

## **Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Replacement Local Development Plan – Sustainability Appraisal Templates**

Following public consultation on the Replacement Deposit Plan the Council will consider all duly made representations and will respond to the issues raised. The Plan will then be submitted to Welsh Government and the Planning Inspectorate to undergo an 'Examination in Public' where an appointed Inspector will consider the soundness of the plan and the issues raised through representations.

Advice from the Planning Inspectorate has clarified that any changes proposed in representations that are likely to have significant sustainability effects will need to be accompanied by relevant Sustainability Appraisal information to enable any proposed changes to be considered as part of the Examination process. Consequently when preparing your representation, you should consider whether it is necessary for your representation to be accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal.

This information must be consistent with the scope and level of detail of the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken on the Replacement Deposit Plan. It should also refer to the same baseline information in identifying the likely significant effects of the revised policy or new site. Reference should therefore be made to the Council's Deposit Plan Sustainability Appraisal Report (June 2018), which contains the relevant baseline information and Sustainability Appraisal frameworks. The overall cumulative impact on the Sustainability Appraisal should also be considered. The SA Report can be found on the Council's website at: [www.merthyr.gov.uk/ReplacementLDP](http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/ReplacementLDP)

This document contains a copy of the relevant Sustainability Appraisal scoring frameworks and assessment tables to assist representors in undertaking and completing an appraisal where this is considered necessary (i.e. where the proposed inclusion of a new site or policy could have significant sustainability effects).

## 1. SITE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK AND ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

Sites Sustainability Appraisal Framework				
Topic	SA Objective	Significance criteria, including any assumptions, uncertainties standards and thresholds for SA of Site Options		
<b>Communities (incl. Population)</b>	1. To ensure that the community and social infrastructure needs of all residents and communities are met.	SA Objective 1 relates to the capacity of social and community infrastructure to accommodate communities' sustainable access to the services and facilities they require to meet their needs.	++	The site option is located within reasonable walking distance (within 800m=10 minuteswalk) of all key services and facilities.
		The SA assumes that any proposal for development can make appropriate and timely provision or contributions for necessary supporting infrastructure, including community facilities and services.	+	The site option is located within reasonable walking distance (within 800m=10 minuteswalk) of most of the key services and facilities.
		The nature and significance of the effects against this SA Objective will relate to the <b>distance of the site from existing services/ facilities</b> , including schools (primary and secondary), libraries, GP surgery/medical centres, post offices, community centres and retail provision.  <b>Evidence Base:</b> The Council's site assessment process will be used to inform the assessment of effects against this SA Objective. Reasonable walking distance is informed by the <i>Department for Transport (2007) Manual for Streets</i> (Department for Transport, 2007).	0	A neutral effect is not considered possible.
			?	There is an element of uncertainty, most likely until lower level assessments have been carried out through planning applications.
			-	The site option is located beyond reasonable walking distance (over 800m=10 minuteswalk) of most of the key services and facilities.
			--	The site option is located beyond reasonable walking distance (over 800m=over10 minuteswalk) of all key services and facilities.
	2. To maintain and enhance community and settlement	SA Objective 2 relates to the impact of a development proposal on the character and identity of a community.  The nature and significance of the effects against this SA Objective will relate to the magnitude of change. For	++	Development would support the character and identity of a community area experiencing Multiple Deprivation by enabling it to grow sustainably.

