



Carlyon Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan: Sustainability Check

Introduction

This paper presents a Sustainability Check of Carlyon Parish's Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

This Sustainability Check reflects the intentions of a more formal Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and aims to predict and assess the **social**, **environmental** and **economic** effects that are likely to arise from the adoption of Carlyon Parish NDP, in order to ensure that the strategies and policies within this contribute to and promote sustainable development.

Carlyon Parish NDP Steering Group considered carrying out a full SA (which is not a requirement of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012), but it was decided that applying a 'lighter touch' Sustainability Check would be less resource intensive, whilst achieving suitable outcomes to inform the NDP making process. It was considered to be good practice to carry out a Sustainability Check as it provides a useful means to assess plan proposals against a set of sustainability objectives - the intention being to help avoid negative environmental and socio-economic effects and to identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of Carlyon Parish and the prosperity and quality of life of residents through the NDP.

This report sets out how the Sustainability Check was applied to Carlyon Parish's Draft NDP and the results of this.

NB. The Sustainability Check or SA should not be confused with a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The SEA is a separate assessment and focuses in more detail on the environmental impact of plan proposals¹.

Carlyon Parish NDP: The Sustainability Check process

When adopted, Carlyon Parish NDP will sit within a framework of higher level planning documents, including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Cornwall's Local

¹ In order to establish whether an SEA was required Carlyon Parish NDP Steering Group submitted the NDP to Cornwall Council for SEA Screening, where the outcome of this showed that *an SEA was not required*. The SEA is reported separately at www.carlyon-pc.gov.uk.

Plan. The Cornwall Local Plan: Strategic Policies 2010-2030 (Local Plan) was adopted in November 2016 and was subject to a SA (further details available at www.cornwall.gov.uk).

For consistency, the Sustainability Check of the Carlyon Parish Draft NDP reflects the 'SA Framework' which was used for the SA process on the Local Plan. The SA Framework is a framework of 19 SA themes together with a number of objectives, appraisal questions and indicators, which provided a framework for the SA of the Local Plan.

Table 1: Sustainability Check - Themes and Objectives

| Theme | Sustainability Objectives |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Climatic Factors | To reduce our contribution to climate change through a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. |
| | To increase resilience to climate change, and reduce vulnerability. |
| Waste | To minimise the generation of waste and encourage greater reuse and recycling of materials in accordance with the waste hierarchy. |
| Minerals and Geodiversity | To minimise the consumption of mineral resources and ensure the sustainable management of these resources |
| | To conserve, enhance and restore the condition of geodiversity in the county. |
| Soil | To minimise the use of undeveloped land and protect and enhance soil quality. |
| | To encourage and safeguard local food production. |
| Air | To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve. |
| Water | To reduce the risk of flooding and vulnerability to flooding, sea level rise and coastal erosion. |
| | To maintain and enhance water quality and reduce consumption and increase efficiency of water use. |
| Biodiversity | To conserve, enhance and restore the condition and extent of biodiversity in the county and allow its adaptation to climate change. |
| Landscape | To protect and enhance the quality of the natural, historic and cultural landscape and seascape. |
| Maritime | To encourage clean, healthy, productive and diverse waters; To protect coastal areas and ensure sustainable maritime environments. |
| Historic Environment | To protect and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of the historic environment. |
| Design | To promote and achieve high quality, locally distinctive design, sustainable land use and sustainable built development. |
| Social Inclusion | To reduce poverty and social exclusion and provide opportunities for all to participate fully in society. |
| Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour | To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime. |

| Theme | Sustainability Objectives |
|------------------------------|--|
| Housing | To meet the needs of the local community as a whole in terms of general market, affordable, adaptable and decent housing. |
| Health, Sport and Recreation | To improve health through the promotion of healthier lifestyles and improving access to open space and health, recreation and sports facilities. |
| Economic Development | To support a balanced and low carbon economy that meets the needs of the area and promotes a diverse range of quality employment opportunities. |
| Education and Skills | To maximise accessibility for all to the necessary education, skills and knowledge to play a full role in society. |
| Transport and Accessibility | To improve access to key services and facilities by reducing the need to travel and by providing safe sustainable travel choices. To reduce traffic congestion and minimise transport related greenhouse gas emissions. |
| Energy | To encourage the use of renewable energy, increase energy efficiency and security and reduce fuel poverty. |

| KEY | |
|-----|----------------------|
| | Environmental Themes |
| | Social Themes |
| | Economic Themes |

For the purpose of carrying out the Sustainability Check on the Carlyon Parish Draft NDP, it was considered unnecessary to apply the full SA Framework, as this would have entailed a very lengthy and detailed analysis. Instead, the 19 SA Framework themes and objectives (hereafter referred to as the Sustainability themes and objectives) have been considered directly against the Carlyon Parish Draft NDP (i.e. without presenting answers to each of the individual appraisal questions which are included within the more detailed SA Framework). The Sustainability themes and objectives are set out in Table 1.

