

Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan

**Sustainability Appraisal/
Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**Scoping Report
(Summary)**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Report

- 1.1 This document has been prepared as the Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan (LDP) 2006 - 2021. It sets out the key sustainability issues and objectives for the County Borough, and is intended, through consultation, to make the plan more sustainable. The issues and sustainability objectives identified during this Scoping stage will form the basis for subsequent SAs of the LDP. The goal of sustainable development¹ is to enable people to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising future generations.

Requirements for Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.2 In accordance with the Planning Act (2004)², LDPs must be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The SA process assists Local Authorities to fulfil the requirement of “*contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development*” in land use plan making.
- 1.3 In preparing the LDP, Local Authorities are also required to carry out Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with European and UK legislation.³⁴ The UK Government has prepared SA Guidance⁵ on undertaking SA of LDPs. This advises that an integrated approach to SA and SEA should be pursued, so that the SA process incorporates the SEA requirements. This involves extending the breadth of (predominantly environmental) issues required to be considered under SEA to cover the full range of aspects (including social and economic aspects) for sustainability. The Welsh Assembly Government has produced draft guidance on undertaking SA of LDPs.⁶ This guidance recommends an integrated approach to SA/SEA to avoid ‘*unnecessary confusion and duplication*’. Therefore, the SA for the Rhondda Cynon Taf LDP is being undertaken to incorporate the requirements of SEA as one integrated process. This integrated process is hereafter referred to in this document as SA.

The Purpose of SA/SEA

- 1.4 SA assists in promoting sustainable development through integrating sustainability considerations into plan making. It is an iterative, ongoing process and integral to plan making. SEA considers the effects of the emerging LDP on the environment. It must predict and evaluate the significant effects of the plan, including alternatives and propose measures to

¹ One Future – different paths: the UK’s shared framework for sustainable development, Defra, 2005

² Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

³ EU directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes

⁴ Environmental assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (SI No 1633)

⁵ ODPM November 2005 Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents

⁶ Welsh Assembly Government, September 2005. Local Development Plan Manual: Consultation Draft.

offset any adverse effects identified. SA also includes measures to monitor the sustainability impacts of the LDP during its implementation.

The SA Process

1.5 The SA Guidance⁵ sets out a staged approach to the SA process:

- Stage A - Setting the Context and Objectives, Establishing the Baseline and deciding on the Scope
- Stage B - Developing and Refining Options
- Stage C - Appraising the Effects of the draft Plan
- Stage D - Consulting on the draft Plan and Sustainability Appraisal Report
- Stage E - Monitoring Implementation of the Plan

The SA Scoping Process and this SA Scoping Report

1.6 The Scoping process includes the following key aspects:

- Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives
- Collecting relevant baseline information including social, economic and environmental information
- Identifying sustainability problems, objectives and key issues for the SA, and LDP to address
- Developing the SA Framework consisting of the SA objectives to be used for appraisal, suggesting indicators and targets to be used for monitoring progress
- Consulting on the scope of the SA

1.7 The scoping process helps to ensure that the SA covers the key sustainability issues that are relevant to the development planning system in Rhondda Cynon Taf. This Scoping Report summarises the studies carried out so far under Stage A of the Sustainability Appraisal process. It is presented as a summary report to assist the consultees by directing them to key issues for comment.

SA/SEA Consultation

1.8 The aim of the scoping consultation is to ensure that all the relevant sustainability issues are identified in order that they may inform the further development of the LDP. Scope of the appraisal should be undertaken with the three statutory SEA consultees (Countryside Council Wales, Cadw (Welsh Historic Monuments), and the Environment Agency Wales). Since we are undertaking an integrated appraisal (considering social and economic as well as environmental aspects), we are also sending the Scoping Report to other key stakeholders, as well as making it available to the public on the Council's Website (<http://www.rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk>) to promote debate.

