digital connectivity.
11 regeneration	Positive	High	High	18 Significant	++		The Vision aims to demonstrate a vision that is effective in delivering services effectively for all communities within the County. The Vision outlines that the LDP is based on a strategy that focuses growth on towns and larger villages so they act as vibrant and accessible service centres whilst also enabling appropriate growth in the more rural areas. This approach helps promote Powys as the Green Heart of Wales and hence contributes to Tourism by protecting and enhancing material assets (such as employment premises, tourism assets and built heritage assets) together with the natural environment (such as native wildlife and habitats, heritage and distinctive characteristics).

Sustainability Appraisal Assessment - Vision

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	sustainable development aim	Impact: - Very Positive - Positive - Neutral / Unknown - Negative - Very Negative	Magnitude: - High - Moderate - Low	Probability: - High - Medium - Low	Significance Figure (I x M x L)		
13	community support	Positive	Moderate	Medium	8 Minor	+	The Vision outlines a plan for vibrant and accessible service centres which in turn will help people live in their communities for longer. The Vision provides for people to lead active and fulfilling lives by living in vibrant and resilient communities with integrated housing, economic and service development. The promotion of Towns and Larger Villages as service centres strengthens the role of towns and villages as community hubs and in turn will help to strengthen communities by building social networks.
14	governance	Neutral / Unknown	Moderate	Medium	-4 Minor	-	The Vision encourages engagement of businesses, communities and civil society through the promotion of Powys as a vibrant and resilient community with the integration of housing, economy and service development.
15	equality	Neutral / Unknown	Moderate	Medium	-4 Minor	-	The vision mentions sustainable development and economic opportunities set in a healthy and safe environment. The LDP in general as part of the Delivery Agreement places emphasis on the involvement of the hard to reach groups including those representing older and younger age groups, race, disability, sexual orientation and religion. The Plan will be subject to Equalities Impact Assessment.

Sustainability Appraisal Assessment - Vision

		Contribution				issues raised	assessment / recommendations	
sustainable development aim	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			
16	culture and sense of place	Positive	Moderate	Medium	8 Minor	+		The vision sets out how land and settlements in Powys should be used and developed until 2026. In this regard it envisages vibrant places that celebrate, protect, enhance and make the most of their assets including natural and cultural heritage. The Vision shows Powys as a place where people would feel positive about where they live as they would be vibrant, safe and resilient communities with thriving rural communities. The Vision itself does not mention Welsh Language however it does refer to celebrating, protecting "distinctive characteristics". Welsh Language is dealt with by specific objectives and policies.
17	business	Positive	Moderate	Medium	8 Minor	+		The vision refers to a successful working countryside supported by a thriving and diverse rural economy of small businesses. This indicates that the Vision helps support the diversification of the economy, will foster entrepreneurship and innovation and encourage the use of local supply chains.

Sustainability Appraisal Assessment - Vision

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	sustainable development aim	Impact: - Very Positive - Positive - Neutral / Unknown - Negative - Very Negative	Magnitude: - High - Moderate - Low	Probability: - High - Medium - Low	Significance Figure (I x M x L)		
19	health	Positive	Moderate	Medium	8 Minor	+	The Vision encourages development in areas which are well served by local facilities, hence reducing the need for car travel and encouraging walking and cycling. Sustainable development as outlined in the Vision will support pedestrian linkages and access to the public rights of way network. Access to , and the provision of, open space is strongly supported to create safe, vibrant and healthy environments which in turn will assist with mental well-being, health and chronic diseases.
20	education	Neutral / Unknown	Moderate	Medium	-4 Minor	-	The Vision encourages most new development to areas best served by local facilities, including schools and further education establishments. A vibrant and resilient community would look to improve early years experience and life chances in deprived areas. Developer contributions when providing sustainable development can assist towards educational range and access to education.
21	skills	Neutral / Unknown	Moderate	Medium	-4 Minor	-	The Vision in its nature by encouraging a diverse economy, integrated housing, economic and service development will attract , retain and nurture a skilled and resilient workforce.
22	employment	Positive	Moderate	Medium	8 Minor	+	The Vision does states that it encourages a vibrant and resilient Powys and a thriving and diverse rural economy. The creation of satisfying and lasting new jobs therefore fits with the overall vision for Powys until 2026. If vibrant communities are created by the LDP- jobs will be attracted to those places both within sustainable service centres and in rural areas where small businesses are supported.

