

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A snapshot of the day's events and a copy of the Workshop Programme

Attendees and format of the day

The first Key Stakeholder Forum (KSF) was held in the Gwenllian Court Hotel in Kidwelly on the 28 October 2008 and was attended by 23 delegates from the organisations that were identified within the Delivery Agreement. There were also 6 representatives from the Authority's Forward Planning Section (who acted as facilitators) along with 2 representatives from Planning Aid Wales. The event was run in a bilingual manner and simultaneous translation was provided. In order to evaluate the success of the day, an evaluation feedback form was provided to each attendee.

The day was designed to be informal, with the emphasis primarily placed on participation and sharing ideas. Delegate Packs were provided by the Authority and these contained the day's itinerary along with a range of relevant background information.

The role of stakeholders in preparing the LDP

An important role for Key Stakeholders (KS) within the LDP plan making process is their participation in early discussions in respect of some key strategic issues for the Plan (including sustainable development, spatial strategies and a settlement framework).

At the first forum meeting, Stakeholders were aiming to firstly discuss visioning elements before proceeding to identify and agree on typical key objectives. Later on in the day, Stakeholders proceeded to scope out a range of realistic strategy options as an attempt to evaluate how the agreed plan objectives could be delivered.

Stakeholders will also consider and debate which of the identified strategic options, or mix of options, should be used to shape the optimal strategy (or Preferred Strategy). These issues will be discussed at the second forum meeting in early 2009.

Deciding on key elements of the LDP vision

Attendees listed the elements of vision under the Community Strategy pillars that they deemed to be appropriate for inclusion within a land use planning strategy document.

Elements of the LDP vision weighted by importance were determined by the Forum and these are outlined as follows:

| Element of vision | Score/Weight |
|---|--------------|
| Good Quality Environment | 11 |
| Suitable mix of housing | 10 |
| Community Facilities | 10 |
| Green and Sustainable | 9 |
| Attracting inward investment | 6 |
| Enough infrastructure for new development | 5 |
| Providing safe environments | 5 |
| Joined up/integration | 4 |
| Access for all | 3 |
| Access to public transport | 2 |
| Health and recreation | 2 |
| Equality | 2 |
| Distinctiveness | 1 |
| Safeguard | 0 |

The main LDP topic areas – towards a spatial strategy for the LDP

It was acknowledged by all that balancing sustainability objectives with the need for new houses, employment opportunities, shops, other services and their related infrastructure requirements is not an easy task. It was agreed that the KSF and the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) can assist the Authority in ensuring that these competing demands and requirements are met and that different topic/policy areas are strategically evaluated and reconciled.

Getting to grips with ‘key plan objectives’ & prioritising the top three objectives

Objectives are important because they will provide a context and direction with regards to what the plan is seeking to deliver. Realistic objectives also ensure that the plan is deliverable – there would be little purpose in arriving at objectives that the LDP cannot deliver. The Welsh Assembly Government Manual for preparing LDPs states that: “LDP objectives should be capable of being addressed through the planning system”. Prioritisation of key objectives for the LDP was achieved by requesting that delegates place stickers next to the strategic objectives that they deemed to have the highest priority for the LDP.