	identities.	instance would the proposal, alone or in combination, lead to the coalescence of settlements or significantly change the characteristics of a community? It assumes high quality of design.	+	Development would support the character and identity of a community by enabling it to grow sustainably.
		<b>Evidence Base:</b> ArcGIS will enable the identification of the scale of change a community could expect if the site option (s) were selected.	0	A neutral effect is not considered possible.
			?	N/A
			-	Development would lead to a significant change in the character of the community.
			--	Development would lead to the coalescence of settlements or an existing community to be subsumed by new development.
	3. To support a sustainable level of population growth.	Assuming sufficient sites have been nominated for inclusion in the LDP, SA objective 3 is not a differential at the site options stage.		
Health and Equalities	4. To improve human health and well-being and reduce inequalities.	SA Objective 4 relates to the built environment's contribution to healthy and active lifestyles, and any disparities in provisions across the Plan area.  The nature and significance of the effects against this SA Objective will relate to <b>the distance of the site to existing open space provision</b> and the potential of development to <b>increase provision in identified areas of shortfall</b> . There are 9 typologies within the Open Space Strategy (OSS) where accessibility standards have been set and these are to be used here.  The SA assumes that any proposal for development can make appropriate and timely provision or contributions to health and well-being. The application of the accessibility	++	The site option is located within reasonable walking distance (accessibility standards specified in the Open Space Strategy) to sufficient amounts of open space (to all 9 typologies) or has the potential to deliver significant new provision.
			+	The site option is located within reasonable walking distance (accessibility standards specified in the Open Space Strategy) of most of the open space (at least 6 typologies) or has the potential to deliver new provision or an off site

		<p>standard for each typology can be applied to each development site in question. This will demonstrate where the shortfalls for each type of open space lie.</p> <p><b>Evidence Base:</b></p> <p>The Open Space Strategy identified sufficiency standards for access to open space and shortfalls for each typology in ward areas.</p> <p>The Council's site assessment process will be used to inform the assessment of effects against this SA Objective.</p> <p>Reasonable walking distance is informed by TAN 16: <i>Sport, Recreation and Open Space (2009)</i>, which is based on Fields in Trust recommended benchmark guidelines – <i>Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2017)</i>.</p>		contribution.
			0	A neutral effect is not considered possible.
			?	There is an element of uncertainty, most likely until lower level assessments have been carried out through planning applications.
			-	The site option is located beyond reasonable walking distance (accessibility standards specified in the Open Space Strategy) to most existing open space (up to 6 typologies).
			--	The site option is located beyond reasonable walking distance (accessibility standards specified in the Open Space Strategy) to sufficient amounts of open space (to all 9 typologies) or development at the site option would result in a net loss of open space (as identified in the Open Space Strategy).
Housing	5. To meet the housing needs of all through a mix of dwelling tenures and types.	<p>SA Objective 5 primarily relates to the provision of an appropriate quantity of housing to meet the needs of all residents and communities in Plan area.</p> <p>This SA objective assumes that development at any of the site options could provide an appropriate mix of housing types and tenures.</p> <p>The nature and significance of the effects against this SA</p>	++	The site option has the potential to provide a significant amount of new housing (50 dwellings or more)
			+	The site option has the potential to provide new housing (less than 50 dwellings).
			0	If no housing is being proposed as part of development, as it is an employment site option, then it is

		Objective will relate to the potential <b>capacity of the site to accommodate residential development.</b>		considered to have a neutral effect against this SA Objective
		<b>Evidence Base:</b> The Council's site assessment process, in particular the proposed use and estimated housing capacity of the site, will inform the assessment of effects against this SA Objective.	?	There is an element of uncertainty as the capacity of the site option for housing development is unknown
			-	Not applicable.
			--	Not applicable.
	6. To improve the overall quality and energy efficiency of the housing stock.	SA objective 6 relates to the quality and energy efficiency of the housing stock, which, in new development, is largely regulated by building control.  This SA objective assumes that development at any of the site options could be delivered to a high quality.  The nature and significance of the effects against this SA Objective will primarily relate to specific sites and will not be a differential at the site options stage.		
<b>Economy &amp; Employment</b>	7. To enhance the attractiveness of the County Borough to support economic development.	SA objective 7 assumes that any proposal for development will be designed responsibly and relates to significant interventions to attract new job creating investment in <b>any</b> sector. This objective is not a differential at the site options stage.		
<b>Connections (incl. Transport and Movement)</b>	8. To reduce the need to travel and encourage sustainable modes of transport.	The nature and significance of the effects against SA Objective 8 will primarily relate to <b>existing access to active travel, train or bus routes and proposed enhancements.</b> In particular to better connect residential areas with the Town Centre and to connect Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare via the Aberrant Tunnel and the wider region.  For the purposes of the SA, identified active travel routes are those identified in the <i>Active Travel Integrated Routes Map (2016)</i> .  A key aspect of encouraging walking and cycling is that	++	The site option is within reasonable walking distance without impediment to a train station (800m=10 minuteswalk), bus stop (400m=5 minuteswalk) with a frequent service (every half hour) and or a reasonable distance (100m= 1 minute walk) to an active travel route or proposed active travel route or key pedestrian or cycling route.