1.9 This scoping Report will be available for consideration for a period of five weeks from 23rd March – 28th April 2006

Considerations for Consultees

- 1.10 This Scoping Report presents a proposed SA Framework (sustainability objectives, and decision aiding questions). It also suggests possible indicators and targets to assist with future monitoring of the sustainability of the plan. Although the current list is exhaustive it is intended to select a small number of the most useful indicators for this process. The framework has been developed from a review of relevant plans and programmes, analysis of baseline information, and identification of sustainability issues for Rhondda Cynon Taf. Through a technical workshop held with officers and key stakeholders. Consultees are invited to consider the following questions:

- **Are there any additional key sustainability problems, objectives or issues relevant to land use planning for which sustainability objectives should be developed?**
- **Are there any other relevant decision-aiding questions that could help with the Appraisal and what the LDP can do?**
- **Is there any further information available that could be used to measure whether sustainability objectives are being progressed?**
- **Which Targets and Indicators are most appropriate for future measurement of progress towards each sustainability objective?**

Please send responses by 28th April 2006 to:

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2.0 REVIEW OF RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Introduction

- 2.1 In order to establish a clear scope for the SA of the LDP it is necessary, and a requirement of SEA, to review and develop an understanding of the wider range of policies, plans and strategies that are relevant to the LDP. This includes International, EU, National, Regional and local level policies, plans and strategies.

Methodology

- 2.2 A list of relevant plans and programmes (PPs) for the SA was compiled and for each PP, objectives and issues relevant to the SA and LDP processes were identified. The review of relevant PPs is set out in Appendix I

Key Issues and Opportunities

- 2.3 Key issues and opportunities identified for Rhondda Cynon Taf from the review of relevant plans and programmes (PP) include:
- the need for a coherent framework for service delivery across the County Borough
 - recognising the importance of good housing conditions to good health, well being and education
 - developing an integrated transport structure
 - the need for public transport to combat social exclusion
 - the need to support the creation of new employment and regeneration opportunities
 - protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment, local distinctiveness, cultural and historical heritage
 - adhering to the waste hierarchy and maximising recycling
 - promoting sustainable travel and access to services and facilities
 - conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Rhondda Cynon Taf
 - protection and enhancement of the Brecon Beacons National Park
 - the role of education in promoting employment opportunities and standards of living
- 2.4 The findings of this review of relevant plans and programmes has informed Section 5 of this report (sustainability problems, objectives and key issues) which provides a summary of how, or if, the SA of the LDP can address the identified issues. It will be drawn upon as part of the evidence base during the assessment of predicted effects of particular aspects of the emerging LDP including plan options and policies.

3.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS

- 3.1 Collection of baseline information is required under SEA legislation, and is fundamental to the SA process to provide a background to, and evidence base for, identifying sustainability problems and opportunities in Rhondda Cynon Taf and providing the basis for predicting the effects of the LDP. To make judgements about how the emerging content of the LDP will progress or hinder sustainable development, it is essential to understand the economic, environmental and social circumstances in Rhondda Cynon Taf today and their likely evolution in the future. The aim is to collect only relevant and sufficient data on the present and future state of the County Borough to allow the potential effects of the Local Development Plan to be adequately predicted.
- 3.2 The draft WAG SA Guidance proposes a practical approach to data collection, recognising that information may not yet be available, and that information gaps for future improvements should be reported as well as the need to consider uncertainties in data. Collection of baseline information should be continuous as the SA process guides plan making and as new information becomes available.
- 3.3 SA Guidance advises that, where possible, information should be collated to include:
- ‘comparators’ – (i.e. the same information for different areas) - as points of reference against which local data may be compared
 - established targets, which will highlight how far the current situation is from such thresholds
 - trends – to ascertain whether the situation is currently improving or deteriorating
- 3.4 The baseline information has been compiled in a table showing data for Rhondda Cynon Taf compared with data, where available, for, the South Wales Region, and Wales. We have also sought to identify targets and trends, and summarise the key issues arising for particular SA topics. Identification of key sustainability problems, objectives and issues assist in developing the SA Framework. This table is presented in Appendix II. Key examples of characteristics apparent from the baseline information, relative to other areas, are summarised below.

Environment

- Rhondda Cynon Taf has a large amount of land designated for biodiversity protection.
- The previous industrial use of the area has led to degradation of the water environment.
- There are 20 wind turbines in the Plan area. Part of the County Borough is encompassed by one of the proposed TAN8 (Wales) Strategic Search Areas .
- The topography and water environment of Rhondda Cynon Taf means that large areas of the valley floors are prone to flooding, especially along river frontages where ribbon development has occurred.