The Carlyon Parish NDP Steering Group have carried out the Sustainability Check, by considering Sustainability themes and objectives (see Table 1) against the overall Carlyon Parish Draft NDP and including consideration of all of the following elements of this:

- The Vision for Carlyon Parish

- The NDP Objectives for Carlyon Parish; and,
- Each of the 10 NDP Policies.

The Carlyon Parish Draft NDP was considered as to whether it is likely to undermine, support, or neither undermine or support, the Sustainability themes or, whether the theme is irrelevant to the NDP or the anticipated outcome is unknown at this stage.

Consideration of how the Carlyon Parish Draft NDP performed against the Sustainability themes and objectives was carried out through a round table discussion at a meeting of the Carlyon Parish NDP Steering Group where the questions included at Appendix 1 were used to structure the discussion.

The outputs of this process are:

1. The Sustainability Check assessment table of Carlyon Parish's Draft NDP (see Appendix 1; and,
2. Sustainability Check results summary table of Carlyon Parish's Draft NDP (see Appendix 2)

Sustainability Check Results

The results of the Sustainability Check are presented in Appendices 1 ,2 and 3.

These results do not show any elements which would undermine the Sustainability Check Themes.

Environmentally the aim is to bring about a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions thus increasing resilience to climate change, reducing air pollution and ensuring air quality continues to improve. We would also seek to minimise the use of undeveloped land and enhance soil quality.

One important objective is to meet the needs of the local community as a whole in terms of general market, affordable, adaptable and decent housing.

Economically our aim is to provide small-scale workspaces to support local need #. Support will be given to improved access to quality public transport facilities alleviating some vehicle journeys in and around the area.

Conclusion

The Sustainability Check on Carlyon Parish's Draft NDP has demonstrated that the policies within this and the vision and objectives that it seeks to achieve succeed in encouraging sustainable development.

Appendix 1: Questions used to help carry out the Sustainability Check

| Theme | Sustainability Objectives | Decision making questions |
|------------------|---|--|
| Climatic Factors | To reduce our contribution to climate change through a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it limit greenhouse gas emissions? Does it secure the highest viable resource and energy efficiency? Does it encourage the use of renewable energy technologies? |
| | To increase resilience to climate change, and reduce vulnerability. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it minimise vulnerability and encourage resilience to the effects of climate change? |
| Soil | To minimise the use of undeveloped land and protect and enhance soil quality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it protect, enhance and improve soil quality in Cornwall? |
| | To encourage and safeguard local food production. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A |
| Air | To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce pollution including greenhouse gas emissions? Will it maintain or improve air quality in Cornwall? |
| Water | To reduce the risk of flooding and vulnerability to flooding, sea level rise and coastal erosion. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the proposal reduce, or avoid increasing the risk of flooding overall? |
| | | |
| Biodiversity | To conserve, enhance and restore the condition and extent of biodiversity in the county and allow its adaptation to climate change. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the proposal protect, enhance or restore biodiversity interests of BAP habitats, Cornwall Wildlife Sites, SSSIs and internationally, nationally and regionally designated areas? Does the proposal allow adaptation to climate change through the connection of habitats (wildlife corridors)? Does it protect not only designated areas but also of wildlife interest everywhere? Will it encourage the provision of new or improved wildlife habitats? |

| Theme | Sustainability Objectives | Decision making questions |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Landscape | To protect and enhance the quality of the natural, historic and cultural landscape and seascape. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it sustain and enhance and/or restore the distinctive qualities and features of the natural, historic and cultural landscape and seascape character? • Will it conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cornwall AONB and the Tamar Valley AONB, and increase understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONBs? • Will it protect, enhance and promote opportunities for green infrastructure within and between urban settlements? • Will it maintain and enhance a high quality living environment? • Will it encourage the location and design of development to respect and improve landscape character and the landscape setting of settlements? |
| Maritime | To encourage clean, healthy, productive and diverse waters; To protect coastal areas and ensure sustainable maritime environments. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the proposal protect, enhance or restore maritime heritage, habitat and biodiversity, both designated and undesignated? • Will the proposal incorporate adaptation to climate change and its likely effects on the sea, coast and estuaries? • Will the proposal operate within the carrying capacity of the receiving environment, without adverse effect on its sustainability? • Will the proposal operate within safe biological, chemical and physical limits? |
| Historic Environment | To protect and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of the historic environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposal reinforce the distinctive character of Cornwall? • Does the proposal have an acceptable/unacceptable level of impact on the historic environment? • Does the proposal preserve and enhance the cultural and social significance of the historic asset? • Will it result in development which is sympathetic towards the need to promote the Cornwall's unique heritage value, historic environment and culture? • Have flood mitigation measures been designed to be compatible with the immediate historic environment? • Has a balance been struck between the level of risk (e.g. in adaptation to climate change or flood risk) and the aspiration to preserve the distinctive qualities of the historic environment? |