Sustainability Appraisal Assessment - Vision

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sustainable development aim	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		
24 maximising financial effectiveness	Neutral / Unknown	Moderate	Medium	-4 Minor	-		The Vision does make reference to providing opportunity for income generation through the thriving an diverse rural economy of small businesses. The Vision does have a direct impact on finances where they reasonably relate to sustainable development, housing and economic service development.

Sustainability Appraisal Assessment - Objectives and Policies

sustainable development aim	Contribution					issues raised	assessment / recommendations
	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	++	Objectives 1, 2, 3,4 & 5, policies DM2 and RE1.	Plan objectives and policies seek to reduce demand to travel to services by promoting development in sustainable settlements, supporting appropriate renewable energy development and encouraging energy efficiency through location and design. Renewable energy generation is facilitated by distinct objectives and policies.
3 climate change	Very Positive	Moderate	High	18 Significant	++	Objectives 4, 5 & 14 and Policies DM2 and RE1	Policies and land allocations seek to locate development in sustainable locations reducing the need to travel. The Plan avoids locating development in high flood risk areas and a key objective is a move to a low carbon/low waste economy. Policy DM2 (14) also addresses climate change issues through requiring new development to demonstrate sustainable and efficient use of resources. Finally, the Plan includes targets for the provision of renewable energy.
4 waste	Positive	Low	High	6 Minor	+	Objective 4 and Policies W1 & DM2	The Plan supports moving towards a low waste economy by supporting waste transfer stations. Policy W1 enables development of waste management facilities and Policy DM2 (14) requires all new development to include measures to achieve waste reduction.
5 water	Very Positive	High	High	27 Significant	++	Objectives 4, 5 & 11 and Policies DM1 & DM2.	The plan objectives seek to reduce or better manage existing flood risk for communities, infrastructure and businesses and support water conservation. Policies DM1 and DM2 seek to protect and conserve water resources, promote water efficiency, provide for sustainable drainage (i.e. SUDS), and address flood management including making space for water and ensuring development is directed away from high flood risk areas and to areas with sufficient headroom in the licenced abstraction.

Sustainability Appraisal Assessment - Objectives and Policies

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	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		
6 green infrastructure	Positive	Moderate	High	12 Significant	++	Objectives 3 & 11 and Policies DM1, DM2 & H14.	<p>The Plan has been subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment which ensures that there will be no likely significant effect on European Sites (NATURA 2000). The Plan has been prepared through the required Strategic Environmental Assessment process which requires consideration of key environmental issues. Objectives 3 and 11 support protection and enhancement of biodiversity and designated sites. Policies DM1 and DM2 aim to protect, positively manage and enhance biodiversity. The Plan aims to contribute to Water Framework Directive targets concerning water quality and avoids development on soils of high quality, recognising their value as a finite resource. Development is located to reduce the need to travel and the emissions/pollution generated by cars which assist in preventing air pollution.</p> <p>In terms of protecting and expanding green spaces, the Plan has regard to an Open Space Assessment and policies protect and enhance the open space network including natural and semi-natural green spaces. Further, Agriculture is recognised as a key economic sector by Objective 7 to be maintained and strengthened. Additionally policy H14 is supportive of the use of and protection of land for allotments.</p>

Sustainability Appraisal Assessment - Objectives and Policies

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7 resource use	Very Positive	High	High	27 Significant	++	Objective 3, 5, 11, 12, DM1, DM2	The Plan makes efficient use of land by protecting the open countryside, encouraging the use of brownfield sites, containing development within settlement limits and by providing guidance on the density of development and locating new development in sustainable locations. The Plan includes objectives and policies to manage the county's natural resources in a sustainable manner and protects finite resources such as the better quality agricultural land together with the safeguarding of important minerals. The plan expects all development to be located and designed to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development including the sustainable and efficient use of resources. The plan also promotes renewable energy and includes targets to increase the production of renewable energy in the County for electricity the target equates to 100% of predicted consumption by the end of the plan period.
9 housing	Very Positive	High	High	27 Significant	++	Objectives 1 & 2 and Policies DM3, and Housing Policies H1 to H14.	The Plan provides for 5000 dwellings up to 2026 to meet all of the housing needs of Powys including affordable housing provision. In terms of affordable housing policies H4, H5 and H6 enable affordable housing contributions in accordance with relevant viability assessments, and enabled exception sites and rural affordable homes to meet proven, unmet local need for affordable housing. The sustainable settlement hierarchy directs most housing to locations to higher tier settlements (Towns, Large Villages and Small Villages) that are sustainable and well served by services and facilities. Policy DM3 - Planning Obligations enables housing development to provide opportunity for planning gain to deliver community infrastructure.