		<p>routes need to be direct and accessible. Taking this into account, for the purposes of the <b>SA a reasonable distance to these key walking and cycling routes is considered to be within 100m.</b></p> <p>Distances will be measured using a buffer zone of the set reasonable walking distance calculated from the site boundary within ArcGIS. It is recognised however that the distance by buffer zone is not the only aspect to consider in accessibility, and as such the narrative will note if potential barriers to movement or poor quality infrastructure is likely to restrict the potential use of the mode. The SA assumes that development at any of the site options could potentially provide or contribute to improved access to active travel routes.</p> <p>The SA assumes that larger strategic development options have greater potential for enhancements to existing infrastructure and services/provisions.</p> <p><b>Evidence Base:</b> ArcGIS shapefiles and Active Travel Integrated Network Map (2016).</p>	+	The site option is within reasonable walking distance to either a train station (800m=10 minuteswalk) or bus stop (400m=5 minuteswalk) with a frequent service (every half hour) or to an active travel or proposed active travel route or key pedestrian or cycling route (100m=1 minute walk).
			0	A neutral effect is not considered possible.
			?	There is an element of uncertainty, for example the connectivity of the route is questionable or unknown, until more detailed assessments have been completed e.g. topography.
			-	The site option is not within reasonable walking distance to a train station (800m=10 minute walk), or bus stop (400m=5 minuteswalk) with a frequent service (every half hour) or a reasonable distance (100m=1 minute walk) to an active travel route or proposed active travel route or a key pedestrian or cycling route.
			--	The site option is not within reasonable walking distance without impediment to a train station (800m=10 minuteswalk), bus stop (400m=5 minuteswalk) with a frequent service (every half hour) and o=1 minute walk) to an active travel route or a proposed active travel route or key pedestrian or

				cycling route and could hinder improvements to the connectivity of the active travel route network.
	9. To ensure essential utilities and infrastructure are available to meet the needs of all.	<p>SA Objective 9 relates to the capacity of infrastructure to accommodate the distribution of population and housing growth.</p> <p>The SA assumes that any proposal for development can make appropriate and timely provision or contributions for necessary supporting infrastructure, including utilities services.</p> <p>The nature and significance of the effects against this SA Objective will relate to whether headroom exists within the electricity network, water provision, waste and water disposal networks, gas network and broadband network.</p> <p><b>Evidence Base:</b> Consultation responses and advice from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dwr Cymru Welsh Water</li> <li>• Western Power Distribution</li> <li>• Wales and West Utilities</li> <li>• BT Openreach</li> <li>• Merthyr Tydfil Council Waste Management</li> </ul>	++	Sufficient infrastructure headroom exists in all utilities and connections are straight forward.
			+	There will be sufficient infrastructure headroom in all utilities during the plan period although connections to at least one utility will require phasing and or a significant developer contribution.
			0	A neutral effect is not considered possible.
			?	There is an element of uncertainty, most likely until more detailed assessments have been carried out through planning applications.
			-	The provision of headroom is reliant on efficiencies in the network outside the direct control of the utilities provider.
			--	It is unlikely that sufficient headroom will be available in the plan period or the development contribution required to upgrade a network is likely to make the site unviable.
Energy	10. To minimise efficiency use and optimise opportunities for renewable energy generation.	SA Objective 10 relates to the potential for the site option to contribute to the delivery of renewable energy and assumes that all new development can meet policy targets for energy efficiency, using sustainable construction methods and could promote building form and layout that aids adaptation.	++	The site is promoted for the generation of renewable and low carbon energy.
			+	The site is not promoted for renewable or low carbon energy but has clear potential to integrate with renewable technologies.