- 4.2% of the Brecon Beacons National Park lies within the plan area to the north.
- 94.1% of the land in Rhondda Cynon Taf is of Grade 4 or 5 (low grade).
- Degradation of the landscape.

Waste

- Rhondda Cynon Taf show a net import of waste to its' landfill sites of 132,000 tonnes in 2003
- Rhondda Cynon Taf has shown a relative decrease in municipal waste generated compared to neighbouring County Boroughs.

Development

- The undulating nature of the topography of the area will guide suitability of locations for development.
- Rhondda Cynon Taf's foul drainage system is old and overloaded.

Communities/Health

- Rhondda Cynon Taf ranks 5th in England and Wales (out of 376 areas), for the proportion of population with a limiting long term illness, and general health 'not good'.
- 17 of Rhondda Cynon Taf's 53 electoral wards are amongst the 100 most deprived in Wales
- 53% of the housing stock is terraced.
- Depopulation affecting the valleys
- Decreasing population overall but increase in south

Transport

- Away from the two north/south main routes (the A4119 and A470), accessibility in the County Borough is poor.
- 62% of people travel to work by car, ranking 19th out of 376 for England and Wales, however, 31.6% of households do not have a car.
- Poor access to facilities

Culture

- Rhondda Cynon Taf has a rich cultural heritage but few sites are statutorily protected.
- Rhondda Cynon Taf has the highest percentage of Welsh speakers in Mid Glamorgan (9.8% speak, read and write Welsh).

Employment

- 18.8% of all residents work outside the County Borough, the third largest percentage net outflow in Wales.
- The County Borough is covered by Objective 1 European funding. The Gross Domestic Product for Rhondda Cynon Taff was estimated, at the time of Objective 1 designation, as being 64.5% of the EU average.
- The majority of people are employed in manufacturing (22.9%)
- 221.61 ha of land allocated for employment in the previous plan has not been taken up
- 44% of the population have no qualifications.

- Mineral extraction is an important industry within the economy of Rhondda Cynon Taf (Tower Colliery is the only deep mine left in Wales).
- 3.5 The SEA Directive requires identification of "*the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme*". Prediction of **future trends** can be highly uncertain but key trends identified from the available baseline data, and therefore potential sustainability issues, are as follows:
- An increase in emissions per capita of CO² as a result of car usage over other forms of transport
 - A difficulty in providing adequate water supplies for parts of Wales during dry summers by 2025
 - An increase in flooding in low lying areas
 - An increase in renewable energy projects
 - A decrease in water quality through an inadequate sewerage system
 - A decrease in municipal waste generated
 - An increase in household waste recycling
 - A decrease in soil quality
 - Continuing depopulation
 - An increase in deprivation
 - An increase in ill-health
 - An increase in drug-related crime
 - An increase in development on unprotected sites which are potentially of importance for cultural or archaeological heritage
 - A decrease in speakers of the Welsh Language
 - Increase in tourism
 - An increase in people travelling to work by car
 - An increase in roads/access
- 3.6 As a land use plan the LDP will not be able to address every sustainability problem, objective and key issue identified through the review of PPs and baseline information. The key issues for sustainability outlined above are focused within the remit of the LDP. The decision-aiding questions within the proposed SA Framework in the following section are also intended to reflect what the LDP can do about sustainability issues.

4.0 SA TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

4.1 In order to ensure a participative scoping process, a workshop was held to provide the opportunity for stakeholders to debate sustainability issues in Rhondda Cynon Taf, and what the land use planning process could do to help address them. Participants were from a range of functions both within Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and external to the Council. The following positions/departments/teams from Rhondda Cynon Taf were represented:

- Public Health
- Sustainability Officer
- Countryside Services
- Land Reclamation
- Regeneration Resources
- Community Safety
- Children's Services
- Community Health
- Housing Strategy
- Area Regeneration Partnerships
- Public Arts
- Commercial Development
- Development Planning Team

4.2 Representatives from the following external organisations also attended the workshop:

- CCW
- Cardiff County Council
- Bridgend County Borough Council
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

4.3 Upon arrival workshop participants were invited to record their two priorities for sustainability in the Borough on postcards and to arrange them in sections under high, medium and low priority. The three most prevalent issues in the high priority section were a) the provision of, and access to, housing, health, education and leisure facilities for all including the most vulnerable groups b) climate change and protection of the environment and c) economic development/employment opportunities. Other topics were the quality of the built environment, reducing the need to travel by car, town centre viability, mixed use development and the need for sustainable development to be at the heart of issues rather than an add on. The need for community involvement in plan making was also stressed.

