



Swansea Local Development Plan

Everyone can have their say!

Vision and Objectives

Consultation Draft

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Introduction

The City and County of Swansea Council is preparing a new development plan for Swansea known as the **Swansea Local Development Plan (LDP)**. This will replace the existing Swansea Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

The Swansea LDP will provide a revised framework to inform planning decisions and guide development across the City and County.

The LDP must be prepared in accordance with requirements laid down by the Welsh Government (WG), however this will be a Plan that is specific for Swansea. It will be focused to meet the **economic, social and environmental needs of our area, people and businesses**.

The **Vision and Objectives** represents a key stage of the LDP process. The document is being supported by an extensive programme of public consultation, during which time **your involvement and comments are welcomed**. The document is divided into two main sections:

- **Vision** – The core purpose of the Plan;
- **Objectives** – A set of overarching Objectives that elaborate upon the Vision and that focus on the deliverability of the Plan.

**Public Consultation on the Vision and Objectives
will run over the following dates:**

23rd July until 12th October 2012

Also published for consultation alongside this document is the [LDP Strategic Options](#), which puts forward different approaches that could be taken to meeting Swansea's future growth needs.

To ensure that you are kept informed about consultation events in your area and remain fully up to date with the latest developments in the LDP process, please check for updates on the Council's web pages and register your details online at www.swansea.gov.uk/ldp. You can also contact the Planning Policy Team on 01792 635744 to discuss any aspect of the LDP process, including how to get involved in this and future consultations.



Vision

The role of the Vision within the LDP process is to clarify the core purpose of the Plan and provide a framework for developing the **Preferred Strategy** and future detailed policies. The LDP Vision will set the overarching context for the City and County of Swansea for the period up to 2025. It will implement national and local policy that is relevant to the City and County and identify shared priorities arising from national strategies, such as the Wales Spatial Plan (WSP) as well as local strategies. Most notably these include the Council's Community Strategy and associated documents such as Swansea 2020 – Swansea's Economic Regeneration Strategy.

In order for the LDP to assist in delivering the WSP and the Council's Community Strategy, it is sensible that it should accord with their respective headline Visions. Whilst it is recognised that the basis of this approach is currently under review given the proposed introduction of a Single Integrated Plan during 2013 it is important to embrace the spirit of both Visions that are currently in place. To ensure that the Community Strategy and WSP Visions are the most suitable for the LDP Vision, the following criteria extracted from Local Development Plan Manual (2006) have been applied and tested:

- *The Vision is up to date, and has wide spatial relevance*

The WSP provides a framework for spatial planning in the consideration of what can and should happen at key locations until 2024, whilst the Community Strategy provides a Vision for the type of place the City and County will be in 2020. This satisfies the requirement that they need to be relevant at LDP adoption. Any subsequent reviews of the Community Strategy can be accommodated by the Council's monitoring of the LDP, which will provide opportunities to respond to changing circumstances.

The WSP Vision provides spatial direction whilst the Community Strategy's Vision, has wide spatial relevance, provides a clear direction of what kind of place the City and County aspires to be and balances environmental, social and economic objectives (by recognising how these factors interact with each other with both positive and negative outcomes). Both Visions are therefore clearly compliant with the above assessment criterion and therefore suitable to be incorporated into the Vision for the LDP.

- *The Vision flows from having a clear view of what sort of place the Authority wants to become*

Both the WSP and the Community Strategy have been adopted following widespread consultation and engagement exercises. The WSP has been developed by Area Groups through extensive joint working and research between key



delivery partners, including the regional economic forum, the Welsh Local Government Association, regional boards and the private and third sectors. From a Community Strategy perspective this has been developed by the [Better Swansea Partnership](#) which is an overarching strategic partnership that includes main public service providers, as well as voluntary and business sector representatives. This approach ensures that the aspirations of all interested parties are taken into account and gives a clear view of the future direction of the City and County.

- *The Vision is well rounded so that there should be a balance between economic, social and environmental objectives*

The following broad themes are derived from the WSP and Community Strategy:

Economic Prosperity & Lifelong Learning

Quality Environment

Community & Social Provision

These themes will be expressed through the LDP via the Aims and Objectives of the Plan and/or specific land use allocations and policies. For the purpose of the LDP additional text/revisions have been made to the Community Strategy Vision in order to distinctly reflect the land use planning basis

of the Plan. For example, the reference within the Community Strategy Vision of making the City and County a place which provides a great start to life has not been included given its lack of direct association with land use planning.

Having regard to the preceding commentary the following represents the Draft LDP Vision:

By 2025 Swansea will be a vibrant and distinctive City and County that:

- **Is a desirable place to live, work and visit**
- **Capitalises on its regional role and Waterfront City location**
- **Enables a competitive and prosperous economy**
- **Protects and enhances its natural, built and cultural environment**
- **Is accessible with a sustainable, integrated transport system**
- **Makes efficient use of its natural resources**
- **Is safe and feels safe**
- **Encourages and promotes good health**
- **Promotes sustainability and equality**
- **Supports the delivery of the best possible services and facilities**
- **Facilitates the provision of excellent education infrastructure**



Objectives

The LDP Objectives seek to elaborate upon the LDP Vision and focus on the deliverability of the Plan. The Objectives should be capable of being addressed through the land use planning system. They should also have regard to the strategic principles of the WSP and the Aims and Objectives of the Community Strategy. In so doing, the key themes set out in the Vision can be translated into a series of environmental, social and economic Objectives. These wide ranging themes within the Vision provide a logical basis to identify Key Objectives for the LDP and will be utilised as subject headings. It is important to note that some of the themes are

interlinked and some may be appropriate to be placed under a combination of subject headings.

The themes have been developed from objectives and guidelines established within [Planning Policy Wales](#) and [Technical Advice Notes](#). In addition, baseline data collected as part of the [Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report](#) was analysed in order to identify sustainability issues that the LDP is expected to deal with. Issues thus identified have been further reviewed in order to ensure that they reflect the Objectives of other current corporate strategies and that they are material planning considerations and therefore relevant for the LDP.

Having regard to the preceding commentary, the **Draft Objectives** for the LDP are set out below:

Economic Prosperity & Lifelong Learning

- **Support the development of Swansea as an economically competitive place and a regional economic driver**
- **Reinforce and improve the City Centre as a vibrant regional focus for business and administration, shopping, culture and leisure**
- **Direct new housing to economically developable sites close to supporting employment, retail, leisure, education and other community facilities**
- **Ensure that communities have sufficient, good quality housing to meet their needs**
- **Promote and enhance a sustainable rural economy**
- **Improve, expand and diversify appropriate, sustainable, tourism facilities and infrastructure**
- **Provide for the development of accessible, high quality education, training and employment infrastructure and facilities**



Quality Environment

- **Promote development that avoids significant adverse environmental impacts and respects constraints**
- **Protect and enhance the system of accessible greenspace**
- **Support adaptation and mitigation measures due to climate change**
- **Protect the interplay of town and country**
- **Preserve or enhance the quality of the natural, cultural and historic environment**
- **Promote good design which is locally distinct, sustainable, innovative and sensitive to location**
- **Reduce the effects of environmental pollution from development**

Community & Social Provision

- **Promote an integrated and sustainable transport system**
- **Develop appropriate types of renewable energy resources and energy infrastructure**
- **Encourage the efficient use of minerals and safeguard existing resources**
- **Facilitate the sustainable management of waste**
- **Ensure improvements to the water environment and promote the sustainable use of water**
- **Promote the provision of state of the art utility and telecommunications infrastructure**
- **Support the development and management of safe and vibrant places and spaces**
- **Create social and physical environments that encourage and support good health and well being for all sectors of the community**
- **Promote equality of access to health, community, leisure and recreation facilities**



Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

In order to ensure the compatibility of the Vision and Objectives against the LDP SA/SEA then an initial scoping exercise was undertaken during December 2011. This 'compatibility assessment' essentially tested that the proposed framework adopted could lead to sustainable outcomes. The outcomes of this assessment are set out in full via: www.swansea.gov.uk/ldpssea or alternatively contact the Planning Policy Team directly for further details.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

An initial HRA scoping exercise of the Vision and Objectives was undertaken during December 2011. This was supported by a preliminary screening exercise undertaken by David Tyldesley and Associates. It was concluded that at this point in the LDP process there is insufficient detail to assess the Vision and Objectives in a meaningful manner. The outcomes of these assessments are set out in full via: www.swansea.gov.uk/ldphra or alternatively contact the Planning Policy Team directly for further details.



vision

engagement

feedback

community

commitment

opinions

evidence

inclusive

focussed

connecting

consistency

responsive

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