		<p>It is assumed that all site options have the potential for neutral effect against SA Objective 10, and this SA Objective will not be a key differentiator between site options.</p> <p>The nature and significance of the effect will relate to the proposed use of the site and, for sites not proposed for renewable energy generation, whether there is the potential for the site to contribute to renewable / low carbon energy production.</p> <p>The SA does not consider the impact of incorporating renewable energy within development on a sites financial viability. Where practical constraints to the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy are identified these will be noted.</p> <p><b>Evidence Base:</b> The Council has commissioned a Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Assessment which will identify opportunities. Other considerations include topography and whether any other constraints exist.</p>	0	A neutral effect is not considered possible.
			?	The site is not promoted for renewable or low carbon energy and it is unclear whether it has the potential to support renewable technologies.
			-	The site is not promoted for renewable or low carbon energy and practical constraints has clear potential to integrate with renewable technologies.
			--	The site is not promoted for renewable or low carbon energy and would hamper an opportunity for the development of renewable and low carbon energy generation.
Climate change	11. To minimise the contribution to climate change whilst maximising resilience to it.	<p>SA objective 11 relates to the capacity of the site to support adaptation to the predicted effects of climate change. In particular will the option allow sufficient access to open spaces and shade away from microclimates? Others predicted impacts most closely related to the selection of development sites are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes in soil conditions, biodiversity and landscape due to warmer, drier summers (see SA objectives 12 &amp; 18 below).</li> </ol>	++	The site is entirely brownfield and will not result in the loss of any greenfield or agricultural land.
			+	The majority of the site is brownfield land and will not result in the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land.
			0	A neutral effect is not considered possible.



		<p>2. Changes in species including a decline in native species, changes in migration patterns and increases in alien and invasive species (see SA objective 12 below).</p> <p>3. Reductions in river flows and water availability during the summer, affecting water supplies and the natural environment.</p> <p>4. Increases in flooding, affecting people, property and infrastructure.</p> <p>The nature and significance of effects against this SA Objective will relate to the potential for the development site to allow sufficient access to open spaces and shade away from microclimates through the provision of green infrastructure and planting of trees.</p> <p>If the evidence suggests that such access may be a significant issue this will be noted within the summary appraisal narrative.</p> <p><b>Evidence Base:</b> Evidence from the Council's Candidate sites register and observations of the Council officers.</p>	?	An element of uncertainty exists for all sites until more detailed lower level surveys and assessment have been carried out through planning applications.
			-	The majority of the site is greenfield and does not contain any best and most versatile agricultural land.
			--	Development at the site option could result in the loss of greenfield and the best and most versatile agricultural land.
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	12. To maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem connectivity.	<p>SA Objective 12 relates to existing identified biodiversity assets, and ecological corridors that provide strategic connectivity for biodiversity.</p> <p>The nature and significance of effects against this SA Objective will primarily relate to potential <b>effects on biodiversity</b>.</p> <p>Is the site within, adjacent to, or in close proximity (200m) to any: Nationally designated biodiversity (SSSIs, NNRs) or Biodiversity sites designated as being of local importance (LNR)?</p>	++	Development at the site option will deliver biodiversity gains, or improve ecological corridors / connections to a designated site (SSSI, LNR), or development will address a significant existing sustainability issue relating to biodiversity.
			+	Development will not lead to the loss of an important habitat, species, trees and hedgerows or hamper ecological connectivity (SINCs identified/LBAP and there are potential opportunities to enhance biodiversity.

