



Powys County Council

Powys Replacement Local Development Plan (2022-2037)

Preferred Strategy - Initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report

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Powys County Council

Powys Replacement Local Development Plan (2022-2037)

Preferred Strategy - Initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal
Report

Type of document (version) Public

Project no. 62280832

Our Ref. No. 808795-WSP---10_P05.01

Date: July 2024

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Quality control

Issue/revision	First issue	Revision 1	Revision 2	Revision 3
Remarks	Full Draft for client review	Final for consultation		
Date	03/07/2024	22/07/2024		
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Authorised by	Robert Deanwood	Robert Deanwood		
Project number	UK-62280832	UK-62280832		
Report number	01	02		



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Introduction



1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1. Powys County Council is preparing the Replacement Local Development Plan (2022-2037)¹ which will replace the Adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) (2011-2026).² The Replacement Local Development Plan (hereafter referred to as 'RLDP') will set out how much new development will be accommodated in the Powys Local Planning Authority area to 2037, specifying where this growth will be located. The RLDP will also set out the policy framework for managing development proposals.
- 1.1.2. As part of plan preparation, the Council is required to carry out an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA)³, to ensure that the likely social, economic and environmental effects of the RLDP are identified, described and appraised.
- 1.1.3. The ISA brings together Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as well as Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA). A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is also being carried out and presented alongside the ISA. Further details on each component of the ISA are provided in **Section 1.2**.
- 1.1.4. This Initial ISA Report has been prepared by WSP to accompany the RLDP Preferred Strategy Consultation Document.

1.2 The Components of ISA

- 1.2.1. The approach adopted for the ISA of the RLDP has been developed in accordance with Government guidance on SEA and HRA, including the Development Plans Manual (DPM) Edition 3 (March 2020), best practice and case law.
- 1.2.2. The different elements of assessment (SA, SEA, HRA, EqIA, WLIA and HRA) are integrated, ensuring that the finding of each exercise inform the other elements of the appraisal and improve the effectiveness of consultation through a reduction in the number of reports produced as part of the evidence base for the RLDP.

SA & SEA

- 1.2.3. SA is undertaken to address the requirements of SEA and procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations), in doing so widening the scope of the assessment from largely environmental

¹ Replacement Local Development Plan (2022 - 2037) - Powys County Council

² Adopted LDP (2011 - 2026) - Powys County Council

³ Welsh Government (2019) The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004

issues to consider social and economic issues. SA is a legal requirement for Local Development Plans under Section 62 (5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The SA Report is published for consultation alongside the Draft LDP presenting an analysis of likely significant effects that would result from plan implementation, along with consideration of reasonable alternatives. The LDP Manual Edition 3 (2020) states that SA, incorporating SEA, plays an important part in demonstrating that the LDP is sound by ensuring that it reflects the legislative requirements and achieves sustainable development.

EqIA

- 1.2.4. Powys County Council has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 and associated Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to ensure that the objectives and policy options within the RLDP avoid unlawful discrimination (direct and indirect), instead, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between those with protected characteristics and all others. As of March 2021, the Socio-economic Duty, which compliments the Equalities Act and PSED by further contributing towards Wales' long term well-being goals, in particular "*A more equal Wales*" and "*A Wales of cohesive communities*".

HIA

- 1.2.5. The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 contains a provision to require a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to be carried out to assess the likely effect of the plans and programmes on health and mental well-being and inequality. This includes proposals and policies contained within Local Development Plans.

WLIA

- 1.2.6. The Welsh Government is committed to supporting the Welsh Language so that it can thrive and grow across Wales. The Welsh Language must be considered from the outset of the development plan process. It is a legislative requirement that the ISA must include an assessment of the likely effects of the plan on the use of the Welsh language (The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 (Section 11). Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (2024) sets the policy requirements for Welsh language. Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language provides guidance on the consideration of Welsh language as part of the development plan process. The TAN provides advice on incorporating the Welsh language in development plans through the ISA and the policy approach to anticipated windfall development.

HRA

- 1.2.7. HRA is undertaken to address the procedures prescribed by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It requires an assessment of the likely significant effects of the Local Development Plan on the National Sites Network, which includes Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar sites. National Sites Network sites are a component of the many features considered under the ISA biodiversity topic, identified in the SEA Regulations

1.3 Legislative Guidance

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- 1.3.1. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 makes local Well-being Plans a statutory requirement. The Powys Well-being Plan is produced by the Powys Public Service Board (PSB), which comprises: Powys County Council, Powys Teaching Health Board, Mid and West Wales Fire Service, and Natural Resources Wales. The Powys Well-being Plan (2023) objectives are:
- People in Powys live happy, healthy, and safe lives;
 - Powys is a County of sustainable places and communities; and
 - An increasingly effective Public Service for the people of Powys.
- 1.3.2. The objectives of the Well-being Plan shape the work of the PSB to deliver the Well-being Plan vision of a Fair, Sustainable and Healthy Powys. The seven well-being goals identified by the 2015 Act are:
- A prosperous Wales;
 - A resilient Wales;
 - A more equal Wales;
 - A healthier Wales;
 - A Wales of cohesive communities;
 - A Wales of vibrant culture & thriving Welsh Language; and
 - A globally responsible Wales.
- 1.3.3. The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 (Section 2) further enforces the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and its requirements for sustainable development⁴. The Environment (Wales) Act introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (Section 6 Duty).

Meeting the Socio-economic Duty

- 1.3.4. When making decisions of a strategic nature about how to exercise its functions, local authorities should have due regard to the desirability of exercising them in a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage.

Setting objectives to focus action on reducing inequalities in Wales

- 1.3.5. Consider the reduction of inequalities of outcome related to socio-economic disadvantage when taking strategic decisions. This includes corporate objectives, equality objectives and

⁴ Welsh Government (2015) 'Planning (Wales) Act 2015'. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/4/section/2/enacted>

well-being objectives. The Duty does not require the setting of additional objectives specific to the Duty.

Consideration of equality within decision-making

- 1.3.6. When making strategic decisions, such as deciding priorities and setting objectives, consider how decisions can reduce inequalities of outcome associated with socio-economic disadvantage. Relevant public bodies are encouraged to be able to evidence a clear audit trail for all decisions made under the Duty.

Engagement, involvement and consultation

- 1.3.7. Public bodies are encouraged to consider data and evidence on the inequalities of outcome associated with socio-economic disadvantage. Engaging directly with individuals and communities affected by socio-economic disadvantage will inform this.

Accountability and Scrutiny to make a more equal and fairer Wales

- 1.3.8. Demonstrate consideration of the need to reduce inequality of outcome as a result of socio-economic disadvantage within strategic decision making. This could be demonstrated in annual reports, the publication of impact assessments, and in publication of board papers, for example.

Tracking and reporting on impact towards a more equal and fairer Wales

- 1.3.9. There is no bespoke reporting requirement to the Duty. However, public bodies are encouraged to monitor and understand the impact of the Duty using existing reporting measures.⁵
- 1.3.10. Reflecting the above requirements, the ISA addresses the Socio-economic Duty in the following ways:
- Within the Scoping Report, through the collation of baseline data and specification of Objectives which address socio-economic matters, which contain a wide range of indicators relevant to the Duty.
 - Analysis of the likely effects of the RLDP proposals and policies against the ISA Objectives.
 - Preparation of an Equalities Impact Assessment which analyses the likely effects of the RLDP on protected groups within Powys.
 - Engagement/ consultation with the public. The ISA will be available for review and comment alongside the RLDP.
 - The ISA will propose measures to monitor the likely significant effects of the RLDP, this could include measures relating to the socio-economic duty.

⁵ <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-04/a-more-equal-wales-mapping-guide.pdf>

1.4 This Initial ISA Report

- 1.4.1. The emerging Powys RLDP has focused on preparation of the following three elements to date:
- Key issues, vision and objectives;
 - Housing and employment growth options;
 - Spatial options for delivering growth
- 1.4.2. This ISA appraises these preliminary outputs using the Framework developed within the ISA Scoping Report. Further appraisal will be undertaken as the plan evolves, principally in relation to policies, to form the ISA of the Preferred Strategy. In this regard, this document does not undertake EqIA, HIA which require additional plan detail. An initial assessment of the likely effects on the Welsh language is undertaken through ISA Objective 4 (To protect, promote and enhance the Welsh language and culture). A preliminary HRA is undertaken, reflecting the availability of broadly drawn spatial options which can be related to European Habitats and their catchments (in the case of the River Wye and River Severn, for example).
- 1.4.3. The RLDP documents and the evidence base can be viewed and downloaded on the Council’s website.
- 1.4.4. Table 1.1 summarises the key RLDP and ISA Reports produced to date.

Table 1.1 – Key RLDP and ISA Reports produced to date

RLDP Documents & Consultation	ISA Documents & Consultation
	ISA Scoping Report made available for public consultation and sent to statutory consultees from 6 th September to 10 th October 2022.
Plan Issues, Objectives and Vision, Workshop Materials for consultation from 08 th to 28 th January 2024.	
RLDP Preferred Strategy Public consultation from 19 th August 2024 to 7 th October 2024	Initial ISA Report and Non-Technical Summary Public consultation from 19 th August 2024 to 7 th October 2024

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The Replacement Local Development Plan



2 The Replacement Local Development Plan

2.1 RLDP Overview

- 2.1.1. Powys County Council is preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) for the period 2022-2037. The RLDP will contain policies and proposals which will provide for the County's development needs and aspirations, whilst protecting and enhancing social, cultural and environmental assets.
- 2.1.2. The RLDP will be prepared in line with the following key outcomes, in accordance with the Welsh Government Local Development Plan (LDP) Manual (Edition 3, 2020):
- Support sustainable development and quality places based around the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes, reflecting national policy set out in Future Wales: The National Plan (2040), Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and integrated with an SA/SEA/HRA, including Welsh language and the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.
 - Reflecting early, effective and meaningful community involvement in order to understand and consider a wide range of views, with the aim of building a broad consensus on the spatial strategy, policies and proposals of the RLDP.
 - Based on a robust understanding of the role and function of Powys, including functional linkages to surrounding areas.
 - Clearly set out how the County will develop and change, giving certainty for communities, developers and businesses.
 - Be resilient to climate change (using the latest UK climate projections, flood risk and vulnerability assessment data) and support the transition to a low carbon society in line with the latest carbon reduction targets and budgets as set out in the Environment (Wales) Act (Part 2)
 - Reflect the principles of Placemaking, the Sustainable Transport Hierarchy and the Energy Hierarchy as set out in PPW.
 - Ensure the sustainable management of natural resources in accordance with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and other relevant legislation.
 - Deliver a viable plan, taking into account necessary infrastructure requirements, financial viability and other market factors.

2.2 RLDP Key Issues, Vision and Objectives

- 2.2.1. Preparation of the RLDP included a series of internal engagement exercises and a public consultation (January 2024) resulting in the identification of the following key issues, vision and objectives.