4.4 The medium priority issues included action to reduce economic inactivity, maximising the use of brownfield sites for employment, the need for training and education and also reiterated many of the issues above. The need for locally created jobs for local people was identified particularly though

- securing land and spaces for small/medium scale Community Enterprise Developments, including in the cultural and creative spheres.
- 4.5 Only one issue was raised under low priority and this was the need for the LDP policies and proposals to marry with those of Cardiff Council.
- 4.6 The draft SA Framework, derived as sustainability objectives and decision aiding questions from the PP review and baseline conditions, was then discussed in three separate groups, to provide the opportunity for workshop participants to debate and suggest modifications and/or additions to the sustainability objectives. It is very important that the SA Framework is appropriate for Rhondda Cynon Taf since the content of the LDP will be assessed against it.
- 4.7 Drawing on the local knowledge of the participants has enabled us to ensure local specificity in the SA Framework, and a substantial number of changes were made to the proposed Framework in the light of participants' comments. The SA Framework incorporating these changes is presented in Section 6 of this report.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY PROBLEMS, OBJECTIVES AND KEY ISSUES

5.1 Identification of key sustainability problems, objectives and issues assist in identifying the relevant baseline information and developing the SA Framework. It is also a requirement of SEA.

5.2 Key sustainability problems, objectives and issues have been identified through:

- review of other relevant PPs
- analysis of currently available baseline information
- the workshop with officers of the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and neighbouring authorities.

5.3 The key strategic problems, objectives and issues for sustainability identified for Rhondda Cynon Taf are set out below and are focused within the remit of the LDP. These broad issues are expanded on within the proposed SA Framework to give a directly relevant local context. The LDP is a key component in the delivery of the wider strategies for the Borough and is only able to promote sustainable development through its directions on land use. The decision aiding questions within the proposed SA Framework are designed to aid the appraiser, make the assessment locally specific, to avoid duplication and to demonstrate a clear audit trail.

Climate change

5.4 This issue will be affected by many of the decisions taken in the production of the LDP and its' constituent parts. The nature and location of development with the concurrent implications for car use will be fundamental in the overall development strategy. Building construction methods and the production of energy will also be significant.

Economic development/housing provision

5.5 This scoping exercise has revealed the need for both economic and housing development to address issues of employment levels and opportunities and choice in housing. High levels of economic inactivity, poor quality housing and depopulation combined with significant health problems are inter-related problems which the Council seeks to address. Decisions over the proposed level of development to be sought/accepted by the County will have a significant impact on the future of the area and the social and economic advantages will need to be carefully balanced against adverse environmental impact.

Transport

5.6 Access to employment and facilities including health and education have been identified as a very significant problem and will be a major issue to be addressed in the LDP. Some conflict between addressing the need and desire for mobility and the impacts of infrastructure development on the landscape and environment will inevitably occur and will require careful consideration of the issues raised. An integrated transport system is seen as vital to address issues of social exclusion and communication across the County.

Protection of the landscape and biodiversity

- 5.7 The quality of much of the landscape is recognised as an important factor in the future of the Borough. Whilst the landscape is valued for its own sake it could also play an important in creating a desirable environment in which to live and work and be the basis for an improved tourist and leisure economy for this part of Wales.

Town centre vitality

- 5.8 Regeneration of town centres could be central to retaining skills and spend within the Borough. Currently there is both skills and spend leakage which does not support the development of sustainable communities. More employment opportunities, higher quality town housing and the creation of an improved built environment could help address this issue.

Cultural heritage

- 5.9 The protection of the cultural heritage through the language, archaeology and historic landscape and built environment is important to the local community. However it has been stressed that culture should be living as well as retrospective and can play an important part in the economy of the County.