		<p>Would development at the site result in the loss or fragmentation of important habitats or Green Infrastructure for biodiversity as identified in the SINCs and or Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), 2014?</p> <p>It is recognised that when considering the potential for effects on designated biodiversity, distance in itself is not a definitive guide to the likelihood or severity of an impact.</p> <p>The appraisal commentary will try to note any key environmental pathways that could result in development potentially having a negative effect on designated biodiversity that may be some distance away.</p>	0	<p>Developments at the site is not likely to have negative effects on any nationally or locally designated biodiversity or contributes towards a severance of green and blue infrastructure or impede the migration of biodiversity. Potential for a neutral effect or</p> <p>Development at the site has the potential for negative effects on sites designated as being of local importance. Mitigation possible, potential for a residual neutral effect.</p>
		<p>The capacity of the site to accommodate housing and employment development will also influence the judgements made in terms of the nature and significance of effects against this SA Objective.</p> <p>Are there opportunities to enhance biodiversity? Possibly improve connectivity, green/blue infrastructure or enhance an important habitat?</p>	?	<p>Element of uncertainty exists until more detailed lower level surveys and assessments have been carried out.</p>
		<p><b>Evidence Base:</b> Analysis of ArcGIS map layers, Countryside and Biodiversity officers input and the Nature Conservation Strategy will inform the assessment of effects against this SA Objective.</p>	-	<p>Development at the site option has the potential for negative effects on sites designated as being of local importance, or will lead to the loss of important habitats or fragmentation/severance of the connectivity of ecological corridors as identified as SINC / Green Infrastructure or</p> <p>Development at the site has the potential for negative effects on nationally designated sites</p> <p>Mitigation possible, potential for a minor residual negative effect.</p>

			--	Development at the site has the potential for negative effects on a nationally designated site. Mitigation difficult and / or expensive, potential for a major residual negative effect.
<b>Water: Resources, Quality and Flooding</b>	Water resource availability – See SA objective 9 above.			
	13. To minimise the demand for water and improve the water environment.	<p>SA Objective 13 relates to the water efficiency of new development, and its potential effects on water quality.</p> <p>The SA assumes that development at any of the sites can incorporate aspirational water efficiency measures and that any proposal. The appraisal summary narrative will note if water intensive development is being proposed at the site option.</p> <p>The appraisal will focus on the potential offered by the site to improve the quality of water leaving the site (outside the Waste Water system).</p> <p>This will focus on the opportunity for the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SDS). It is recognised that ground conditions and contamination have a large effect on the quality of water (see SA objective 15 below).</p> <p><b>Evidence Base:</b></p> <p>ArcGIS will be used to consider the relationship of site options with watercourses and bodies of water such as ponds and whether they are in areas identifies as not having 'good' status under the Water Framework Directive. It will also consider the topography of the site to determine the likelihood that SUDS are appropriate.</p>	++	Development has clear opportunities for SuDS and that development at the site option will lead to significant positive effects on water quality leading to 'good' status.
			+	Development has clear opportunities for SuDS and that development at the site option will lead to positive effects on water quality in an area already meeting 'good' status.
			0	The site option is unlikely to lead to any significant effects on water quality, or that appropriate mitigation is in place to reduce negative effects with the potential for a residual neutral effect.
			?	There is an element of uncertainty; most likely until further detailed assessment work has been carried out.
			-	Development has no clear opportunity for SuDS and, the site option may lead to minor negative effects on water quality, although satisfactory mitigation is identified.