Key Issues

The Key Issues identified for the Replacement LDP are listed below and are considered to be the main land use and spatial planning issues facing the plan area for the period up to 2037.

1. **Responding to Climate Change** - Mitigation and Adaptation.
2. **Supporting Nature Recovery** - Protecting, Maintaining, and Enhancing Biodiversity.
3. **Caring for Resources** - In the Natural, Historic, and Built Environment.
4. **Promoting Sustainable Transport** - Moving Within and Between Places.
5. **Population** - Responding to Demographic Needs and Challenges.
6. **Planning for Well-being** - Happy, Healthy, and Safe Lives in Sustainable Communities
7. **Health** - Supporting Healthy Lifestyles and Promoting Healthier Places.
8. **Planning the Right Development in the Right Place** – Ensuring Sustainable Development.
9. **The Welsh Language** - Promotion and Protection.
10. **Planning for New Homes** - Quantity, Quality, and Affordability.
11. **Planning for a Vibrant Economy** - Long Term Economic Well-being.
12. **Planning for a Strong Farming and Rural Economy** - Including Developing Local Food Networks.
13. **Supporting the Mid Wales Growth Deal (MWGD)** - Supporting the Regional Economy.
14. **Supporting Sustainable Tourism.**
15. **Local Placemaking** - Good Design Making Better Places. Powys Replacement Local Development Plan (2022-2037) – Preferred Strategy 27
16. **Planning for Infrastructure and Service Needs** - Including the Demands of a Digital Future.
17. **Supporting Community Facilities and Community Assets.**
18. **Supporting Powys High Streets** - Town Centre First.
19. **Supporting Sustainable Energy** - Harnessing Green Power and Promoting Energy Efficiency.
20. **Managing and Reducing Waste**

Vision

In response to the Key Issues, the following Vision has been defined for the Powys Replacement LDP.

“By 2037, the Powys plan area will be:

A place of vibrant, thriving and well-connected communities including prosperous towns and villages, accommodating the sustainable growth of both new homes and jobs, and providing good access to services and employment opportunities.

Part of a more productive, enterprising and distinctive region that supports existing businesses, an expanded economy, and better job prospects based on innovation allied to a skilled workforce. Foundational economic sectors, including farming, tourism, and recreation and leisure, will continue their key roles and the rural economy will be resilient and diverse.

Benefiting from a strategic approach to Green Infrastructure, ensuring it is promoted and protected for multiple benefits to both wildlife and people, and facilitating improved ecological networks.

By 2037,

Communities across the plan area will have developed in a way which enable and support:

- Age-balanced communities living well in places which meet social, economic, Welsh language and cultural needs.*
- Nature to flourish through net benefit for biodiversity and resilient ecosystems.*
- Adaptation to climate change and the transition towards net zero.*

Residents will live safer, healthier, and greener lives through the provision of well-designed developments within an outstanding physical and cultural environment. The wealth of resources within the natural, built, and historic environments, including iconic landscapes, will be maintained, protected, enhanced and valued, shaping a sustainable land-use legacy for the future.”

Objectives

Table 2-1 below sets out the proposed RLDP objectives.

Table 2-1 – RLDP Objectives

Topic	Objectives
<p>Climate Change</p> <p>Key Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KI.1 Responding to Climate Change 	<p>Objective 1 – Climate Change</p> <p>i) To ensure new development and land uses are resilient to the effects of climate change, and to actively address the causes and impacts of a changing climate through minimisation, adaptation, and mitigation in support of the national ambition to reach net zero by 2050.</p> <p>ii) To support actions, approaches, interventions and development proposals which align to Corporate and Strategic priorities and plans (e.g. Powys scale action</p>

Topic	Objectives
	plans) which address climate change adaptation and mitigation.
<p>Nature Recovery and the Sustainable Management of Resources</p> <p>Key Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KI.2 Supporting Nature Recovery • KI.3 Caring for Resources 	<p>Objective 2 – Nature Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) To support nature recovery and address biodiversity decline by protecting, maintaining, restoring, and enhancing the resilience of Powys’s natural environment including habitats, biodiversity and geodiversity. ii) To ensure new development makes a positive contribution to nature recovery by providing net benefit for biodiversity and green infrastructure (including strategic green infrastructure where relevant). iii) To ensure new development facilitates the delivery of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience (including reversing degradation) by improving ecological networks through diversity, extent, condition and connectivity. iv) To utilise a strategic green infrastructure framework in local development planning (e.g. mapping, safeguarding and identifying opportunities), designed in collaboration with other stakeholders, for the better integration, efficacy, and co-ordination of nature recovery efforts <p>Objective 3 – Natural, Historic and Built Environments</p> <p>To sustainably manage Powys’s natural resources and to protect, conserve, enhance and restore the natural, historic and built environment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental designations. • Environmental qualities such as clean air, habitats and water quality. • Historic environment designations including the Historic Environment Record (HER). • The special landscape characteristics and qualities of the Plan area and those of adjoining areas including National Parks and National Landscapes. • Recreational assets, including designated trails, cycling networks and public rights of way and other open space valued for sport, recreation and leisure (as typically included in an Open Space Assessment). • Safeguarding (in accordance with national policy) active travel routes and networks, existing public transport interchanges, areas proposed for transport schemes

Topic	Objectives
	<p>(infrastructure and routes), minerals areas, coastal habitats, and common land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other strategic assets in the Plan area, for example Ministry of Defence training grounds, the Montgomery Canal, and the best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 1, 2 and 3a). <p>Objective 4 – Mineral Resources</p> <p>To safeguard mineral deposits from sterilisation and to provide positively for the sustainable working of mineral resources to meet society’s needs now and in the future, ensuring an adequate supply of minerals is available long term.</p>
<p>Key Planning Principles, Placemaking, Health and Well-being</p> <p>Key Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KI.4 Promoting Sustainable Transport • KI.6 Planning for Well-being • KI.7 Supporting Healthy Lifestyles • KI.8 Right Development, Right Place • KI.15 Local Placemaking 	<p>Objective 5 – Sustainable Travel</p> <p>To ensure new development is compliant with the sustainable transport hierarchy meaning that, wherever possible, it is located and designed to reduce the need to travel and enable a choice of sustainable transport options for all. This includes providing active travel opportunities such as cycling and walking routes to encourage healthier lifestyles, improving public rights of way in connection with development, and using good design to ensure that routes connecting users to services and facilities are permeable, legible, direct, convenient, attractive, and safe. Given the rural nature of the Plan area, the development of ULEV charging infrastructure will be encouraged.</p> <p>Objective 6 - Placemaking</p> <p>To promote “right development, right place” through a placemaking focussed approach that shapes sustainable growth in resilient places across the Plan area. New development will need to meet key planning principles, address the climate and nature emergencies, satisfy the national sustainable placemaking outcomes and respond positively to the objectives of good design defined in national policy (context appraisal, access, movement, character, community safety and environmental sustainability).</p> <p>Objective 7 – Sustainable Growth</p> <p>To provide a framework for sustainable growth across Powys which safeguards resources and enables communities to thrive. Significance will be given to the Regional Growth Areas within a sustainable settlement hierarchy that balances the provision of homes, jobs, services, and facilities and promotes sustainable travel patterns.</p>

Topic	Objectives
	<p>Objective 8 – Health and Well-being</p> <p>To support the health and well-being of Powys residents by ensuring that places change and develop to support physical and mental health and well-being.</p> <p>This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking opportunities that contribute towards more physical and active lifestyles including: the provision of active travel, sport, play, recreation, and amenity facilities; developing a network of green infrastructure for the benefit of people and wildlife; ensuring public rights of way are well-maintained for the enjoyment of users; and promoting ease of access for all within new developments. • The Plan will use placemaking principles to deliver a better, well-designed public realm that promotes scope for social interactions alongside spaces for rest, relaxation, and quiet reflection. Green and blue spaces will be protected, restored and enhanced for their multi-functional benefits including the value they add to physical and mental well-being. • Making connections between development planning and the goals of the Powys Well-being Plan in order to complement its aims for improving the well-being of future generations. • Support for initiatives that connect buyers more directly to local produce, improving access to fresh, diverse and healthy food and drink.
<p>Sustainable Communities, Housing and Services</p> <p>Key Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KI.5 Responding to Demographic Challenges • KI.9 Promoting and Protecting the Welsh Language • KI.10 Planning for New Homes • KI.17 Supporting Community 	<p>Objective 9 – Sustainable Settlements and Communities</p> <p>To support stronger, safer, healthier, more connected and vibrant communities by considering the needs of all elements of society, including all age groups and the implications of an ageing population. New development will use placemaking principles to drive beneficial economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes creating age-balanced, sustainable and prosperous local places which optimise community health and well-being and address issues of deprivation and social exclusion as well as responding appropriately to the climate and nature emergencies. New development will be sustainable in design and construction, creating energy efficient properties that minimise running costs and provide for flexibility and future-proofing.</p>

Topic	Objectives
<p>Facilities and Community Assets</p>	<p>Objective 10 – Meeting Future Needs</p> <p>To build stronger, fairer and greener communities across Powys’s towns, villages and rural areas by meeting the identified needs for homes and jobs whilst securing supporting infrastructure. To plan new growth in accordance with a sustainable settlement hierarchy, providing for new and improved opportunities for people to come to live and work in Powys.</p> <p>Objective 11 – Welsh Language</p> <p>To foster the Welsh language by protecting Welsh language Strongholds and supporting Welsh cultural, education and language initiatives.</p> <p>Objective 12 – Housing Needs</p> <p>To meet the Plan area’s housing needs by ensuring the right number, range and mix of high quality sustainable new homes are provided during the Plan period in accordance with the sustainable settlement hierarchy.</p> <p>This includes the provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient homes to meet market and affordable housing needs. • Homes which meet specialist housing needs arising from the population including homes for older people, accessible and adapted housing, housing with care and support. • Homes which are affordable and accessible to local people in their own communities including facilitating community-led, co-operative, custom-build and self-build housing schemes. • A suitable range of homes by location, type and design, to be attractive to different sectors of the population including first-time buyers, homes that serve smaller households and homes for key workers and incoming workers. • Site(s) and pitches for Gypsy and Travellers to meet an identified need <p>Objective 13 – Community Facilities and Assets</p> <p>To support resilient and robust places and the well-being of communities by safeguarding public open spaces and sports facilities (e.g. play areas, amenity land, allotments), important community facilities (e.g. shops, pubs, village halls, youth centres, arts, education and cultural venues) and other local assets (e.g. public rights of way network, common land and</p>