6.0 PROPOSED SA FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 The SA Framework presented in table 1 of this section includes a set of objectives for sustainability together with decision-aiding questions. The decision-aiding questions have been designed to assist in the appraisal as they clarify the details of the sustainability issues relevant to the sustainability objectives, as well as improving appraiser objectivity. They also ensure that the appraisal is relevant to land use planning, and make the appraisal more specific to Rhondda Cynon Taf. It is important that the SA Framework reflects local circumstances that can be influenced by the new development planning system.
- 6.2 Sustainable Development recognises that social, economic and environmental factors are interconnected, and SA aims to take an integrated approach. Accordingly, the proposed SA Framework does not categorise Objectives into Social, Economic and Environmental. It is also necessary to demonstrate compliance with the SEA requirement to assess certain environmental topics and for each SA objective we have specified the relevant SEA topics.
- 6.3 The SA Framework provides a way in which sustainability effects of a plan or programme can be described, analysed and compared. The SA methodology involves considering the content of the LDP against each SA objective. Comments about whether the content of the LDP is likely to assist or conflict with each SA objective will be recorded in tables. Where significant conflicts are identified, possible measures to offset adverse effects will be considered, with recommendations to amend the content accordingly. Underling in the table below indicates where changes were made as a result of the Technical Workshop.

Table 1: SA FRAMEWORK

	SA OBJECTIVE	DECISION AIDING QUESTIONS WILL THE POLICY OR PLAN ELEMENT...?
1	Housing	
	Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver good quality housing ▪ Promote a mix of housing size, type and tenure within each settlement? ▪ Promote housing that meets the requirements of those with special needs? ▪ Help meet affordable housing needs to allow local people to remain within communities? ▪ Protect and enhance the existing housing stock including the characteristic terraces
2	Culture and Heritage	
	Promote and protect the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance areas and buildings of historical, archaeological or cultural importance, and the historic landscape ▪ Have regard for the entire historic environment, whether protected by legislation or not.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance the industrial heritage ▪ Promote the retention of the Welsh language ▪ Promote sustainable access to cultural sites
3	Communities	
	Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage provision of local community facilities and employment opportunities in accessible locations ▪ Help reduce disparities between the northern and southern wards • Promote access to education for all ▪ Consider the needs of vulnerable groups ▪ Plan places with opportunities for active citizenship to promote community engagement ▪ Accommodate meeting places for different cultures ▪ Promote mixed development ▪ Provide equality of access for all
4	Health	
	Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote provision of and access to healthcare facilities ▪ Prevent unacceptable levels of noise, light, odour and air pollution ▪ Provide spaces such as allotments which will promote healthy eating ▪ Protect existing open spaces ▪ Promote provision of facilities for physical recreational activities and play
5	Economy	
	Provide for a sustainable economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage local growth, especially in areas of high unemployment and economic inactivity ▪ Encourage appropriate inward and indigenous investment ▪ Support the rural economy ▪ Promote good quality sustainable tourism ▪ Ensure the allocation of land to accommodate the economic needs of the population ▪ Maintain an appropriate land bank ▪ Promote healthy town centres
6	Employment	
	Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximise employment opportunities ▪ Provide various opportunities for a range of skills levels ▪ Provide jobs in accessible locations ▪ Accommodate training facilities to help develop a flexible skills base ▪ Promote good quality jobs within key sectors ▪ Reduce the need for out commuting from the Borough for work ▪ Support the retail hierarchy ▪ Promote healthy, vibrant and attractive town

		centres
7	Transport	
	Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide for alternatives to the private car and Improve public transport links within an integrated transport strategy ▪ Improve the existing road and rail network, especially to provide access to isolated areas ▪ Provide for safe and attractive walking and cycling ▪ Provide for appropriate levels of car parking to serve the needs of Rhondda Cynon Taf ▪ Reduce the need to travel in new developments
8	Built Environment	
	Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure high standards of design in all new development ▪ Protect and enhance local character and distinctiveness, but recognise the role of innovation in the built environment ▪ Promote methods of sustainable construction ▪ Promote Green Infrastructure for people and wildlife ▪ Promote high density development where appropriate
9	Landscape	
	Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote the improvement of the landscape where it has been degraded as a legacy of previous industrial use ▪ Protect and enhance designated areas ▪ Increase opportunities for enjoyment of the countryside where appropriate
10	Biodiversity	
	Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance valuable wildlife habitats and species, both those statutorily designated and those of local value ▪ Avoid and, where possible, reverse habitat fragmentation ▪ Improve, protect and enhance the biodiversity within the water environment ▪ Integrate protection and creation of habitat into the design of new development from the outset ▪ Promote ecologically based land management
11	Water	
	Improve, protect and enhance the water environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce and/or avoid pollution to water ▪ Promote use of sustainable drainage systems ▪ Manage and avoid exacerbating flood risk especially along river frontages ▪ Use water efficiently ▪ Protect groundwater sources ▪ Prevent new development that will exacerbate