			--	Development has no clear opportunity for SuDS, will lead to major negative effects on water quality and no satisfactory mitigation is identified.
	14. To minimise the risk of flooding.	<p>SA Objective 14 relates to existing areas of flood risk within the plan area. The nature and significance of effects against this SA Objective will therefore relate to whether a site option is located within an area of <b>flood risk</b> (from all sources) or has the potential to reduce flood risk.</p> <p><b>Evidence Base:</b> Analysis in ArcGIS using NRW Flood Map for Planning and Risk of Flooding from Surface Water and the Council's Flood Risk Management Plan will be used to inform the assessment of effects against this SA Objective.</p>	++	The site option is not located within any area of flood risk and there is evidence that development at the site option could offer an opportunity to reduce flood risk elsewhere.
			+	The site option is not located within an area of flood risk and is not at risk of surface water flooding.
			0	The site option is located partially within an area of flood risk, or at risk of surface water flooding in parts of the site. However, development could avoid this area, or suitable mitigation is available, with the potential for a residual neutral effect.
			?	There is an element of uncertainty until more detailed lower level surveys and assessments have been carried out.
			-	The site option is located partially within an area of flood risk, or at risk of surface water flooding in parts of the site. The areas of flood risk would be difficult to avoid, and mitigation is likely to be expensive/ difficult.

			--	The site option is located predominantly within an area of flood risk and is at risk of surface water flooding. No clear opportunities for mitigation exist.
<b>Air Quality</b>	<p>See SA objective 8 above.</p> <p>Air quality within Merthyr Tydfil is closely linked to road traffic. This is demonstrated by the proposed designation of the AQMA on Twynnyroddyn Hill where there is traffic congestion. Given the close relationship between traffic and air quality, the findings of the assessment under SA objective 8 are relevant to this topic. For example, positive effects against SA Objective 8 are likely to result in a positive indirect effect on air quality; equally, negative effects are likely to result in negative indirect effects on air quality.</p> <p>Mitigation provided through LDP policies and at the project level to reduce traffic impacts, such as improving access to sustainable transport modes will also help to mitigate impacts on air quality.</p>			
<b>Minerals, Land and Soil</b>	15. To protect and conserve soil and safeguard mineral resources.	<p>The nature and significance of the effect will relate to the land type and potential loss of previously undeveloped soil and the impact on safeguarded mineral resources.</p> <p><b>Evidence Base:</b> Officers will use BMV and BGS safeguarding maps and site visits to determine whether the site proposal is on land where there is good soil or mineral resources worthy of safeguarding on the site and whether the potential resulting impact.</p> <p>There is little best and most versatile agricultural land in the County Borough.</p>	++	The site is entirely brownfield and will not hinder the future extraction of safeguarded minerals resources.
			+	The site is brownfield but would be reliant on the pre-extraction of mineral resources (for which there is no impediment).
			0	A neutral effect is not considered possible.
			?	An element of uncertainty exists until more detailed lower level surveys and assessment are undertaken.
			-	The site is brownfield but would be reliant on the pre-extraction of mineral resources (for which there are clear impediments) or the majority of the site is greenfield although acceptable mitigation for the loss of soil is identified.

			--	The majority of the site is greenfield and there is no clear mitigation for the impact on soil.
<b>Waste</b>		<p>See SA objective 9 above.</p> <p>SA Objective 3 relates to the capacity of infrastructure to accommodate the distribution of population and housing growth.</p> <p>The nature and significance of the effects against this SA Objective, in relation to Waste, will relate to whether headroom exists within the network of waste facilities to accommodate the site option.</p> <p><b>Evidence Base:</b> Consultation responses and advice from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's Waste Management Department.</p>		
<b>Cultural Heritage (inc. Welsh Language) &amp; Historic Environment</b>	16. To protect and enhance heritage assets which defines the County Borough as the most significant Welsh town of the Industrial Revolution.	<p>The nature and significance of the effects in this instance will relate to <b>designated heritage assets</b> (Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens, and Areas of Archaeological Importance) and their setting. Any important non-designated heritage assets will be noted within the appraisal commentary.</p> <p>Are there any designated heritage assets or their setting, which could be affected within or adjacent to the site?</p> <p>Are there any opportunities to enhance heritage assets, such as: securing appropriate new uses for unused Listed Buildings; the removal of an eyesore could have a positive effect on the setting of designated assets; improved access and signage?</p> <p>It is considered that there is an element of uncertainty for all sites until more detailed lower level surveys and assessments have been carried out. Key conclusions will be noted in the appraisal.</p>	++	Development at the site option has the potential for a major positive effect on the significance / risk categorisation of a designated heritage assets and / or its setting.
			+	Development at the site option has the potential for minor positive effects as it may secure appropriate new uses for unused Listed Buildings and / or enhance the setting of, or access / signage to designated assets.
			0	Development at the site option will have no significant effect. This may be because there are no heritage assets within the influence of proposed development, or that mitigation measures are considered to reduce negative effects with the potential for a residual neutral effect.