Topic	Objectives
	active travel routes), whilst securing enhanced provision or improvement as part of new development.
<p>A Sustainable and Vibrant Economy</p> <p>Key Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KI.11 Planning for a Vibrant Economy • KI.12 Planning for a Strong Farming and Rural Economy • KI.13 Supporting the Mid Wales Growth Deal (MWGD) • KI.14 Supporting Tourism • KI.18 Supporting Powys High Streets 	<p>Objective 14 – Vibrant Economy</p> <p>To support economic prosperity and meet employment needs, including safeguarding the range and supply of employment sites, by encouraging innovation and the upskilling of the workforce, helping Powys to deliver strong local communities and to retain and attract a more age-balanced and competitive workforce</p> <p>Objective 15 – Economic Development</p> <p>To support new economic development aligned to a sustainable settlement hierarchy which meets the needs of local businesses including proposals which strengthen the foundational economy, such as agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and construction, and development proposals that support sustainable rural diversification and add value to local produce.</p> <p>Objective 16 – Mid Wales Growth Deal</p> <p>To support economic growth by contributing to the aims of Growing Mid Wales and facilitating proposals arising from the Mid Wales Growth Deal.</p> <p>Objective 17 - Tourism</p> <p>To support sustainable tourism, including active, green and cultural tourism, whilst safeguarding (including the care, improvement and restoration) important tourism-related resources and assets, such as the natural, built and historic environment, national trails, public rights of ways, the national cycle network, dark skies, distinctive landscapes and open spaces.</p> <p>Objective 18 – Town Centres</p> <p>To promote vibrant, attractive and viable high streets and thriving town centres by ensuring new retail and commercial development is directed to town centres in the first instance, safeguarding existing frontages and encouraging a mix of complementary uses. Proposals outlined in Town Centre Investment Plans, Place and Placemaking Plans or other local initiatives will be supported in principle</p>
<p>Infrastructure, Energy and Waste</p> <p>Key Issues:</p>	<p>Objective 19 – Infrastructure Provision and New Development</p> <p>To ensure that appropriate physical and digital infrastructure, including utilities and services such as health and education are</p>

Topic	Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KI.16 Planning Infrastructure and Service Needs • KI.19 Supporting Sustainable Energy: Harnessing Green Power and promoting Energy Efficiency • KI.20 Managing and Reducing Waste 	<p>in place or can be provided by appropriate development contributions to accommodate the needs arising from new development. To support the efficient provision of these by locating the majority of growth in places that are best served by existing or planned infrastructure and services, including places identified within Regional Growth Areas.</p> <p>Objective 20 – Infrastructure and Digital Connectivity Projects</p> <p>To support the sustainable provision of new or upgraded infrastructure and services to meet the changing needs of society and communities in Powys. This includes the provision and upgrading of connections for digital and mobile phone operations for improved coverage of digital infrastructure across the Plan area.</p> <p>Objective 21 – Energy and Decarbonisation</p> <p>To reduce the energy demand of new development, promote energy efficiency and support renewable energy generation, whilst minimising the use of non-renewable resources, encouraging decarbonisation, and preventing the generation of waste and pollution. To help combat the climate emergency, the Replacement LDP will proactively contribute towards meeting national targets for renewable and low carbon energy. Using the policy framework set by Future Wales, renewable and low carbon energy developments and associated infrastructure will be facilitated in appropriate locations where compatible with other Objectives including the protection of resources and supporting nature recovery. Other low-carbon infrastructure changes, such as the move to ULEV private vehicles will need to be accommodated in all developments.</p> <p>Objective 22 - Waste</p> <p>To provide a range of sites suitable for waste management facilities including those which increase the reuse and recycling of waste as an alternative to landfill, together with reducing the amount of waste generated from development during construction and use.</p>

3

ISA Scope and Methodology



3 ISA Scope and Methodology

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1. Preparation of the ISA Scoping Report is the first stage in the ISA, identifying issues, objectives and a framework for assessment of the likely effects of the policies and proposals of the RLDP. The Scoping Report was available for review and comment by the public and statutory consultees (Natural Resources Wales and CADW) from 06th September to 10th October 2022. The responses received were taken into account and amendments made to the baseline information and draft ISA Objectives where necessary.
- 3.1.2. The representations received and how they have been taken into account are presented in Appendix B. A final ISA Scoping Report was produced to reflect the comments received and this is presented in Appendix A.

3.2 ISA Key Issues

- 3.2.1. The baseline information and review of plans and programmes presented in the Final ISA Scoping Report (see Appendix A) informed the identification of a number of key issues under each of the ISA topics and these are presented below.

ISA Topic: Population & Communities

- Overall, the need to create sustainable places where people want to live and work.
- The need to enable housing growth and identify the minimum number of homes to be planned for and planning for a mix of accommodation to suit all household types.
- The need to make best use and improve the quality of the existing housing stock.
- The need to support the delivery of specialist forms of housing for older people and people with disabilities.
- The need to provide affordable housing to contribute towards addressing local needs and housing pressures.
- The need to promote a range of functions which contribute to the vibrancy of local service centres.
- The need to safeguard existing community facilities and services and ensure the timely delivery of new facilities to meet needs arising from new development which will contribute to sustainable communities.

ISA Topic: Economy & Employment

- The need to deliver a range of employment sites to support economic growth.
- The need to ensure a flexible supply of land for employment development.
- The need to support economic development across Powys.
- The need to maintain and enhance the vitality of Powys' hierarchy of settlements.
- The need to provide good quality sustainable employment and training opportunities.
- The need to maintain and raise educational attainment and skills in the local labour force.

- The need to reduce out-commuting by encouraging businesses to invest and set up within Powys.

ISA Topic: Equality, Diversity & inclusion

- The need to raise incomes and especially for those whose incomes are in the lowest quartile.
- The need to provide good quality sustainable employment and training opportunities.
- The need to tackle pockets of deprivation that exist in the area.
- The need to safeguard and maintain and enhance access to cultural and community facilities which benefit and support sustainable communities.
- The need to improve peoples' awareness of services and how to access them.
- The need to maintain and raise educational attainment and skills in the local labour force.

ISA Topic: The Welsh Language

- The need to continue to nurture interest and learning in the Welsh language (especially people outside of school age).
- The need to increase the number of people who can speak Welsh.
- The need to increase the number people who speak Welsh daily and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh.
- The need to increase opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language.
- The need to treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.
- The need to safeguard the identity of existing communities.
- The need to safeguard and maintain and enhance access to cultural and community facilities which benefit and support sustainable communities.
- The need to improve peoples' awareness of services and how to access them.

ISA Topic: Health & Well-Being

- The need to protect the health and wellbeing of Powys' population.
- The need to promote healthy lifestyles and in particular address obesity and levels of physical activity.
- The need to plan for an ageing population.
- The need to address health inequalities.
- The need to protect and enhance accessible open space provision.
- The need to support high quality design that creates safe and secure communities.
- The need to safeguard existing health care facilities and services and ensure the timely delivery of new facilities and services to meet needs arising from new development.
- The need to improve peoples' awareness of services and how to access them.
- The need to ensure that new development is designed and constructed to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

ISA Topic: Land Use, Soils & Geology

- The need to make efficient and effective use of land.
- The need to protect the Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land.

- The need to protect and restore soil and peat resources as important carbon sinks and their role in increasing resilience of the natural environment against the effects of climate change.
- Reflecting the objectives of the Mid Wales Area Statement, the need to:
 - Support farm businesses through ways of working that minimise impacts on the environment.
 - Take measures to reduce pollution incidents through better management of potential sources of pollution (such as slurry & manure stores).
 - Work with businesses, communities and policy makers to review current agricultural policies and schemes and explore new options for Payment for Ecosystem Services.

ISA Topic: Water

- The need to protect and enhance the quality of water sources across Powys to ensure resilient public water supply and improve the quality of the natural environment
- The need to promote the efficient use of water resources.
- The need to ensure the timely provision of new water services infrastructure to meet demand arising from new development.
- Reflecting the objectives of the Mid Wales Area Statement, the need to:
 - Support farm businesses through ways of working that minimise impacts on the environment.
 - Take measures to reduce pollution incidents through better management of potential sources of pollution (such as slurry & manure stores).
 - Work with businesses, communities and policy makers to review current agricultural policies and schemes and explore new options for Payment for Ecosystem Services.
 - Manage our water resources to improve the quality and quantity of available water, without causing detriment to the natural environment.
 - Help to create adaptive and resilient communities in response to adverse weather events and climate change.
 - Support new ideas around developing Nature Based Solutions - for example, using Natural Flood Risk Management.

ISA Topic: Air

- The need to minimise the emissions of pollutants to air.
- The need to improve air quality, particularly in areas vulnerable to pollution.
- Reflecting the objectives of the Mid Wales Area Statement, the need to:
 - Support farm businesses through ways of working that minimise impacts on the environment.
 - Take measures to reduce pollution incidents through better management of potential sources of pollution (such as slurry & manure stores).
 - Work with businesses, communities and policy makers to review current agricultural policies and schemes and explore new options for Payment for Ecosystem Services.

ISA Topic: Waste & Resource Use

- The need to minimise waste arisings and encourage reuse and recycling.
- The need to address capacity gaps for waste management that currently exist and are forecast to exist.
- The need to promote the efficient use of mineral resources.
- The need to ensure the protection of Powys' mineral resources from inappropriate development.

ISA Topic: Climate Change (adaptation)

- The need to respond to the declared climate emergency.
- The need to ensure that new development is adaptable to the effects of climate change.
- The need to increase woodland and tree cover and other measures to help mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- The need to locate new development away from areas of flood risk, taking into account the effects of climate change.
- The need to ensure the timely provision of flood defence/management infrastructure.
- The need to protect and restore soil and peat resources as important carbon sinks and their role in increasing resilience of the natural environment against the effects of climate change.

ISA Topic: Climate Change (mitigation)

- The need to respond to the declared climate emergency.
- The need to mitigate climate change including through maximising renewable energy provision at site and Powys-wide scales.

ISA Topic: Transport & Movement

- The need to enhance the connectivity of more remote settlements.
- The need to encourage alternative modes of transport to the private car.
- The need to ensure that new development is accessible to community facilities and services and jobs so as to reduce the need to travel.

ISA Topic: Historic Environment

- The need to protect and enhance Powys' historic environment including its diversity, and local distinctiveness.
- The need to avoid harm to designated heritage assets and their settings, and address heritage at risk.
- The need to recognise the value of non-designated heritage assets and protect where appropriate enhance these where possible.
- The need to recognise the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of landscapes and townscapes, including the Welsh language and culture and health and well-being.

ISA Topic: Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure & Geodiversity

- The need to respond to the declared biodiversity emergency.
- The need to protect, enhance and restore Powys' biodiversity through providing net benefits to biodiversity where possible.
- The need to maintain, restore and expand Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan habitats.
- The need to protect and enhance the multifunctional green infrastructure network, addressing deficiencies and gaps, improving accessibility and encouraging multiple uses where appropriate.
- The need to protect and enhance sites designated for their ecological and geological interest.
- Reflecting the objectives of the Mid Wales Area Statement, the need to:
 - identify the main causes of the nature emergency including what needs to be done, by whom and where.
 - improve the Favourable Conservation Status of designated sites.
 - identify opportunities for connectivity between those sites and other areas.
 - make nature a priority through planning, policy, and practical measures.