		current foul drainage problems
12	Climate Change	
	Manage the effects of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider the likely impacts of climate change on all types of infrastructure, existing and new ▪ Provide habitat routes to allow species to adapt to the changing environment ▪ Minimise greenhouse gas emissions ▪ Contribute to a carbon-neutral community
13	Energy	
	Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote energy efficiency ▪ Encourage the development of renewables, including micro-generation ▪ Encourage high standards of energy efficiency in all new developments
14	Land and Soils	
	Promote efficient use of land and soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage safe restoration of previously developed land ▪ Re-use previously developed land and buildings as a priority, where appropriate ▪ Optimise use of greenfield land ▪ Prevent and control pollution to land and soils
15	Waste	
	Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further improve on good recycling performance including provision of facilities (domestic and commercial) ▪ Avoid, reduce, re-use, recycle and recover before disposal to landfill ▪ Support development of alternatives to landfill, including composting facilities and energy from waste ▪ Promote self sufficiency in terms of waste management where appropriate
16	Minerals	
	Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguard mineral resources ▪ Reuse and recycle aggregates on site ▪ Limit environmental impact of mineral extraction ▪ Achieve a high standard of restoration and aftercare

6.4 The table below indicates the method of assessment used when appraising the impact of the LDP against the SA Framework. The range of predicted impact runs from ++ where the impact is considered to be positive in aiding the objective to – where there will be considerable negative impact.

++	Option/Policy will considerably assist the sustainability objective
+	Option/Policy will assist the sustainability objective to an extent
0	No effect – the option/policy will not affect the sustainability objective
-	Option/Policy will conflict with the sustainability objective to an extent
--	Option/Policy will conflict considerably with the sustainability objective
?	Effect unclear – it is not possible to tell how the option/policy will affect the sustainability objective

SA MONITORING: POTENTIAL TARGETS AND INDICATORS

- 6.5 This section discusses potential indicators and targets to help monitor the sustainability effects of the LDP. At this stage we have identified possible targets and/or indicators for each sustainability objective (from the SA Framework) to provide a suggested list for discussion. The SEA Directive requires that a ‘Monitoring Strategy’ is prepared for publication at a later stage for monitoring the main significant sustainability effects of the LDP. Rhondda Cynon Taf will be developing targets and indicators for monitoring both the LDP and the SA.
- 6.6 The Planning Act (2004) requires local planning authorities to produce Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs). According to recent guidance from ODPM, “*These need to include the findings of SA monitoring*”⁶. **It is intended to choose a small number of relevant and manageable indicators.**
- 6.7 Comments/suggestions regarding these and other potential targets and indicators, as well as possible sources of data, are welcome.

Table 2: Potential Sustainability Targets and Indicators

	Potential Targets	Potential Indicators
	Housing	
1	Reduce discrepancies between housing requirement, especially for affordable and special needs housing, and stock.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ratio of annual affordable or special needs housing requirement / stock of affordable or special needs housing ▪ Average house price compared with average earnings ▪ Proportion of households unable to purchase a property ▪ Population structure
	Culture and Heritage	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase proportion of new 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of sites designated for cultural heritage

