



VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

As the responsible authority charged with the production of the Local Development Plan for the Vale of Glamorgan, the Vale of Glamorgan Council has considered the criteria included within Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 as detailed below and has determined that the production of the LDP for the Vale of Glamorgan is likely to have significant effects on the environment and will therefore be the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment as required by European Directive 2001/42/EC.

The Council's determination of each of the stated criteria is detailed below.

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

SCHEDULE 1 - THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES (WALES) REGULATIONS 2004

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to -

(a) The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;

The Local Development Plan for the Vale of Glamorgan will provide the strategic and detailed policy framework within which provision will be made for development between 2011 and 2026. The LDP will identify development sites as well as sites of natural resources and biodiversity and make provision for their development and/or protection and enhancement.

(b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;

The LDP will take account of and be influenced by existing regional, national and international regulations, plans and programmes. When complete and during production, the LDP will influence and be influenced by other major Council policy documents such as the Community Strategy, the Tourism Strategy and the Economic Development Strategy.

(c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;

The LDP will address issues relating to a wide spectrum of land uses including all aspects of biodiversity and protection of the environmental and historic resources. The LDP and its supporting Supplementary Planning Guidance have relevance to the promotion of sustainable development. In addition, the body preparing a LDP must undertake the preparation with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development (The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 section 39). Therefore, the promotion of sustainable development is a critical component of LDP production that cannot be avoided.

(d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and

The LDP will seek to balance development and social pressures with the need to conserve the considerable heritage of both man made and natural features and resources within the Vale of Glamorgan.

(e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment.

The production of the LDP will be influenced by the requirements of existing and developing Community legislation in areas such as waste management, water protection, sustainable development and climate change.

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to the -

(a) Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;

The LDP will be the primary land use-planning document within the Vale of Glamorgan between 2011 and 2026 and against which all planning applications received by the Council will be determined and will therefore result in some permanent physical impacts upon the Vale of Glamorgan.

(b) cumulative nature of the effects;

The LDP will be the principle planning policy document covering the Vale of Glamorgan between 2011 and 2026. The LDP will set down development needs, opportunities and constraints that will need to be addressed during this 15-year period and it is inevitable that change either major or incremental will occur during this time. The LDP will need to balance these changes and any resultant pressures that may occur with the need to conserve the considerable heritage of both man made and natural features and resources within the Vale of Glamorgan.

(c) Transboundary nature of the effects;

In preparing the LDP the Council will need to be aware of regional developments and the growth dynamics of adjacent local authorities and will seek to ensure that the Vale of Glamorgan LDP is complementary and/or compatible with the LDP's and other major policy documents produced by those authorities or within the region e.g. Regional Transport Plan.

(d) Risks to human health or the environment;

As the principle planning policy document covering the Vale of Glamorgan between 2011 and 2026, the LDP will address issues and seek to eliminate risks to human health associated with development such as over crowding, impacts of high density, non compatibility of adjoining uses, air pollution, noise disturbance etc.

(e) Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);

The LDP will affect the whole of the Vale of Glamorgan an area of 33,097 hectares with a population of 119,292 people. Indirectly, the LDP may also have implications within adjoining authorities or within the Severn Estuary.

(f) Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to -

The landscape of the Vale of Glamorgan is considered to be unique within the South East Wales region, lying outside the main coalfield area, its rural landscape is largely unspoilt by industrial development. Lying to the west of Cardiff, the area is considered to be under development pressure and the LDP will have to address the pressure for development against the need to preserve the special characteristics of the area.

(i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;

The Vale of Glamorgan has two internationally designated Special Protection Areas as well as a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC). There are 21 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and at the local level, some 187 candidate Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) have been identified. These along with the 38 conservation areas, 731 Listed Buildings and 128 ancient monuments provide an indication of the wealth of natural and man-made features within the Vale of Glamorgan that require protection and enhancement.

(ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or

This is largely unknown however, it is likely that due to the wide range of issues and development addressed by the LDP that environmental standards will form a part of the consideration on future planning applications.

(iii) Intensive land-use; and

The LDP will be the principle land use planning document for Vale of Glamorgan for the period 2011 to 2026 and will be used to determine all planning applications received by the Council during this period.

(g) Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection

Designated as one of the three pilot Heritage Coast Projects in the early 1970s for its unique and special character, 14 miles of the Vale of Glamorgan coastline is designated as Heritage Coast. The Vale of Glamorgan also has 18 sites identified in Part 1 of the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales and 2 sites identified in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales. In addition, the Council has designated 7 Special Landscape Areas that cover a large proportion of the Vale of Glamorgan.



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