ISA Topic: Landscape & Townscape

- The need to conserve and where appropriate enhance Powys' landscape and townscape character.
- The need to promote high quality design that respects local character.
- The need to maximise opportunities associated with new development to enhance townscape character and the quality of built environments, and the use of historic place names, including Welsh names.
- The need to protect landscapes from incompatible development.

3.3 ISA Framework

- 3.3.1. ISA objectives and guide questions were then developed to address the identified key issues and these are presented in Table 3-1 – ISA Framework below. For reference, wellbeing goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 are aligned to the ISA objectives.

Table 3-1 – ISA Framework

ISA Topic	ISA Objective	Guide questions (<i>Will the policy or proposal ...</i>)	Supporting National Well-Being Goals
Population & Communities	ISA Objective 1: To provide good quality homes and community infrastructure to meet identified needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Meet the identified housing needs, including affordable and specialist requirements? ■ Ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures to meet the needs of all sectors of the community? ■ Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? ■ Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities, including specialist services? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A Wales of cohesive communities ■ A healthier Wales ■ A more equal Wales
Economy & Employment	ISA Objective 2: To create and support a strong, diverse and resilient economy and workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide sufficient land for businesses to grow? ■ Support the creation of accessible new jobs and training opportunities? ■ Ensure the capacity of educational facilities keep pace with population growth? ■ Enhance the vitality and resilience of communities? ■ Safeguard existing employment areas? ■ Create opportunities for and promote sustainable tourism, sensitively capitalising on environmental, cultural, heritage and leisure assets? ■ Create opportunities for enhancements to the rural economy and rural diversification (including agriculture, forestry, small and medium sized employers (SMEs), 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A prosperous Wales ■ A resilient Wales ■ A more equal Wales ■ A Wales of cohesive communities

ISA Topic	ISA Objective	Guide questions (<i>Will the policy or proposal ...</i>)	Supporting National Well-Being Goals
		micro businesses and the development of digital connectivity)?	
Equality, Diversity & inclusion	ISA Objective 3: To reduce poverty and inequality; tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Assist with providing employment and training opportunities for those most in need? ■ Help to tackle poverty and inequality to support well-being? ■ Address directly and indirectly areas suffering deprivation and/or decline? ■ Help to provide better education opportunities and attainment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A healthier Wales ■ A more equal Wales ■ A Wales of cohesive communities
The Welsh Language	ISA Objective 4: To protect, promote and enhance the Welsh language and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Affect the number who can speak Welsh and/or opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language daily (both positive and/or adverse effects)? ■ Affect the sustainability of Welsh speaking communities (both positive and/or adverse effects)? ■ Affect Welsh medium education and Welsh learners of all ages, including adults (both positive and/or adverse effects)? ■ Affect services available in Welsh (both positive and/or adverse effects)? (e.g. health and social services, transport, housing, digital, youth, infrastructure, environment, local government etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language ■ A Wales of cohesive communities

ISA Topic	ISA Objective	Guide questions (<i>Will the policy or proposal ...</i>)	Supporting National Well-Being Goals
Health & Well-Being	ISA Objective 5: To improve the health and well-being of all sectors of society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Contribute towards an improvement in access to health and social care services especially in isolated/rural areas? ■ Contribute towards a reduction in health inequalities amongst different groups in the community including specifically children and older people? ■ Contribute towards healthy lifestyles and promote well-being including walking and cycling? ■ Contribute towards improving access to natural green space, wildlife, open space including opportunities for play, leisure and recreation? ■ Contribute towards an increase in green infrastructure? ■ Ensure new development is designed to reduce crime and the fear of crime? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A prosperous Wales ■ A resilient Wales ■ A healthier Wales ■ A more equal Wales ■ A Wales of cohesive communities
Land Use, Soils & Geology	ISA Objective 6: To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings and protect higher grade agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Create opportunities to develop previously developed land where this will have no adverse impacts on Open Mosaic Habitats? ■ Protect the Best and Most Versatile land from development? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A resilient Wales ■ A healthier Wales
Water	ISA Objective 7: To conserve, protect and enhance water quality and water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reduce water consumption? ■ Ensure an adequate supply of water can be provided considering current and future projections of water availability and water use? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A resilient Wales ■ A healthier Wales

ISA Topic	ISA Objective	Guide questions (<i>Will the policy or proposal ...</i>)	Supporting National Well-Being Goals
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Be delivered without causing deterioration in water quality in rivers and streams? ■ Lead to an improvement in water quality in the SAC river catchments? ■ Reduce the potential for agricultural practices to contribute towards nutrient-based pollution of waterbodies and courses? 	
Air	ISA Objective 8: To minimise or reduce the sources and effects of air pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reduce the need to travel? ■ Encourage journeys to be made by sustainable means (active travel or public transport)? ■ Avoid any adverse effects on air quality and for people exposed to poor air quality? ■ Improve air quality in areas identified as of concern? ■ Promote and facilitate the use of electric vehicles? ■ Promote and facilitate enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of NOx and other pollutants? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A resilient Wales ■ A healthier Wales ■ A more equal Wales ■ A globally responsible Wales
Waste & Resource Use	ISA Objective 9: To minimise waste generation, encourage re-use and recycling and promote efficient use of mineral resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote the remediation of contaminated land and prevention of further contamination? ■ Create opportunities to increase the proportion of waste recycling and re-use? ■ Promote opportunities to use recycled and secondary materials in construction? ■ Promote the use of locally sourced sustainable materials? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ resilient Wales ■ A healthier Wales ■ A globally responsible Wales

ISA Topic	ISA Objective	Guide questions (<i>Will the policy or proposal ...</i>)	Supporting National Well-Being Goals
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguard mineral resources? 	
Climate Change (adaptation)	ISA Objective 10: To support the resilience of Powys to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding and other extreme events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change? ▪ Increase resilience of the built and natural environment to the effects of climate change? ▪ Ensure that the potential risks associated with climate change are considered in new developments? ▪ Improve and extend green infrastructure networks to support climate change adaptation? ▪ Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A resilient Wales ▪ A more equal Wales ▪ A Wales of cohesive communities ▪ A globally responsible Wales
Climate Change (mitigation)	ISA Objective 11: To reduce the contribution to climate change from greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? ▪ Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable sources? ▪ Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? ▪ Reduce the need to travel or the number of journeys made? ▪ Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? ▪ Ensure that development does not contribute towards further increases in high energy use and unsustainable travel? ▪ Improve the provision of nature-based solutions to adapt and mitigate climate change? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A resilient Wales ▪ A more equal Wales ▪ A Wales of cohesive communities ▪ A globally responsible Wales

ISA Topic	ISA Objective	Guide questions (<i>Will the policy or proposal ...</i>)	Supporting National Well-Being Goals
Transport & Movement	ISA Objective 12: To promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development? ■ Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel? ■ Enable transport infrastructure improvements? ■ Support the uptake of low carbon transport? ■ Contribute towards the electric vehicle (EV) charging network? ■ Facilitate working from home and remote working? ■ Provide improvements to and/or reduce congestion on the existing highway network? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A resilient Wales ■ A more equal Wales ■ A Wales of cohesive communities ■ A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language ■ A globally responsible Wales
Historic Environment	ISA Objective 13: To preserve and enhance the Powys' heritage resource, including built and archaeological assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Conserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural, historic and cultural interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting? ■ Conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of Conservation Areas and their settings? ■ Ensure that Welsh place names are recognised as integral features of the cultural and historic landscape of Wales? ■ Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, and archaeologically sensitive areas? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A resilient Wales ■ A more equal Wales ■ A Wales of cohesive communities ■ A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure	ISA Objective 14: To conserve and enhance biodiversity and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net benefits where possible? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A Resilient Wales ■ A Healthier Wales

ISA Topic	ISA Objective	Guide questions (<i>Will the policy or proposal ...</i>)	Supporting National Well-Being Goals
& Geodiversity	geodiversity and promote improvements to the multifunctional green infrastructure network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Protect and enhance ecological networks, including those that cross administrative boundaries? ■ Protect geologically valuable sites, including their setting? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A Globally Responsible Wales
Landscape & Townscape	ISA Objective 15: To protect the quality and diversity of designated and local landscapes and townscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure that Powys' valued landscapes and townscapes are conserved and enhanced? ■ Ensure that Welsh place names are recognised as integral features of the cultural and historic landscape of Wales? ■ Ensure that design quality is considered as part of all development activity? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A Prosperous Wales ■ A Resilient Wales ■ A Healthier Wales; A More Equal Wales ■ A Wales of Cohesive Communities ■ A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language ■ A Globally Responsible Wales

3.4 ISA of RLDP Vision and Objectives

3.4.1. It is important that the vision and objectives of the RLDP are aligned with the ISA objectives. The RLDP vision and objectives have therefore be appraised for their compatibility with the objectives that comprise the ISA Framework to help establish whether the general approach to the Plan is in accordance with the principles of sustainability. A compatibility matrix is used to record the appraisal based on the layout presented in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2 – Example compatibility matrix

ISA Objective	Vision	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3...etc
1. Biodiversity and Geodiversity	+	0	+	?
2. Housing	+	-	+	+
3. Etc...	+	0	+	?

3.4.2. The key for the compatibility assessment is presented in Table 3-3 below.

Table 3-3 – Key to compatibility matrix

Symbol	Compatibility Result	Symbol	Compatibility Result
+	Compatible	0	Neutral
?	Uncertain	-	Incompatible

3.5 ISA of the Preferred Strategy and Reasonable Alternatives

3.5.1. In line with requirements, the ISA process has sought to identify, describe and evaluate the significant effects of Preferred Strategy and reasonable alternatives. This has been done by identifying the likely changes to the baseline conditions as a result of implementing the Preferred Strategy and the reasonable alternative to it. These changes are described (where possible) in terms of scale, the timescale over which they could occur, whether the effects would be temporary or permanent, positive or negative, likely or unlikely, frequent or rare. Where numerical information was not available, the appraisal has been based on professional judgement and with reference to relevant legislation, regulations and policy. More specifically, in undertaking the appraisal, consideration has been given to:

- baseline information including and key issues;

- the likely activities and potential sources of effects associated with the construction and operation of new homes, employment and associated infrastructure;
 - the regulatory framework;
 - the ISA objectives and guide questions (see Table 3-1); and
 - definitions of significance (see Table 3-4 and Appendix A).
- 3.5.2. The Preferred Strategy, as well as its reasonable alternatives, has been assessed against the ISA objectives on a topic-by-topic basis to identify likely significant environmental, social and economic effects using an appraisal matrix.
- 3.5.3. In line with the SEA Regulations, the ISA must detail which of the identified effects are likely to be significant (whether this is significantly positive or negative). To ensure the significant effects are presented clearly and consistently, a set of significance criteria has been defined for the assessment. The scoring system used in the appraisal and guidance on determining significant effects is summarised in Table 3-4 below. Specific definitions have also been developed for what constitutes a significant effect, a minor effect or a neutral effect for each of the 15 ISA objectives; these can be found in Appendix A of this report.
- 3.5.4. For each effect identified, a score will be given using the framework set out in Table 3-1. This will be undertaken using expert judgement after a review of the evidence available. All evidence/ assumptions that have been used to make these judgements will be documented.