⁶ *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* ODPM, November 2005

	Potential Targets	Potential Indicators
	<p>development that protects or enhances sites of historical and cultural interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase number of sites officially protected for their cultural, historical or archaeological importance. 	<p>value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed buildings Areas of high archaeological value Quality of sites
Communities		
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All people to have access to a GP, post office, play area, pub and village hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage with access to a daily bus service Percentage with access to a GP, post office, play area, pub, village hall Distance to local services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the number of wards that are among the 100 most deprived in Wales Increase percentage of people with qualifications and improve skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of the population who live in wards that rank amongst the 100 most deprived in Wales Differences in car ownership between wards Gap in infant and early childhood death and illness between socio-economic groups Adult education Voluntary activity
Health		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase access to physical recreation facilities Design to encourage walking and cycling Decrease in the number of people with limiting long term illness or general health 'not good' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy Death rates from circulatory disease, cancer, accidents and suicide Residents' description of their own health Proportion of residents who feel safe or fairly safe Area of space allocated for physical recreation Length of cycle routes and footpaths.
Economy		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broaden Economic base Increase opportunities to work within the district Support rural economy Support Objective 1 funding aims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of economic activity by sector Gross Domestic Product or Gross Value Added as a percentage of the EU average Allocations that provide premises for a range of different employment needs Number of visitors to Rhondda Cynon Taf Town centre vacancy rates
Employment		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease unemployment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of resident working age population employed Percentage of population receiving benefits Distribution of workforce across sectors (percentages) Proportion of workforce employed in the agricultural sector Percentage of people living as well as working within the County Borough Percentage of allocated employment land taken up
Transport		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build on existing road and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage change in public transport use

Potential Targets		Potential Indicators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rail network Locate new development in sustainable locations, reducing the need to travel Promote more sustainable modes of transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of public transport routes connecting service centres with residential areas Length of cycle and walking routes Percentage of people travelling to work by car
Built Environment		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase opportunities for community participation in design of new developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community perception of design quality Proportion of new developments delivering benefits for the public realm Energy efficiency of new buildings and developments
Landscape		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve favourable conditions of nationally and locally important landscape designations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of designated and non designated landscapes and in favourable condition Change in countryside character and quality Change in access to the countryside by means other than the car Amount of new build within designated areas
Biodiversity		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance the rich biodiversity Achieve an improvement in the water environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage change in Rhondda Cynon Taf BAP priority habitats and species Area, quality and connectivity of biodiversity habitats (potentially categorised e.g. woodland) Changes in populations of selected characteristic species Proportion of new developments delivering habitat creation or restoration Improvement in fish stocks within the water environment
Water		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve water quality No development should exacerbate current foul drainage problems. Flood Risk to be considered in new development. developments over x ha to incorporate sustainable drainage systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River water quality Properties at risk from flooding % of new developments with Sustainable Drainage Systems Water consumption per household Development within groundwater Source Protection Zones
Climate Change		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease greenhouse gas emissions Decrease impacts from the effects of Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood events Emissions of greenhouse gases
Energy		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise the use of renewable energy Encourage efficient design in development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of developments and buildings meeting BREEM Standards MW of energy generated from renewable sources Proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources

	Potential Targets	Potential Indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Energy consumption ▪ Percentage of land taken up through renewable energy projects such as wind turbines
Land and Soils		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Percentage of development on previously developed land ▪ Decrease percentage of contaminated land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of new housing on previously developed land ▪ Development density ▪ Percentage of land classed as 'contaminated'
Waste		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce tonnage of waste to landfill ▪ Move waste up the waste hierarchy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recycling rate ▪ Municipal waste recovery ▪ Access to Household Recycling Schemes/Recycling Banks ▪ Tonnage of household waste to landfill ▪ Waste per household ▪ Waste imports/exports
Minerals		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase percentage use of aggregates from secondary and recycled sources ▪ Balance development with environment, communities and employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Percentage use of aggregates from secondary and recycled sources

7.0 SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 This document sets out the baseline situation for the CBC. It also reviews plans and policies which influence the LDP, current sustainability issues, problems and opportunities facing the district and the SA Framework for assessing the LDP.
- 7.2 The comments received on the SA Scoping Report will be taken into account in preparing the finalised SA Framework which will be used to test the emerging LDP. The results of the assessments will be set out in SA Reports and published with each LDP Document for public consultation.
- 7.3 The LDP process will be ongoing until final adoption which is proposed in 2009. During the process there will be statutory periods for consultation on both the LDP documents and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisals.