

Consultation Responses to Discussion Papers

Introduction

Discussion Papers, setting the context for the preparation of the LDP through individual topic areas, were prepared during spring 2008 and made available for public consultation over a 6-7 week period beginning in the first week in June 2008. They represent an important first step in the development of a robust evidence base and of the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan's Preferred Strategy.

Whilst the Discussion Papers and responses thereto will contribute to the emerging strategy and the respective policies governing the release of land, it was emphasised that the papers were not exhaustive in content, but were rather intended to illustrate the scope of the Plan, to stimulate discussion and facilitate a response.

Nature of Respondents

142 responses were received in total, almost half of these were from Town or Community Councils within Carmarthenshire. Other well represented interests included statutory agencies, the housing sector, utilities companies, local interest groups and businesses, neighbouring local authorities and other sections within Carmarthenshire County Council.

Nature of Responses

- a number of responses were received in favour of spatial option 1, which is probably the most sustainable of the three options;
- respondents from both within the local authority in Carmarthenshire, as well as those from external bodies including statutory consultees, emphasised the importance of maintaining a close liaison and a continuous dialogue during preparation of the LDP;
- emphasis on the importance of measures to help safeguard the Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire;
- there was a feeling that housing densities should reflect the individual nature of the settlements concerned.
- support for farm diversification schemes as a way of diversifying the rural economy;
- both support and objections to wind farm developments;
- support for the development of a sustainable and integrated transport framework;
- support for protection of the viability of town centres, and the need to ensure that any new out of town retail developments should both compliment and support such traditional areas;
- support for home working;
- a feeling that new developments should be sympathetic to the environment and should utilise principles of sustainable design;
- information on the historic & built environment was submitted by specialists in the field and will be utilised in the drawing up of the LDP's Preferred Strategy and Deposit Plan;

- support for the protection of community facilities, as these contribute an important role in creating and achieving sustainable settlements and play a critical role in the community;
- as well as several objections to wind farm development, there was also support for the different ways of obtaining renewable/sustainable energy;

Recommendation

That the LDP Advisory Panel resolves to note the comments/information received in respect of the Discussion Papers and that these are utilised as appropriate during the preparation of the LDP Preferred Strategy and Deposit Plan.