Table 3-4 – ISA key and summary guide for the assessment of significance

Symbol	Score	Description
++	Significant positive effect	The proposed option/policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective.
+	Minor positive effect	The proposed option/policy contributes to the achievement of the objective but not significantly.
0	Neutral/no effect	The proposed option/policy does not have any effect on the achievement of the objective
-	Minor negative effect	The proposed option/policy detracts from the achievement of the objective but not significantly.
--	Significant negative effect	The proposed option/policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective.
?	Uncertain effect	The proposed option/policy has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the

		aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an appraisal to be made.
~	No Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed option/policy and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible.

3.6 Mitigation and monitoring of significant effects

3.6.1. Where a significant negative effect has been identified, measures should be implemented to prevent, reduce or offset the effect. In addition, any uncertain effects should have mitigation suggested in order to reduce uncertainty and the potential for this to give rise to a significant negative effect. Where relevant, enhancement measures will be suggested to enhance the positive effects of policies. Monitoring of potential significant and uncertain negative effects is also an important part of the ISA process and helps to identify unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage, thus ensuring that appropriate remedial action is taken. Monitoring measures will be suggested for significant and uncertain effects.

3.7 Appraisal of Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects

- 3.7.1. The SEA Regulations require that secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are considered as part of the ISA. These are defined as follows⁶:
- **Secondary (or indirect):** Effects that do not occur as a direct result of the RLDP’s implementation but occur at distance from the direct impacts or as a result of a complex pathway.
 - **Cumulative:** Effects that occur where several individual activities which each may have an insignificant effect, combine to have a significant effect. Examples of a cumulative effect resulting from the implementation of the RLDP could include potential effects on a National Sites Network Sites where a habitat or species is vulnerable and the cumulative effects of disturbance and pollutant emissions arising from development and operation causes a significant impact. Cumulative effects will also include the potential effects (if any) of a proposed plan or activity under the plan and any other proposed plan and/or consented developments.
 - **Synergistic:** Effects that interact to produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual effects.
- 3.7.2. Through the appraisal of the Preferred Strategy, the methodology outlined earlier in chapter 3, the cumulative effects of the Preferred Strategy in-combination with other plans and programmes have been considered. This has been appraised on a topic-by-topic basis to

⁶ These terms are not mutually exclusive, often the term cumulative effects is taken to include secondary and synergistic.

identify likely significant cumulative effects using an appraisal matrix and using the scoring system as outlined in Table 3-4.

3.8 Technical Difficulties

Uncertainties

3.8.1. The following uncertainties have been noted when completing this Initial ISA Report and could then become material to the subsequent appraisal:

- the precise location of new development is unknown at this stage;
- the timing and delivery of new development is unknown at this stage;
- the detailed design of any development and associated infrastructure is unknown; and
- future changes to the social, economic and environmental baseline beyond those outlined are difficult to predict in light of the length of the plan period and lifespan of development.

4

ISA of Vision and Objectives



4 ISA of Vision and Objectives

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1. A compatibility assessment of the RLDP’s vision and objectives against the ISA Objectives was carried out. The findings of this are presented in Table 4-2 and summarised below with the key presented in Table 4-1.

4.2 Compatibility assessment findings

4.2.1. All of the ISA Objectives are broadly supported by the RLDP vision and one or more of the RLDP Objectives and vice versa, which suggests that they are compatible and mutually reinforcing.

4.2.2. Overall, positive relationships are identified, particularly in respect of the provision of housing, economic development, health and wellbeing, sustainable development, biodiversity and landscape protection. These reflecting some of fundamental intention of the delivery of the RLDP.

4.2.3. There are various uncertainties identified relating to the compatibility of economic development with sustainable development aspirations, particularly in respect of the promotion of sustainable transport and climate change mitigation measures, reflecting the potential challenges associated with the transition to a low-carbon society. The detail of policy and its implementation will be important in resolving such uncertainties.

4.2.4. No negative relationships have been identified, suggesting that both the ISA and the RLDP are largely in alignment in their consideration of the range and intent of objectives.

Table 4-1 – Compatibility Assessment Key

Symbol		Symbol		Symbol		Symbol	
+	Compatible	0	Neutral	?	Uncertain	-	Incompatible

Table 4-2 - ISA and RLDP Compatibility Assessment

RLDP Objective	ISA Objective	VISION	Objective 1 – Climate Change	Objective 2 – Nature Recovery	Objective 3 – Natural, Historic & Built Environments	Objective 4 – Mineral Resources	Objective 5 – Sustainable Travel	Objective 6 - Placemaking	Objective 7 – Sustainable Growth	Objective 8 – Health and Well-being	Objective 9 – Sustainable Settlements & Communities	Objective 10 – Meeting Future Needs	Objective 11 – Welsh Language	Objective 12 – Housing Needs	Objective 13 – Community Facilities & Assets	Objective 14 – Vibrant Economy	Objective 15 – Economic Development	Objective 16 – Mid Wales Growth Deal	Objective 17 - Tourism	Objective 18 – Town Centres	Objective 19 – Infrastructure Provision	Objective 20 – Infrastructure & Digital Connectivity	Objective 21 – Energy & Decarbonisation	Objective 22 - Waste
ISA Objective 1: To provide good quality homes and community infrastructure to meet identified needs	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	0	?	+	+	?	?
ISA Objective 2: To create and support a strong, diverse and resilient economy and workforce	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	0
ISA Objective 3: To reduce poverty and inequality; tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	?	?
ISA Objective 4: To protect, promote and enhance the Welsh language and culture	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
ISA Objective 5: To improve the health and well-being of all sectors of society	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	?	0
ISA Objective 6: To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings and	?	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	?	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+

RLDP Objective	VISION	Objective 1 – Climate Change	Objective 2 – Nature Recovery	Objective 3 – Natural, Historic & Built Environments	Objective 4 – Mineral Resources	Objective 5 – Sustainable Travel	Objective 6 - Placemaking	Objective 7 – Sustainable Growth	Objective 8 – Health and Well-being	Objective 9 – Sustainable Settlements & Communities	Objective 10 – Meeting Future Needs	Objective 11 – Welsh Language	Objective 12 – Housing Needs	Objective 13 – Community Facilities & Assets	Objective 14 – Vibrant Economy	Objective 15 – Economic Development	Objective 16 – Mid Wales Growth Deal	Objective 17 - Tourism	Objective 18 – Town Centres	Objective 19 – Infrastructure Provision	Objective 20 – Infrastructure & Digital Connectivity	Objective 21 – Energy & Decarbonisation	Objective 22 - Waste
protect higher grade agricultural land																							
ISA Objective 7: To conserve, protect and enhance water quality and water resources	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ISA Objective 8: To minimise or reduce the sources and effects of air pollution	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
ISA Objective 9: To minimise waste generation, encourage re-use and recycling and promote efficient use of mineral resources	?	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
ISA Objective 10: To support the resilience of Powys to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding and other extreme events	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	?	0	0	0	?	?	?	?	0	0	0	+	0
ISA Objective 11: To reduce the contribution to climate change from greenhouse gas emissions	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	?	?	0	0	0	+	0

RLDP Objective	VISION	Objective 1 – Climate Change	Objective 2 – Nature Recovery	Objective 3 – Natural, Historic & Built Environments	Objective 4 – Mineral Resources	Objective 5 – Sustainable Travel	Objective 6 - Placemaking	Objective 7 – Sustainable Growth	Objective 8 – Health and Well-being	Objective 9 – Sustainable Settlements & Communities	Objective 10 – Meeting Future Needs	Objective 11 – Welsh Language	Objective 12 – Housing Needs	Objective 13 – Community Facilities & Assets	Objective 14 – Vibrant Economy	Objective 15 – Economic Development	Objective 16 – Mid Wales Growth Deal	Objective 17 - Tourism	Objective 18 – Town Centres	Objective 19 – Infrastructure Provision	Objective 20 – Infrastructure & Digital Connectivity	Objective 21 – Energy & Decarbonisation	Objective 22 - Waste
ISA Objective 12: To promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	?	0	?	+	?	?	?	?	+	+	0	+	0
ISA Objective 13: To preserve and enhance the Powys' heritage resource, including built and archaeological assets	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0
ISA Objective 14: To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and promote improvements to the multifunctional green infrastructure network	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
ISA Objective 15: To protect the quality and diversity of designated and local landscapes and townscapes	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0

5

ISA of Strategic Options



5 ISA of Strategic Options

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents an overview of the growth and spatial options identified in the Preferred Strategy document along with the findings of the ISA for these options.

5.2 Growth and Spatial Options

- 5.2.1. A principal purpose of the Preferred Strategy is to set out clearly the level of growth and its spatial distribution to deliver the Vision and Objectives of the RLDP. As part of this, there is a requirement to undertake an analysis of different growth and spatial options to inform the Preferred Strategy. The options are set out below and have been informed by a range of supply and demand factors and key pieces of evidence, such as a Settlement Assessment, Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA), an Employment Needs Assessment, a Demographic Evidence Report and an Initial Viability Assessment.

Growth Options

- 5.2.2. Informed by the LHMA and the Demographic Evidence Report, the Preferred Strategy identifies six growth scenarios which have been grouped as three growth options: Lower-, Medium- and Higher-level Growth Options. These are presented in Table 5-1 alongside growth options for total employment land provision, identified by the Employment Needs Assessment.

Table 5-1 – Growth Options

Option	Anticipated Annual Build Rate	Housing Requirement	Housing Provision Figure (+21%)	Total Employment Land (ha) Provision
Higher	264 - 288	3,960 - 4,320	4,792 - 5,227	40
Medium	203 - 220	3,045 - 3,300	3,684 - 3,993	32
Lower	172 - 179	2,580 - 2,682	3,122 - 3,245	32

Spatial Options

- 5.2.3. Spatial Options have been identified as part of the development of the Preferred Strategy and these have been influenced by the policies of Future Wales and other national, regional and local plans and strategies.
- 5.2.4. Four Spatial Options for housing were identified for consideration as follows:
- **Continuation of the Powys Adopted LDP (2011-2026) Strategy** - promotes proportionate growth to reinforce the network of market towns and villages within Powys.

The strategy sought to distribute growth pro-rata according to a settlement’s existing population/size and the services/facilities available. Please see Figure 5-1.

- **Affordable Housing Led** - in which all ‘new’ housing allocations are for affordable housing, distributed in accordance with the recognised need across each Local Housing Market Area (LHMA)). Please see Figure 5-2.
- **Population Apportionment (Dispersed Growth)** - in which ‘new’ housing is distributed across the LHMA in proportion to the population in each LHMA. Please see Figure 5-3.
- **Regional Growth Area Led (Focused Growth)** - in which the majority of ‘new’ housing is distributed to settlements in Regional Growth Area Clusters (RGAs), with lower levels of growth enabled within settlements in ‘Local Clusters whilst development in other parts of the plan area will be proportionate and appropriate to meet identified needs and support sustainable rural communities. Please see Figure 5-4.