Sustainability Appraisal Assessment - Objectives and Policies

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10 access	Positive	High	High	18 Significant	++	Objective 2, and Policies DM2, DM3 and T1.	Development is located via a sustainable settlement hierarchy. The hierarchy is based on population and the provision of local services/facilities, including the availability of public transport, within the settlement hence reducing the demand for travel. Development is expected to meet highway standards and incorporate the access needs of all transport users including pedestrians and cyclists. Policy DM2 requires new development to meet highway access requirements and vehicular parking standards, and where proposals are considered to generate significant amounts of travel or traffic a satisfactory transport assessment and/or travel plan will be required. Policy DM3 enables planning obligations to be sought by agreement with applicants for sustainable modes of transport, improved traffic management and rights of way in relation to development. Finally, by concentrating development in the most sustainable settlements, these locations will have the potential to be the focal points for improved digital connectivity.

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11 regeneration	Positive	Moderate	Medium	8 Minor	+	Objectives 2 & 8, Policies DM1, Employment Policies E1 to E4. Retail policies R1 to R4. and Tourism policies TD1, to TD3.	The LDP is based on a strategy that focuses growth on towns and larger villages so they act as vibrant and accessible service centres whilst also enabling appropriate growth in the more rural areas. The LDP includes a range of policies that support the effective delivery of services, promote Powys as a place of choice, improve access, protect natural assets and support opportunities for sharing knowledge. provision and enhancement of important material assets (such as employment premises, tourism assets and built heritage assets). The employment, retail and tourism policies support appropriate new development as a means to support sustainable rural communities. The LDP provides a land use interpretation of a number of other Plans and Strategies that are relevant to the regeneration of Powys including the Council's Regeneration Strategy and the regional (Mid Wales) Tourism Strategy. As such this approach specifically seeks to support regeneration activities alongside protecting, enhancing and sustainably managing the natural and built environment.

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13	community support	Positive	Moderate	High	12 Significant	++	Objectives 1, 2, 9, 14, & 16 and Policy C1 Community well-being is a key objective of the LDP (Objective 16). The Plan provides for specialist housing needs such as annexe accommodation, and is supportive of employment, retail and community facilities including health, recreation or leisure uses in local communities. The sustainable settlement hierarchy enhances communities through the integration of land uses to strengthen the role of towns and villages as community hubs. The Plan contains a significant number of policies which impact upon community well-being including those relating to housing, retail and leisure. Communities have been closely engaged as stakeholders in the Plan preparation process (see Community Involvement Scheme within the LDP Delivery Agreement) so as to ensure the Plan reflects local needs and aspirations. Further Town & Community Councils have been involved in the plan making process to impart their views on the candidate sites put forward for consideration for future development.

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14 governance	Very Positive	High	High	27 Significant	++		The LDP is governed by detailed legislation and guidance. As part of the adherence to this a Delivery Agreement has been approved which details how the Plan will be prepared including the engagement of the local community and stakeholders through the Community Involvement Scheme. The plan is subject to widespread consultation and community involvement including input from town and community councils, Council staff and members, interest groups and individuals. The LDP database enables the Council to keep accurate records of representations made on the plan and ensure that those who have shown interest in its preparation are kept up to date on its progress further encouraging cooperation between and engagement of businesses, communities and civil society.
15 equality	Positive	Moderate	Medium	8 Minor	+		The LDP Delivery Agreement has been approved which details how the Plan will be prepared including the engagement of all sectors of the community. As part of the community involvement scheme, there has been particular emphasis on the involvement of the hard to reach groups including those representing older and younger age groups, race, disability, sexual orientation and religion. Further the plan provides some identified needs of minority groups, such as for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation. The Plan was subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment. The Plan can provide for some identified needs of minority groups, such as for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation.

Sustainability Appraisal Assessment - Objectives and Policies

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	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		
16 culture and sense of place	Positive	High	Medium	12 Significant	++	Objectives 2, 13, 15, 16 and Policies DM1 and C1	<p>The LDP vision and objectives set out how land and settlements in Powys should be used and developed. In this regard it envisages vibrant places that celebrate, protect, enhance and make the most of their assets including natural and cultural heritage. Policies that promote culture and a sense of place include those relating to design, built heritage, Welsh language and community facilities including for example, supporting galleries, theatres, libraries and community centres and a presumption against the loss of community facilities. In this regard, Objective 2 encourages sustainable settlements and communities, Objective 13 supports the protection of built heritage, Objective 15 seeks to support and protect Welsh language and culture and specifically the Welsh speaking strongholds of the north-west and south-west and Objective 16 promotes development that supports community wellbeing and cohesion. In regard to Welsh Language and Culture the LDP includes a range of policies that support the protection and enhancement of Welsh Language and Culture across the County and an additional policy which requires special consideration of new developments within Welsh speaking strongholds (Policy DM2(15)). This policy approach is considered in detail in the For further details refer to the Welsh Language and Culture Topic Paper (2014) and the Welsh Language Impact Assessment (2013) which were prepared to inform the policy approach of the LDP. Policy DM2 (15) requires large scale developments in defined Welsh speaking communities to include mitigation measures to ensure that Welsh language and culture is protected and enhanced. In terms of crime reduction and reducing levels of antisocial behaviour, design policies make specific reference to the support of community safety and crime prevention.</p>

