

BRIDGEND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
Draft Screening Report

1. General

- 1.1 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for LDPs is mandatory under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. SA covers social and economic effects of the LDP as well as environmental effects. LDPs must also be subject of an environmental assessment (SEA Regulations 5(2) and 5(4) refer). In accordance with Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) Guidance, the requirements of the SEA Directive are best incorporated into the SA of the Plan. The Draft Scoping Report for the SA of the LDP was published contemporaneously with the Draft Delivery Agreement for the Plan, thereby satisfying that requirement of the SEA Regulations.
- 1.2 Under SEA Regulation 9(1) the Council must also consider formally whether the LDP will have significant environmental effects and make public any determination under SEA Regulation 11. Paragraph 5.6.1 of the Assembly Government's Local Development Plan Manual (June 2006) states (inter-alia) that: -

"Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations outlines that the LPA should have regard to the nature of the LDP and the character of the area to be affected in making such a determination. In the unlikely case that the LPA considers that the LDP will have no significant effects, support from the Environmental Consultation bodies and clear evidence will need to be provided in any determination under Regulation 9 (1)."

- 1.3 After due consideration of the above guidance and having consulted with Baker Associates, who are the Council's independent sustainability consultants, the following draft "Determination" regarding strategic environmental assessment of the LDP was prepared. The Council resolved to approve the 'Draft Determination' for a Screening Opinion on the Local Development Plan for the purposes of strategic environmental assessment at its meeting on the 28 December 2006.

2. Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

The Environmental Assessment of Plans, Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 Bridgend Local Development Plan Determination

- 2.1 In accordance with requirements of Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans, Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 the Council has screened the local development plan to determine the likely significance of the effects of the plan on the environment. In doing so, the Council has taken into account the selection criteria in Schedule 1 of the Regulations.
- 2.2 For the purposes of this screening opinion the local development plan is taken to comprise the following documents: -
- Vision and Strategic Options Report
 - Deposit Local Development Plan
- 2.3 The Council determines that the local development plan will, once adopted: -
- a) Set the framework for controlling and regulating all forms of development in Bridgend County Borough;
 - b) Be a key element of the plan hierarchy in Bridgend County Borough, and will influence the development of the Regional Transport Plan for South East Wales, the Regional Waste Plan for South West Wales, the local housing strategy, the Community Strategy, the local air quality plan, local biodiversity action plan and a range of topic-based and site specific supplementary planning guidance;
 - c) Provide an important framework for promoting and achieving sustainable development in Bridgend County Borough;
 - d) Provide a framework for development which will have regard to the nature, size and location of development and its impact on the environment;
 - e) Play a key role in ensuring the implementation of Community legislation on the environment;
 - f) Provide a framework to consider the impact of new residential, retail, employment, transportation, community and other development;
 - g) Result in development additional or cumulative to that which already exists within Bridgend County Borough;

- h) Provide a planning policy framework which will consider the impact of development on human health and well-being and the environment;
 - i) Provide a planning policy framework which considers the effect of development on circa 25,500 hectares of land, and circa 140,000 people within the local planning authority administrative boundary of Bridgend County Borough;
 - j) Provide a planning policy framework which will consider the effects of development on the special natural characteristics and cultural heritage of Bridgend County Borough; and
 - k) Provide a planning policy framework which will consider the effects of development on areas or landscape which have recognised national, Community or international protected status.
- 2.4 The Council therefore considers that the local development plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment of Bridgend County Borough. The Plan will therefore be subject to a strategic environmental assessment.