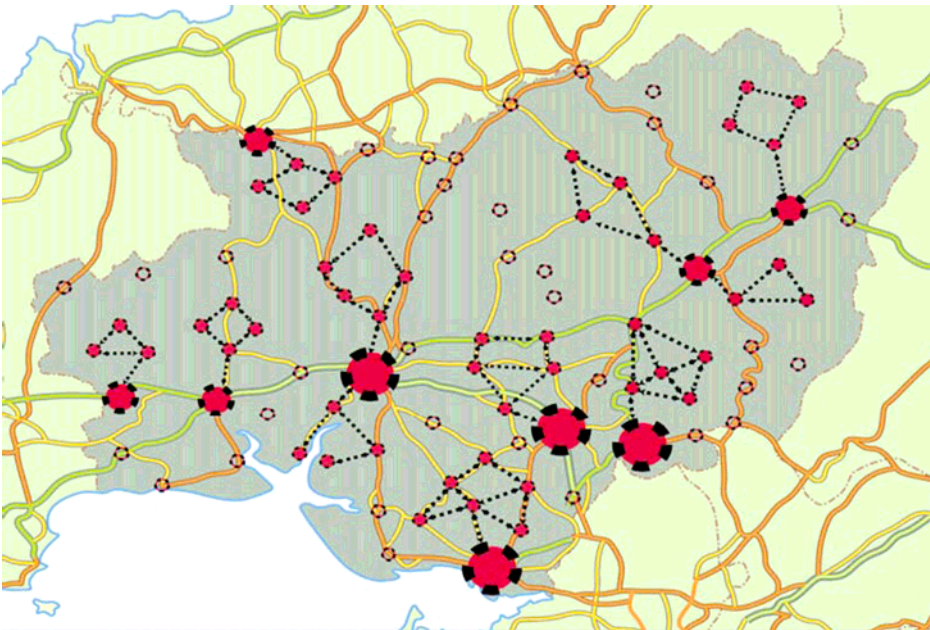
The results of this prioritisation exercise are as follows:

| LDP Strategic Objective | Score/Weight |
|--|--------------|
| Appropriate Mix of housing (including local needs affordable) | 13 |
| Exemplar of sustainability | 12 |
| Integrated Transport | 12 |
| Mixed working/living/playing places | 8 |
| Employment/investment – inc rural and agricultural | 7 |
| Landscape scale conservation (inc urban green space) | 6 |
| Develop community/place distinctiveness | 3 |

Scoping out a range of possible LDP strategic options

3 spatial options for the County were appraised and 'sustainability tested'. The 3 conceptual options considered were (1) Distribution of development between large and small settlements within the County (2) Concentration of development within main settlements and (3) Dispersion of development throughout the County. It was important that delegates were given the opportunity to gain an appreciation of the role and usefulness of the SA within the LDP plan making process. Consensus was achieved because all were in agreement that the SA should be used to assist in the shaping and testing of strategic options and to gain an appreciation of how different topics/policy areas and objectives can be balanced and traded off. Options 1 and 2 were favoured by the forum, although Option 1 came out on top overall.

Developing sustainable strategic Options



Option 1 above was deemed to be the most sustainable option. Consensus was achieved and there was general agreement that reconciling conflicting aims and objectives within a coherent strategy development is of high importance. Participants attained an understanding of the importance of making trade offs and also acquired an appreciation of the potential impact that the strategies could have on sustainability objectives.

Next steps

The first stakeholder communication and feedback loop will provide all key Stakeholders (who were present and not present on the day) as well as the general public (via the website) with sufficient contextual information to provide and understanding and facilitate participation in the LDP strategy-making process. The feedback process is designed to allow attendees to confirm that this executive summary (along with the main report) provides a fair reflection of what was discussed and agreed on the day and is also designed to capture additional information to fill any significant knowledge gaps.

Workshop programme

A copy of the workshop programme can be found overleaf.

**Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan
First Key Stakeholder Forum workshop
28th October, Kidwelly**

Workshop programme

- 10.00 Welcome and introductions
- 10.15 The role of stakeholders in preparing the LDP
(short presentation by Planning Aid Wales)
- 10.40 Deciding on the key elements of the LDP Vision
(small group session)
- 11.10 The main LDP topic areas
(short presentation by Carmarthenshire County Council)
- 11.50 Getting to grips with 'key plan objectives'
(short presentation by Carmarthenshire County Council)
- 12.10 Deciding your 'top-three' key LDP objectives
(small group session)
- 12.40 Buffet lunch**
- 1.10 Scoping out a range of possible LDP strategic options
(short presentation by Carmarthenshire County Council)
- 1.30 Developing strategic options
(small group session)
- 2.00 Developing sustainable strategic options
(small group session)
- 2.50 Next steps