Figure 5-1 – Adopted LDP Option

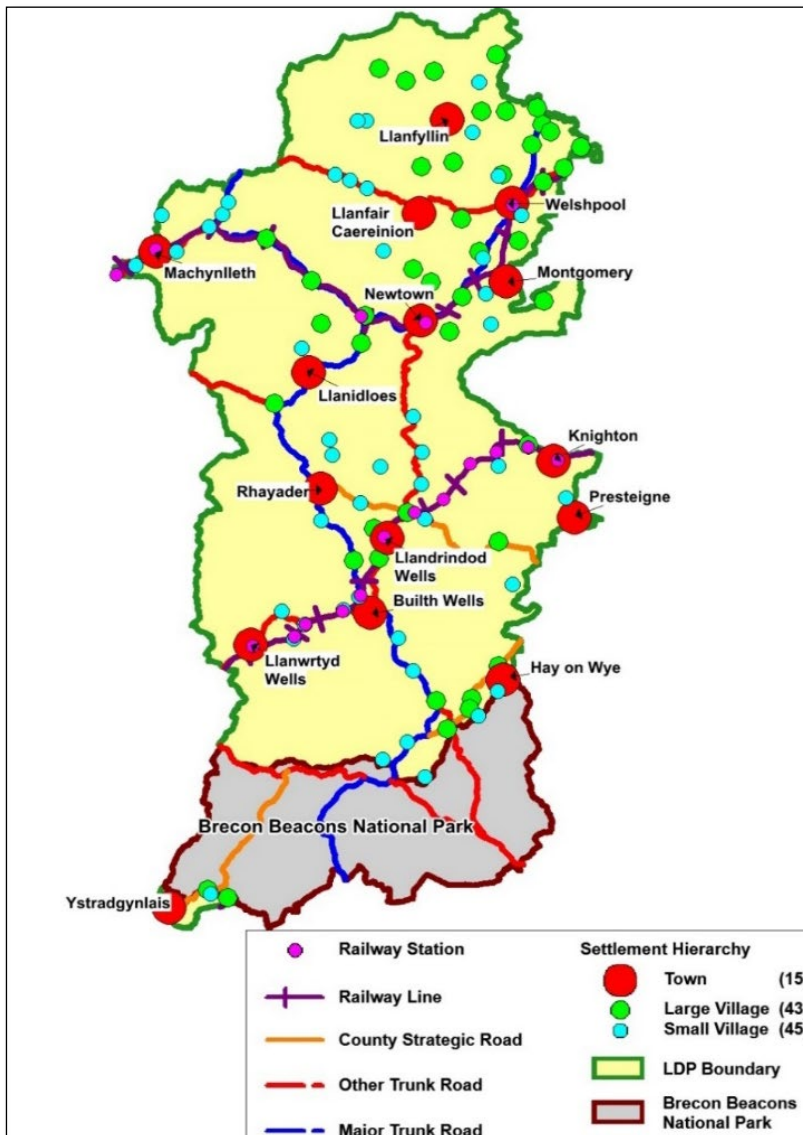


Figure 5-2 - Affordable Housing Led Option

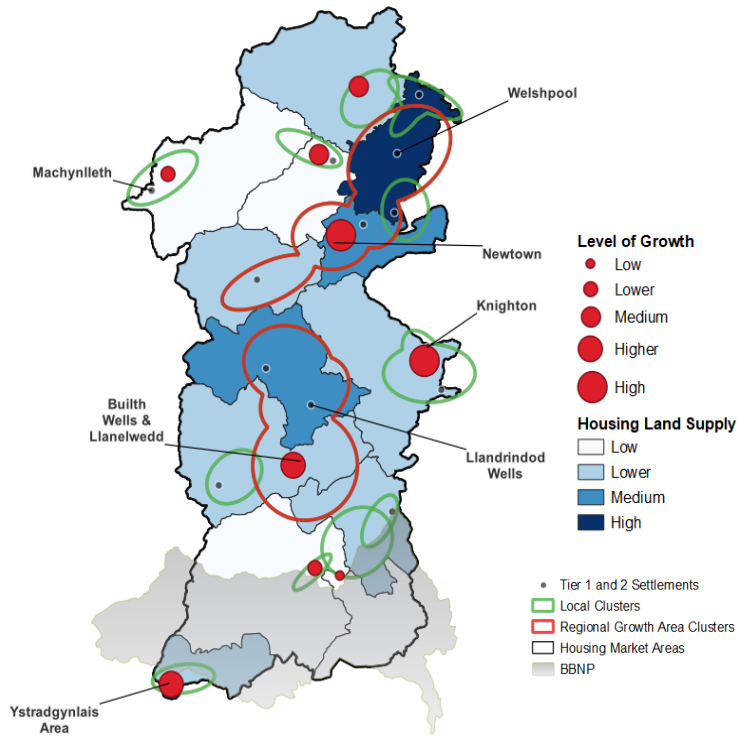


Figure 5-3 - Population Apportionment Led Option

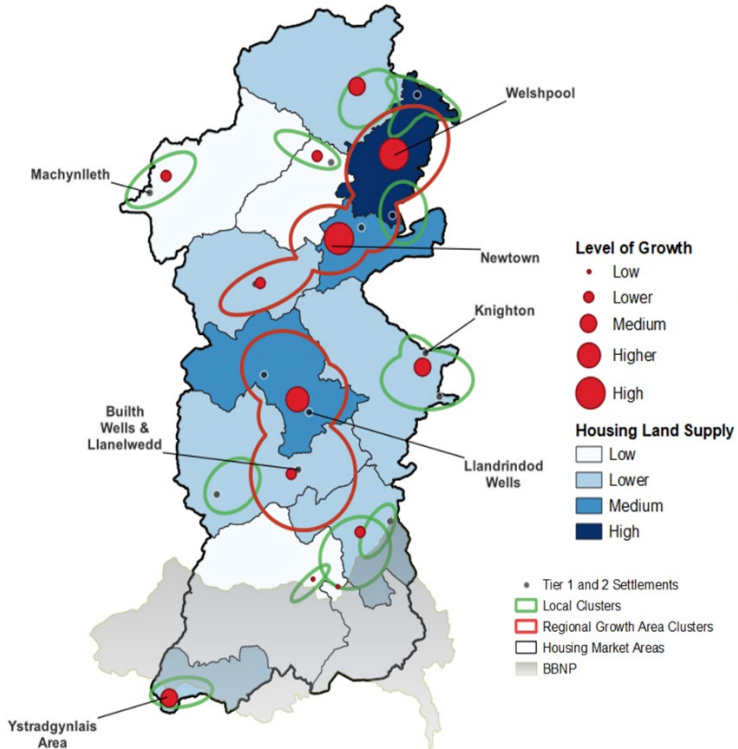
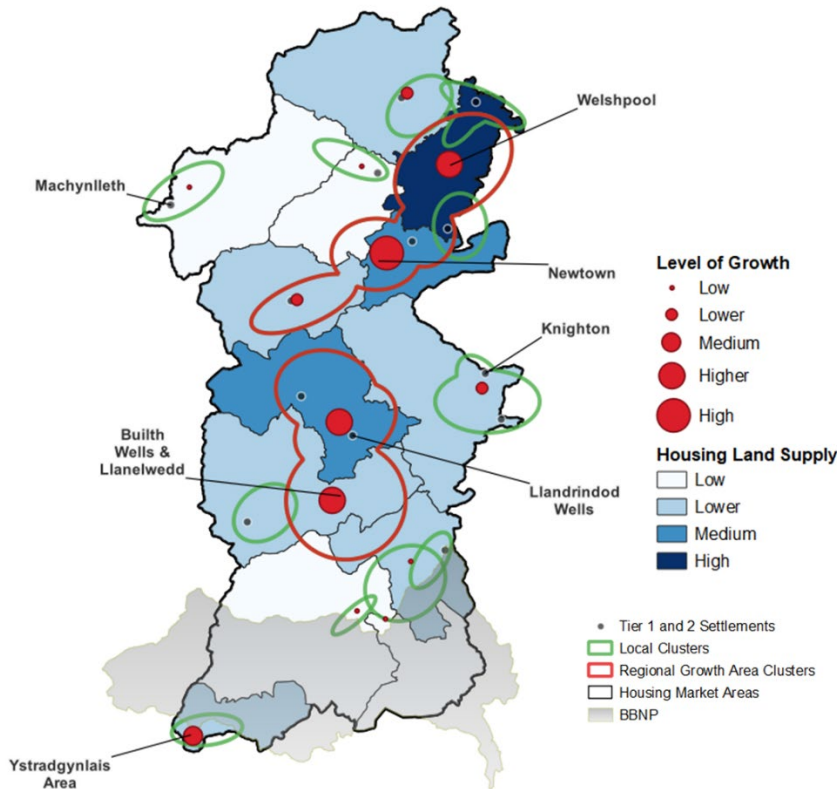


Figure 5-4 - Regional Growth Area Led Option



5.2.5. Two Spatial Options for employment were identified for consideration as follows:

- **Commercial Market Areas** - distributed acknowledging location of existing employment sites as per Adopted LDP (Existing employment sites will be safeguarded; Adopted LDP policy allowing extensions to existing sites to be incorporated into RLDP).
- **Market-led** - distributed as per Market Demand.

5.3 ISA of the Growth and Spatial Options

5.3.1. This section sets out the summary findings of the appraisal of the Growth and Spatial Option set out above. The detailed appraisal matrices are provided in Appendix C.

The methodology for how the appraisal was carried out is presented in Chapter 3; however, the appraisal key and summary guide for the assessment of significance is provided below again in Table 5-2.

Table 5-2 – ISA key and summary guide for the assessment of significance

Symbol	Score	Description
++	Significant positive effect	The proposed option/policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective.
+	Minor positive effect	The proposed option/policy contributes to the achievement of the objective but not significantly.
0	Neutral/no effect	The proposed option/policy does not have any effect on the achievement of the objective
-	Minor negative effect	The proposed option/policy detracts from the achievement of the objective but not significantly.
--	Significant negative effect	The proposed option/policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective.
?	Uncertain effect	The proposed option/policy has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an appraisal to be made.
~	No Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed option/policy and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible.



5.3.3. A summary of the findings for the ISA of the growth and spatial options is presented in Table 5-3 below.

Table 5-3 – ISA summary for Growth and Spatial Options

ISA Topics															
Strategic Options	Population & Communities	Economy & Employment	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	The Welsh Language	Health & Well-Being	Land Use, Soils & Geology	Water	Air	Waste & Resource Use	Climate Change (adaptation)	Climate Change (mitigation)	Transport & Movement	Historic Environment	Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure & Geodiversity	Landscape & Townscape
Housing Growth															
Lower Growth	0	+/?	0	0	++/?	0/?	+/?	0/?	+/?	+/?	0/?	0/?	+/?	+/?	+/?
Median Growth	+	+/?	+	+	++	0/?	+/?	0/?	+/?	+/?	0/?	0/?	+/?	+/?	+/?
Higher Growth	++	+/?	++	++	++	0/?	+/?	0/?	+/?	+/?	0/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?
Spatial Distribution - Housing															
Continue LDP Strategy	-	+	+/?	+	+	0/?	+/?	0/?	+/?	+/?	0/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?