Sustainability Appraisal Assessment - Objectives and Policies

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	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		
17 business	Positive	High	Medium	12 Significant	++	Objectives 6, 7 & 8 and Policies E1 to E4 and R1 to R4.	A key role of the LDP is to provide opportunity for housing and jobs in sustainable locations. The Employment Objectives support a diverse, robust and vibrant economy including the need to strengthen and maintain key economic sectors such as manufacturing, tourism and agriculture. Detailed policies and proposals enable economic development in a multitude of forms alongside traditional industrial uses, for example house building and the construction industry, renewable energy opportunities, tourism development and agricultural diversification. LDP policies are written to ensure that they do not unduly constrain economic development, however it is recognised that external factors such as the availability of finance, economic conditions and distance to markets have a significant bearing.
19 health	Positive	Moderate	Medium	8 Minor	+	Objective 14 and Policies DM2 & H14.	The LDP's sustainable settlement hierarchy focusses development in areas which are well served by local facilities, hence reducing the need for car travel and encouraging walking and cycling. Development design policies support pedestrian linkages and access to the public rights of way network. Access to , and the provision of, open space is strongly supported including allotments and community growing spaces which provide opportunity for leisure, exercise and healthy food. Furthermore, the Plan policies seek to protect residential amenity including levels of noise, dust, air, pollution, litter, odour, hours of operation, overlooking or any other planning matter.

Sustainability Appraisal Assessment - Objectives and Policies

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	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		
20	education	Neutral / Unknown	Moderate	Medium	-4 Minor	-	Objectives 2, 9 & 16 and policy C1. The LDP directs most new development to areas best served by local facilities, including schools and further education establishments. The LDP policies support the provision of community buildings such as schools, community centres and libraries. The Plan has regard to the needs and aspirations of stakeholders including those surrounding Schools Modernisation in Powys. Due to the ongoing nature of such programmes, the Local Development Plan seeks to be flexible towards land-use change. Developer contributions towards education can be requested where reasonable and required.
21	skills	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?	Objectives 1, 6, 7, 8 The LDP by enabling jobs, a mix of housing in size and tenure, leisure and recreation opportunities, provides an environment which aims to attract, retain and nurture a skilled and resilient workforce. However it is recognised (population and housing considerations, para 20.) that there are key reasons for the outward migration of young adults that cannot be addressed by land-use policies alone.

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	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		
22 employment	Positive	High	Medium	12 Significant	++	Objectives 1, 6, 7 & 8 and Policies E1 to E4, R1 to R4, TD1 to TD3.	Whilst the LDP does not directly provide jobs, a key role of the Plan is to provide a land-use policy framework to enable employment growth. The Employment Objectives support a diverse, robust and vibrant economy including the need to strengthen and maintain key economic sectors in the County such as manufacturing, tourism and agriculture. Detailed policies and proposals enable economic development in a multitude of forms from self employed individuals to multi-national firms within a wide range of sectors and located throughout the county. The settlement strategy integrates housing with employment opportunities to ensure that an appropriate balance between housing and jobs is achieved. By facilitating development, the LDP also impacts on shorter term employment opportunities for architects, builders, construction industry staff, surveyors and estate or letting agents for example.
24 maximising financial effectiveness	Neutral / Unknown	Low	Low	-1 Minor	?		The LDP is a land-use plan. It has been prepared having regard to relevant policies and programmes prepared at international, national (UK and Wales), regional and local levels. This is to ensure that the Plan is supportive of the aims and objectives, including those relating to finance, of other high level plans including the corporate plans of the County Council. The plan has been prepared with the close engagement of relevant stakeholders in order to realise their ambitions where appropriate (such as in identifying and securing or safeguarding land for their function and purposes). The plan has a direct impact on finances where they reasonably relate to the development proposed through the mechanism of planning obligations/developer contributions.