		<p><b>Evidence base:</b></p> <p>ArcGIS will provide a basis for consideration of the relationship between site proposals and assets. The Buildings at Risk survey provides a condition report for the stock of Listed Buildings.</p> <p>The advice of the Heritage Officer and Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust will inform the assessment of effects against this SA Objective.</p>	?	There is an element of uncertainty for all sites until more detailed lower level surveys and assessments have been carried out.
			-	Development has the potential for a residual minor negative effect on a Conservation Area; a Scheduled Monument; Listed Building; Registered Historic Park and Garden and/ or their setting.
			--	Development has the potential for a residual major negative effect on a Conservation Area, Scheduled Monument; Listed Building; Registered Historic Parks and Gardens and/ or their setting. Mitigation is likely to be difficult/ expensive.
	17. To facilitate services and facilities that support distinctive local culture and the Welsh language.	<p>The nature and significance of the effects in this instance will relate to <b>the potential for the site option to facilitate the uptake of the Welsh Language and encourage those who can converse in Welsh to do so.</b></p> <p>There are two Welsh primary schools in the County Borough (Santes Tudful (Penyard) &amp; Rhyd y grug (Aberfan) site options located within their catchments will be considered to have facilitated the uptake of the Welsh Language to a greater extent than those located outside the catchments. It is, however, recognised this is not a major differential. The Welsh Speaking Secondary School is in Aberdare.</p> <p><b>Evidence Base:</b></p> <p>ArcGIS will enable the identification of site options in relation to the catchment areas of Welsh Language primary schools.</p>	++	N/A
			+	Development at the site option has the potential for minor positive effects because it is within the catchment of an existing Welsh language primary school.
			0	Development at the site option will have no significant effect because it is located outside the catchment of an existing Welsh language primary school.
			?	N/A
			-	N/A
			--	N/A

<b>Landscape and Townscape (inc. Built Environment)</b>	18. To protect and enhance the quality of designated areas of landscape value and good quality townscapes.	<p>SA Objective 18 relates to valued landscapes and townscapes, as well as features and assets that contribute to landscape and townscape character.</p> <p>The nature and significance of the effects against this SA Objective will relate to the <b>sensitivity of the landscape or townscape</b>.</p> <p>The capacity of the site to accommodate housing and employment development will also influence the judgements made in terms of the nature and significance of effects against this SA Objective.</p> <p>It is considered that there is an element of uncertainty for all sites until more detailed lower level surveys and assessments have been carried out through planning applications. The SA assumes that any trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders within a site option will be retained, unless there is evidence to suggest that this is not the case.</p> <p><b>Evidence Base:</b> ArcGIS and LANDMAP will inform the expert consideration of this objective by the Landscape Architect.</p> <p>Consideration against the proposed SLAs, the Brecon Beacons National Park, Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Importance, emerging Iron Settlement work and the Cadw Urban Characterisation Study.</p>	++	Development significantly enhances the landscape or removes a significant eyesore and/or would regenerate previously developed land and buildings (PDL) that is currently having a major negative effect on the landscape/ townscape.
			+	Development would remove an eyesore, or enhance the landscape and/or would regenerate PDL that is currently having a minor negative effect on the landscape/ townscape.
			0	A neutral effect is not considered possible.
			?	An element of uncertainty exists until more detailed lower level assessments have been carried out.
			-	The site option has medium sensitivity in landscape terms or is within the setting of the National Park or SLA or is located where the landscape or townscape character is well defined and mitigation through good design is likely.
			--	The site option has medium to high or high sensitivity in landscape terms and would conflict with the management objectives of a proposed SLA. Mitigation is likely to be difficult/ expensive. Potential for major residual negative effect.