ISA Topics															
	Population & Communities	Economy & Employment	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	The Welsh Language	Health & Well-Being	Land Use, Soils & Geology	Water	Air	Waste & Resource Use	Climate Change (adaptation)	Climate Change (mitigation)	Transport & Movement	Historic Environment	Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure & Geodiversity	Landscape & Townscape
Affordable Housing Led	-	-	+/?	0/?	+	-/?	+/?	0/?	+/?	+/?	0/?	0/?	+/?	0/?	+/?
Population Apportionment Led	+/?	+	+/?	+	++/?	-/?	+/?	0/?	+/?	+/?	0/?	0/?	+/?	+/?	+/?
Regional Growth Area Led	++/?	++	+/?	+	++/?	++/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	++/?	+/?	++/?	+/?
Spatial Distribution - Employment															
Adopted LDP	++/?	++	++/?	+/?	++	+/?	+/?	0	+/?	+/?	0/?	0	+/?	+/?	+/?
Market-led	+/?	++	0/?	-/?	+/?	-/?	+/?	-/?	+/?	+/?	0/?	0	0/?	0/?	0/?

- 5.3.4. Of the three options for growth in Powys (lower, middle and higher), the higher-growth option performs most strongly, reflecting the opportunity to meet demands for housing, reduction of disadvantage and potentially the reinforcement of Welsh language and culture through enabling locals to find housing. In particular, modest development could support the continued sustainability of smaller communities with limited service provision and potentially falling populations. All growth options have the potential to support habitat connectivity, green infrastructure provision, open space provision and urban greening measures (Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure & Geodiversity), all of which support improved climate resilience (Climate Change adaptation) and health and well-being (Health & Well-Being). Equally, higher growth brings opportunities for the re-use and restoration of buildings and areas of heritage value, including through additional tourism, in turn benefitting economic development (Economy & Employment), as well as the protection and promotion of Welsh language and culture (The Welsh Language) where appropriately targeted. More speculatively, innovations such as decentralised heating networks are more likely to be viable through higher housing growth, in turn contributing to Powys' reduction to the causes of climate change (Climate Change mitigation). Equally, the provision of sustainable transport solutions such as bus provision or the creation of cycle networks (Transport & Movement) become more viable.
- 5.3.5. The lower- and middle-growth options, whilst performing positively against many of the ISA Objectives, cumulatively are less positive by virtue of providing fewer opportunities to achieve the wider benefits likely to be associated with the higher-growth option. Whilst some development will be brownfield-led (Land Use, Soils & Geology), the development of greenfield land will be required and could compromise biodiversity species and habitats (Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure & Geodiversity) or adverse impacts such as noise and emissions (Air) associated with the construction and occupation of new development. The magnitude of any localised negative effects in this regard will be dependent on the scale of greenfield land lost to development and the existing biodiversity value of the sites that would be affected. Similarly, negative localised effects on heritage (Historic Environment) or landscape/ townscape (Landscape & Townscape) could occur but are likely to be mitigated through site selection and the implementation of development management policies.
- 5.3.6. In all cases, whilst there are a range of uncertainties identified (with, for example biodiversity impacts which reflects the influence of local circumstances), no negative effects have been identified. This reflects the relatively low quantum of proposed growth across all three options to be distributed across the Plan area.
- 5.3.7. In terms of spatial distribution options for housing, the Regional Growth Area Led option demonstrates the greatest potential alignment with the ISA objectives as a whole, which reflects the opportunity to match demand for housing and its supply, delivery of associated employment growth and realising opportunities for the sustainable travel. The option presents significant positive effects in respect of delivering housing growth (Population & Communities), enhancing economic opportunity (Economy & Employment), improving

health & well-being (Health & Well-Being) and enhancing green infrastructure provision (Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure & Geodiversity) and sustainable transport provision (Transport & Movement)) through investment opportunities. Equally, innovation in technologies such as decentralised heating networks, benefitting Powys' climate change response (Climate Change mitigation) and making best use of previously developed land (Land Use, Soils & Geology) are more likely under concentrated growth scenarios.

- 5.3.8. The Adopted LDP strategy, Affordable Housing Led and Population Apportionment Led spatial options bring compromises and some likely negative effects, against various ISA Objectives, notably in respect of fewer opportunities for the use of previously developed land (Land Use, Soils & Geology). In addition, there are likely to be negative effects in respect of the delivery of housing choices which meet the needs of all (Population & Communities) and economic development (Economy & Employment) (in the case of affordable housing-led option). In the case of the Adopted LDP Strategy, the AMR 2023 notes that cumulatively 2,809 new homes have been delivered since the adopted LDP start date in 2011 which represents some 62% of the LDP overall housing target required to be met by 2026.
- 5.3.9. The spatial distribution options for employment favour a Commercial Market Area-led strategy (using four identified market areas of A483 Spine North, Rural West, Central Powys and Border Areas) informed by the distribution of employment sites close to or within higher tier settlements in the Adopted LDP. This is in contrast to an unfettered market-led approach, reflecting the greater likelihood of providing a balanced response to identified need. A Market Led approach could result in unintended consequences associated with development not reflecting a wide range of considerations, such as the need to provide a broad range of employment opportunities near to where people live (Economy & Employment and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) and lessened opportunities for the mitigation of negative effects such as traffic emissions (Air).
- 5.3.10. Across all scoring, the presence of uncertainty should be noted, reflecting the need for additional analysis in light of strategic and development management policies and site-specific implementation of development proposals.
- 5.3.11. Reflecting the findings and analysis presented above, the relative ranking of the options show (see Table 5-4), on balance, a preferred sequence of Higher Growth housing option, with Regional Growth Area Led distribution.

Table 5-4 – Ranking of Growth and Spatial Options

Options	Ranking
<i>Housing Growth</i>	
Lower Growth	3
Median Growth	2
Higher Growth	1
<i>Spatial Distribution - Housing</i>	
Adopted LDP Strategy	2=
Affordable Housing Led	3
Population Apportionment Led	2=
Regional Growth Area Led	1
<i>Spatial Distribution - Employment</i>	
Adopted LDP	1
Market Led	2

6

ISA of the Preferred Strategy including Strategic Policies



6 ISA of the Preferred Strategy including Strategic Policies

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1. This chapter of the ISA report presents the findings of the appraisal of the RLDP Preferred Strategy, which has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology described in **Chapter 3**. Drawing on the detailed topic-based assessments contained in Appendix D, it provides an overview of the likely significant effects on the RLDP Preferred Strategy. Consideration is given to cumulative effects with other plans, programmes and projects in **Section 6.3**.

6.2 ISA summary findings

- 6.2.1. Table 6-1 below sets out the summary findings for the appraisal of the Replacement Local Development Plan. The more detailed topic-based assessments are presented in Appendix D.

Table 6-1 – ISA summary of the Preferred Strategy

ISA Topic and Objective	Likely Residual Significant Effect
Population & Communities To provide good quality homes and community infrastructure to meet identified needs	++/?
Economy & Employment To create and support a strong, diverse and resilient economy and workforce	++/?
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion To reduce poverty and inequality; tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion	+/?
The Welsh Language To protect, promote and enhance the Welsh language and culture	+/?
Health and Well-Being To improve the health and well-being of all sectors of society	+/?
Land Use, Soils & Geology To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings and protect higher grade agricultural land	+/?
Water To conserve, protect and enhance water quality and water resources	0/?
Air To minimise or reduce the sources and effects of air pollution	0/?

ISA Topic and Objective	Likely Residual Significant Effect
Waste & Resource Use To minimise waste generation, encourage re-use and recycling and promote efficient use of mineral resources	+/?
Climate Change (Adaptation) To support the resilience of Powys to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding and other extreme events	+/?
Climate Change (Mitigation) To reduce the contribution to climate change from greenhouse gas emissions	+/?
Transport & Movement To promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel	+/?
Historic Environment To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and promote improvements to the multifunctional green infrastructure network	?
Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure & Geodiversity To preserve and enhance the Powys' heritage resource, including built and archaeological assets	?
Landscape & Townscape To protect the quality and diversity of designated and local landscapes and townscapes	?

6.2.2. The appraisal found that the Preferred Strategy performed positively against the majority of ISA objectives. In particular against the population and communities and economy and employment ISA objectives with significant long-term positive effects, through the delivery of new homes, employment opportunities and associated community infrastructure to meet the needs of communities. This along with focusing growth at the larger settlements with greater accessibility to services/ facilities and encouraging the use of sustainable transport modes (including active travel) will have a positive effect in terms of transport and movement as well as climate change (mitigation).

6.2.3. Neutral effects were identified for ISA objectives relating to the quality of air and water. While the scale and broad distribution of growth is not considered likely to have a negative effect, the Preferred Strategy is not considered likely to result in a positive effect at this stage.

Minor positive effects were identified for the Welsh Language ISA objective. The Preferred Strategy seeks to deliver proportionate levels of new homes and employment opportunities within Welsh language strongholds in the north-west and south-west of Powys. The strategy will also seek to support the Welsh language within rural areas of Powys by allowing development to meet local needs and through the provision of

affordable housing. This will allow local people to remain in their communities, where the Welsh language is an integral part of the social fabric. Depending on the scale of growth, this could also help to deliver new or enhanced bilingual community facilities or services in areas of higher density linguistic significance. Overall, the RLDP acts to protect, promote, and enhance the Welsh language and culture, which supports the National Well-being goal: A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

- 6.2.4. There is an element of uncertainty for all of the ISA objectives given the strategic nature of the Preferred Strategy and that the precise location of development is not known at this stage. This is particularly the case for the ISA objectives relating to the historic environment, biodiversity, green infrastructure and geodiversity, as the nature and scale of effects will be dependent on the precise location, scale and design of development.

6.3 Cumulative inter-plan effects with other plans, programmes and projects

- 6.3.1. Table 6-2 broadly identifies the types of plans and programmes that could result in interactions and therefore cumulative effects with the Preferred Strategy.