| Theme | Sustainability Objectives | Decision making questions |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Design | To promote and achieve high quality, locally distinctive design, sustainable land use and sustainable built development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it encourage developers to build to higher environmental standards? • Will it help to promote local distinctiveness? • Does the proposal meet targets for renewable energy capture and sustainable construction using BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) and/or CEEQUAL(Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Assessment and Award Scheme)? • Will it promote high quality, sustainable and sympathetic design that takes account of sustainable construction and transport modes, and green infrastructure? |
| Housing | To meet the needs of the local community as a whole in terms of general market, affordable, adaptable and decent housing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide an appropriate mix of housing to ensure delivery of long-term regeneration schemes for the county? • Will it reduce the number of people homeless or in temporary accommodation? • Will it contribute towards the provision of affordable, social and key worker housing? • Will it reduce the number of unfit homes, and those falling below the decent homes standards? • Will it deliver adaptable housing to meet the lifelong needs of the population? • Will it provide a well-integrated mix of decent homes of different types and tenures to support a range of household sizes, ages and incomes? • Is it flexible in planning for increased demand over the plan period? • Will it provide energy efficient development which reduces the annual cost of heating/lighting and helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions? • Will it make the best use of land? |
| Health, Sport and Recreation | To improve health through the promotion of healthier lifestyles and improving access to open space and health, recreation and sports facilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve health and well-being and reduce inequalities in health? • Will it improve access to health services? • Will it improve access to the countryside, coast, recreation and open spaces? • Will it increase participation and engagement in physical activity and sport? • Will it lead to unacceptable noise levels? |
| Economic Development | To support a balanced and low carbon economy that meets the needs of the area and promotes a diverse range of quality employment opportunities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it promote a diverse range of employment opportunities? • Will it provide affordable, small scale, managed workspace to support local need? • Will it raise the quality of employment and reduce seasonality? |

| Theme | Sustainability Objectives | Decision making questions |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Transport and Accessibility | <p>To improve access to key services and facilities by reducing the need to travel and by providing safe sustainable travel choices.</p> <p>To reduce traffic congestion and minimise transport related greenhouse gas emissions.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it promote sustainable forms of transport (public transport including bus and rail, cycle and pedestrian routes) and ensure the necessary associated infrastructure is made available? • Will it reduce traffic congestion by promoting alternative modes of transport? • Will it reduce the need to travel by seeking to balance homes, jobs, services and facilities? • Will it lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions? • Will it improve service provision or provide a service or facility which is accessible to all, including those with disabilities and those in the more rural areas? |

Appendix 2: The Sustainability Check Results

Key:

| | |
|-----|---|
| - | Likely to undermine the Sustainability Objective |
| +/- | Likely to neither undermine or contribute to meeting the Sustainability Objective |
| + | Likely to support the Sustainability Objective |
| 0 | Impacts unknown or Sustainability objective irrelevant to this element of the NDP |

| Sustainability Check of the Carlyon Parish Draft NDP | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------|
| Theme | Sustainability Objective | Comment | Likely Impact |
| Climatic Factors | To reduce our contribution to climate change through a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. | Policy CCGI 1. And IN2 aims to limit greenhouse gas emissions. IN1 supports provisions to avoid increasing flood risk and supports renewable energy technologies. | + |
| | To increase resilience to climate change, and reduce vulnerability. | Policies IN1 and CCGI 2 and 3. Aim to encourage resilience to the effects of climate change. | + |
| Soil | To minimise the use of undeveloped land and protect and enhance soil quality. | Policies CH1 c and H1, GB1 & GB4 seek to protect undeveloped land. | + |
| Air | To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve. | FP2 seeks to preserve and enhance PROWs, cycle routes, bridleways etc and GS1 to protect Green Spaces. | + |
| Water | To reduce the risk of flooding and vulnerability to flooding, sea level rise and coastal erosion. | Housing, Landscape and Environment Policies avoid increasing the risk of flooding overall. Policies are not likely to add to vulnerability to flooding, sea level rise or coastal erosion. | +/- |
| | To maintain and enhance water quality and reduce consumption and increase efficiency of water use. | Policies do not have an impact on water quality or reduce overall demand. But it strengthens the link between habitats to help adaptation to climate change. It does not increase risk of water pollution events. | +/- |