<b>Sites Sustainability Appraisal Template</b>	
<b>Candidate Site Ref. (if applicable)</b>	
<b>LDP Policy Ref.</b>	
<b>Site Name / Location</b>	
<b>Ward</b>	
<b>Current use</b>	
<b>Proposed use</b>	
<b>Co-ords (Grid Ref.)</b>	

	SA Objective	Score	Comments
1	To ensure that the community and social infrastructure needs of all residents and communities are met.		
2	To maintain and enhance community and settlement identities.		
3	To support a sustainable level of population growth.		

	SA Objective	Score	Comments
4	To improve human health and well-being and reduce inequalities.		
5	To meet the housing needs of all through a mix of dwelling tenures and types.		
6	To improve the overall quality and energy efficiency of the housing stock.		
7	To enhance the attractiveness of the County Borough to support economic development.		
8	To reduce the need to travel and encourage sustainable modes of transport.		
9	To ensure essential utilities and infrastructure are available to meet the needs of all.		
10	To minimise efficiency use and optimise opportunities for renewable energy generation.		

	SA Objective	Score	Comments
11	To minimise the contribution to climate change whilst maximising resilience to it.		
12	To maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem connectivity.		
13	To minimise the demand for water and improve the water environment.		
14	To minimise the risk of flooding.		
15	To protect and conserve soil and safeguard mineral resources.		
16	To protect and enhance of heritage assets that defines the County Borough as the most significant Welsh town of the Industrial Revolution.		
17	To facilitate services and facilities that support distinctive local culture and the Welsh language.		

	SA Objective	Score	Comments
18	To protect and enhance the quality of designated areas of landscape value and good quality townscapes.		

## 2. POLICY SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK AND TEMPLATE

Framework/Key	
++	Policy will considerably progress the sustainability objective
+	Policy progresses the sustainability objective to an extent
0	No/neutral effect – policy will not affect the sustainability objective
?	Policy will have uncertain effect on sustainability objective
-	Policy will conflict with sustainability objective to an extent
--	Policy will conflict considerably with the sustainability

### New Policy Name:

SA Objective	Assessment of Effects Commentary	Score
1. To ensure that the community and social infrastructure needs of all residents and communities are met.		
2. To maintain and enhance community and settlement identities.		
3. To support a sustainable level of population growth.		
4. To improve human health and well-being and reduce inequalities.		

SA Objective	Assessment of Effects Commentary	Score
5. To meet the housing needs of all through a mix of dwelling tenures and types.		
6. To improve the overall quality and energy efficiency of the housing stock.		
7. To enhance the attractiveness of the County Borough to support economic development.		
8. To reduce the need to travel and encourage sustainable modes of transport.		
9. To ensure essential utilities and infrastructure are available to meet the needs of all.		
10. To minimise energy use and optimise opportunities for renewable energy generation.		
11. To minimise the contribution to climate change whilst maximising resilience to it.		
12. To maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem connectivity.		
13. To minimise the demand for water and improve the water environment.		

SA Objective	Assessment of Effects Commentary	Score
14. To minimise the risk of flooding.		
15. To protect and conserve soil and safeguard mineral resources.		
16. To protect and enhance of heritage assets that defines the County Borough as the most significant Welsh town of the Industrial Revolution.		
17. To facilitate services and facilities that support distinctive local culture and the Welsh language.		
18. To protect and enhance the quality of designated areas of landscape value and good quality townscapes.		
<b>Summary</b>		