Table 6-2 – Sources of inter-plan cumulative effects

Plans or Projects	Summary of Plans
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040	Future Wales is the national development framework for Wales and is the highest tier of development plan, focused on directing development at both a regional and local scale. The plan addresses key national priorities through the planning system; from developing a vibrant economy to achieving decarbonisation and improving health and wellbeing across the nation. It identifies national and regional growth areas and establishes the need for the development of Strategic Development Plans.
Strategic Development Plans (Wales)	Strategic Development Plans are required to conform with the Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 across regional and sub-regional scales. They should consider strategic regional issues including future growth areas, housing demand, economic development, transport and green infrastructure.
Local Development Plans (Wales) Local Plans (England)	Planning authorities within Wales and England are required to prepare a development plan (Wales) or local plan (England) to guide decision-making on future development proposals. Plans seek to identify the needs and opportunities of the area; identifying the scale and location of growth to be delivered across their respective administrative area. The Local Development Plans and Local Plans being prepared in the

	surrounding areas could interact with development proposed in the RLDP.
Wales Transport Strategy 2021	Wales Transport Strategy 2021 outlines the Welsh Government's strategy for the future of transport in Wales, prioritising the creation of a more prosperous, green, and equal society.
National Transport Delivery Plan 2022	The National Transport Delivery Plan sets out the Welsh Government's vision for an accessible, sustainable, and efficient transport system.
Mid-Wales Joint Local Transport Plan 2015	The Mid-Wales Local Transport Plan has been jointly prepared by the Mid-Wales Local Authorities of Powys, Ceredigion, and Gwynedd. The plan sets out the transport policies/strategies to be delivered across the area.
Regional Economic Framework for Mid-Wales	The Regional Economic Framework for Mid-Wales supports a regionally focused model of economic development aligned with the Welsh Government's Programme for Government.
Water Resource Management Plans (WRMP)	WRMPs are statutory documents that are required to be produced by water companies at least once every five years. WRMPs set out how a company will ensure that a secure supply of water is maintained for businesses and homes, while protecting the natural environment. Welsh Water's and Seven Trent Water's WRMPs are most likely to interact with the RLDP.
National Parks	<p>Nine unitary authorities have responsibility for areas of the 520 square miles of Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park (BBNP). Of these authorities, Powys Council is responsible for 66% of the area. Within this area the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) is the Local Planning Authority. The following plans could interact the Powy's RLDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ BBNP Management Plan 2023 – 2028 ■ BBNP Local Development Plan 2007 – 2022 <p>On 7 June 2024, the BBNPA withdrew the First Replacement BBNP Local Development Plan (2018-2033). The National Park Authority aims to agree a Delivery Agreement with the Welsh Government in due course.</p> <p>Powys borders the Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park to the north west. Key plans include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Eryri Local Development Plan 2016 – 2031 ■ Eryri National Park Partnership Plan 2020

National Landscapes	Powys borders the Shropshire Hills National Landscape to the east and key plans include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan 2019 – 24
Powys County Council Plans	There are a number of Powys County Council Plans that may interact with the RLDP, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan 2022-2032 aligns with NRAP Regeneration Strategy for Powys Action Plan 2011 – 2031 Powys Corporate and Strategic Equality Plan Powys Regeneration Strategy 2011 Powys County Council Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2017-2022

6.3.2. Table 6-3 outlines the likely significant effects of the identified plans and projects, in combination with the Powys RLDP, that have been identified against each of the ISA topics.

Table 6-3 – Appraisal of inter-plan cumulative effects

ISA Topic	Residual significance	Description of potential cumulative effects
Population & Communities	++/?	The RLDP is likely to interact with other plans and programmes to have a significant long-term positive cumulative effect through the delivery of new homes (including affordable homes), employment opportunities and associated community infrastructure to meet identified needs as well as improved connectivity across Powys and beyond.
Economy & Employment	++/?	The RLDP is likely to interact with other plans and programmes to have a significant long-term positive cumulative effect through the delivery of new employment opportunities (both regionally and locally) and improved connectivity across Powys and beyond.
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	+/?	The RLDP is likely to interact with other plans to reduce inequalities through improved access to new homes (of different tenures, types and sizes including affordable homes), employment opportunities and community facilities for all groups. Potential for a long-term minor positive cumulative effect.
The Welsh Language	+/?	The RLDP sets out clear priorities that the Welsh Language should be a consideration as part of the RLDP making process and for development. Other plans and strategies within Wales will also contain

ISA Topic	Residual significance	Description of potential cumulative effects
		similar objectives given the direct from national policies. Together they are likely to have a long-term minor positive cumulative effect.
Health and Well-Being	+/?	<p>If the construction of multiple developments take place in close proximity to one another, there is the potential for temporary negative cumulative effects relating to noise and light pollution, increased traffic congestion, and air pollution, that may impact the local community during project construction phases. However, there is suitable mitigation available to address this, including the phasing of developments to ensure that no significant negative effects arise.</p> <p>The RLDP is likely to interact with other plans to deliver new homes, employment opportunities and health facilities. Connections through out Powys and beyond are also likely to be improved, this includes opportunities for active travel. Overall, it is considered that there is the potential for long-term minor positive cumulative effects for health and well-being.</p>
Land Use, Soils & Geology	-/?	While the RLDP and other plans will encourage the use of previously developed land where possible, there is still likely to be the loss of greenfield land. They are also likely to encourage the use of lower quality agricultural land but this does not restrict its use and there is still the potential for the loss of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land. As a result, it is considered that there is the potential for a minor negative cumulative effect.
Water	?	Development proposed through the RLDP has the potential to interact with development proposed through other plans and strategies, leading to both negative and positive cumulative effects on water resources and quality. In terms of water resources the RLDP and other plans seek to ensure that new development is supported by sufficient existing or new infrastructure, including waste-water treatment works and water supply infrastructure. They also generally seek to incorporate water efficiency measures into new developments and minimise adverse impacts on water quality. Water resources and waste-water treatment capacity are generally managed at a catchment level, with Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Water, Severn Trent Water

ISA Topic	Residual significance	Description of potential cumulative effects
		and waste-water service providers working closely together to monitor the situation and plan ahead to meet predicted demands.
Air	?	<p>If the construction of multiple developments take place in close proximity to one another, there is the potential for temporary negative cumulative effects as a result of increased dust and particulate matter as well as traffic, which could reduce air quality. However, appropriate mitigation is provided through plan policies and is available at the project level. The appropriate phasing of development would help to avoid the potential for cumulative negative effects during the construction phase. Alongside national and local policy on air quality, and in accordance with policies outlined in the RLDP to improve air quality and sustainable travel, there is the opportunity for positive cumulative effects in the longer-term. Improvements to the transport network, promotion of sustainable travel, and a reduction in the use of private cars, could result in positive cumulative effects on air quality through the reduction of car emissions.</p>
Waste & Resource Use	+/?	<p>In the short-term, the delivery of development proposed through the RLDP and other plans will require the need for resources during construction. The RLDP and other plans generally seek to encourage the efficient and appropriate use of resources, including the use of secondary or recycled resources. However, alongside national policy on waste and resource use and statutory recycling targets, there is the potential for positive cumulative effects which would become apparent in the long-term. Policies designed to conform to the principles of waste hierarchy, support the provision of adequate waste management facilities, and support the circular economy, will have long-term positive cumulative effects.</p>
Climate Change (Adaptation)	+/?	<p>The RLDP and other plans seek to ensure new developments are more resilient and adaptable to the likely effects of climate change, which will have long-term positive cumulative effects. The RLDP and other plans will seek to direct development away from high flood risk areas and/ or in areas that would increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. The plans require new development to respond and be resilient</p>

ISA Topic	Residual significance	Description of potential cumulative effects
		to a changing climate. Overall, there is the potential for a minor positive cumulative effect.
Climate Change (Mitigation)	+/?	<p>The RLDP has the potential to interact with the other plans to have both negative and positive cumulative effects on climate change (mitigation). The delivery of development and potential increases in private vehicle use could increase greenhouse gas emissions. However, the RLDP and other plans seek to minimise and mitigate this through sustainable resource use and design as well as through directing development towards sustainable locations with access to sustainable transport modes.</p> <p>Overall, it is considered that there is the potential for a minor long-term positive cumulative effect. The plans seek to minimise greenhouse gas emissions and improve accessibility to sustainable transport modes.</p>
Transport & Movement	+/?	<p>The RLDP has the potential to interact with the other plans to have both negative and positive cumulative effects on transport and movement. Negative cumulative effects could arise as a result of increased vehicle movements, that could reduce the capacity of the highway network, particularly if a number of developments are delivered in close proximity. However, the plans include policies that seek to minimise the impacts of new development on the transport network and encourage the use of sustainable transport modes.</p> <p>Overall, it is considered that the RLDP will interact with other plans to have a minor long-term positive cumulative effect on transport and movement. Improved accessibility to new homes, employment opportunities and community facilities alongside encouraging and improving accessibility to sustainable transport modes.</p>
Historic Environment	?	<p>Development proposed through the RLDP and other plans has the potential to interact and have cumulative effects on the historic environment. Particularly if developments are constructed at the same time and within the setting of the same heritage asset (designated or non-designated). The RLDP and other plans, including national policy, contain policies that seek to conserve and enhance the heritage assets. As a result, it is considered that significant negative cumulative effects are unlikely.</p>

ISA Topic	Residual significance	Description of potential cumulative effects
		Ultimately, the nature and significance of effects will be dependent on the precise location, scale and design of development and implementation of mitigation at the project level.
Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure & Geodiversity	?	<p>Development proposed through the RLDP and other plans has the potential to interact and have cumulative effects on biodiversity, green infrastructure and geodiversity. Particularly if they are constructed at the same time and with pathways for impacts to travel to the same receptor. The RLDP and other plans, including national policy, contain policies that seek to protect and enhance biodiversity as well as green infrastructure and geodiversity. As a result, it is considered that significant negative cumulative effects are unlikely. There are likely to be opportunities to deliver a net benefit for biodiversity and improvements to green infrastructure; however, this is uncertain at this stage.</p> <p>Ultimately, the nature and significance of effects will be dependent on the precise location, scale and design of development and implementation of mitigation at the project level.</p>
Landscape & Townscape	?	<p>Development proposed through the RLDP and other plans has the potential to interact and have cumulative effects on landscape and townscape. Sensitive receptors include the Bannau Brycheiniog and Eryri National Parks as well as Shropshire Hills National Landscape. The RLDP and other plans, including national policy, contain policies that seek to protect and enhance the landscape and townscape. As a result, it is considered that significant negative cumulative effects are unlikely.</p> <p>Ultimately, the nature and significance of effects will be dependent on the precise location, scale and design of development and implementation of mitigation at the project level.</p>

7

Next Steps



7 Next Steps

7.1 Overview

- 7.1.1. This Initial ISA Report presents the findings of the ISA of the Preferred Strategy (including Vision, Objectives and Strategic Policies) and reasonable alternatives (Growth and Spatial Options). The findings have informed the development of the Preferred Strategy Document.

7.2 Next Steps

- 7.2.1. This Initial ISA Report will accompany the Preferred Strategy Document for public consultation from 19th August to 7th October 2024. Any comments received will be taken into account as part of the iterative plan-making and ISA process.
- 7.2.2. The representations received along with further ISA work, including the appraisal of candidate sites, will inform the development of the Deposit Plan. An updated ISA Report will accompany the Deposit Plan on public consultation.



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