| Sustainability Check of the Carlyon Parish Draft NDP | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------|
| Theme | Sustainability Objective | Comment | Likely Impact |
| Biodiversity | To conserve, enhance and restore the condition and extent of biodiversity in the county and allow its adaptation to climate change. | GS1, CCGI 4. Seeks to conserve green corridors, Cornish hedges and local green spaces and seeks to protect BAP habitats. H1 seeks to encourage large gardens, green verges, Cornish hedges and to protect trees. | + |
| Landscape | To protect and enhance the quality of the natural, historic and cultural landscape and seascape. | H1, CH1 and CH2 sustain and seek to enhance the natural, historic and cultural landscape and seascape. It seeks to protect any green infrastructure within and between the settlements. They encourage the location and design of development to respect the landscape and seascape character and maintain a high quality living environment. | + |
| Maritime | To encourage clean, healthy, productive and diverse waters; To protect coastal areas and ensure sustainable maritime environments. | Our policies do not affect maritime heritage and habitat. They seek to protect the coastal area and maritime cliffs. | +/- |
| Historic Environment | To protect and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of the historic environment. | H1, CH1 and CH2 reinforce the distinctive character of Cornwall. They preserve the cultural and social significance of our historic assets and promote sympathetic development. | + |
| Design | To promote and achieve high quality, locally distinctive design, sustainable land use and sustainable built development. | H1 encourages local distinctive design. IN1 and IN2 encourages developers to build to higher environmental standards. H1 promotes high quality, sustainable and sympathetic design that takes account of sustainable construction and transport modes and green infrastructure. | + |
| Housing | To meet the needs of the local community as a whole in terms of general market, affordable, adaptable and decent housing. | H1 provides adaptable housing to meet the needs of the population and provides a mix of housing of different types and support a range of household sizes, ages and incomes. It will have little impact on reducing the number of people homeless or contribute towards the provision of affordable and social housing. | +/- |
| Health, Sport and Recreation | To improve health through the promotion of healthier lifestyles and improving access to open space and health, recreation and sports facilities. | Our policies will not improve access to health services. GS1, GS2, FP1 and FP2 seek to improve access to open spaces and recreation, the coast and countryside. The policies will not lead to unacceptable noise levels. The policies seek to increase participation in physical activity and sport. | + |

| Sustainability Check of the Carlyon Parish Draft NDP | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------|
| Theme | Sustainability Objective | Comment | Likely Impact |
| Economic Development | To support a balanced and low carbon economy that meets the needs of the area and promotes a diverse range of quality employment opportunities. | EE1, EE2, EE3, EE4 and EE5 promote a diverse range of employment opportunities and provide small-scale workspaces to support local need. They raise the quality of employment and reduce seasonality. | + |
| Transport and Accessibility | To improve access to key services and facilities by reducing the need to travel and by providing safe sustainable travel choices. To reduce traffic congestion and minimise transport related greenhouse gas emissions. | IN2 supports enhanced access to high quality public transport facilities, which might also alleviate some of the vehicle journeys around the area. FP2 encourages the extension and creation of cycle routes, bridleways and multi-use trails across the Parish. | + |

Appendix 3: The Sustainability Check Results Summary

Key:

| | |
|-----|--|
| - | Likely to undermine the Sustainability Objective |
| +/- | Likely to neither undermine or contribute to meeting the Sustainability Objective |
| + | Likely to support the Sustainability Objective |
| 0 | Impacts unknown or Sustainability theme/objective(s) irrelevant to this element of the NDP |

| Theme | Potential Impact of Carlyon Parish Draft NDP |
|---|--|
| 1 Climate Factors | + |
| 2 Waste | 0 |
| 3 Minerals & Geodiversity | 0 |
| 4 Soil | + |
| 5 Air | + |
| 6 Water | + |
| 7 Biodiversity | + |
| 8 Landscape | +/- |
| 9 Maritime | + |
| 10 Historic Environment | + |
| 11 Design | + |
| 12 Social Inclusion | 0 |
| 13 Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour | 0 |
| 14 Housing | +/- |
| 15 Health, Sport & Recreation | + |
| 16 Economic Development, Regeneration & Tourism | + |
| 17 Education & Skills | 0 |
| 18 Transport & Accessibility | + |
| 19 Energy | 0 |