Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan: A Sustainability Check

Introduction

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

This SC 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 Fowey Parish NDP, in order to ensure that the strategies and policies within this contribute to and promote sustainable development.

Fowey 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' SC 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 SC 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 Fowey Parish and the prosperity and quality of life of residents through the NDP.

This report sets out how the SC was applied to Fowey Parish Draft NDP and the results of this.

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

Fowey Parish NDP: The SC process

When adopted, Fowey Parish NDP will sit within a framework of higher level planning documents, including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Cornwall's Local 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 <u>www.cornwall.gov.uk</u>).

For consistency, the SC of the Fowey 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 methodological framework for the SA on the Local Plan.

SC Theme	SC 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	To minimise the consumption of mineral resources and ensure the sustainable management of these
Geodiversity	resources
, i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	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.
vi ater	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
Diodiversity	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
Warnine	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
U	sustainable built development.
Social Inclusion	To reduce poverty and social exclusion and provide opportunities for all to participate fully in society.
Crime and Anti-	To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.
Social Behaviour	
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	To improve health through the promotion of healthier lifestyles and improving access to open space
Recreation	and health, recreation and sports facilities.
Economic	To support a balanced and low carbon economy that meets the needs of the area and promotes a
Development	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	To improve access to key services and facilities by reducing the need to travel and by providing
Accessibility	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 SC on Fowey 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 SC themes and objectives) have been considered directly against Fowey 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 SC themes and objectives are set out in Table 1.

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

- The Vision for Fowey Parish
- The NDP Objectives for Fowey Parish; and,
- Each of the 21 NDP Policies.

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

Consideration of how the Fowey Parish Draft NDP performed against the SC themes and objectives was carried out through a round table discussion at a meeting of the [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 SC Assessment Table of Fowey Parish's Draft] NDP (see Appendix 1); and,
- 2. SC Summary Matrix Table of Fowey Parish's Draft] NDP (see Appendix 2).

SC Results

The results of the SC are presented in Appendices 1 and 2.

The Vision and objectives of the Fowey Parish Draft NDP do not undermine the themes or objectives of this Sustainability Check Report. The social, environmental and economic effects which may arise from the adoption of the Fowey Parish NDP are sympathetic to and will promote sustainable development.

The steering group of the Fowey Parish NDP have assessed the 19 SA themes using the full set of questions and have found there is no part of this framework which our NDP will undermine.

In each of the themes and corresponding objectives there is a lot of conformity with the objectives within our NDP.

Conclusion

The SC on Fowey 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 SC (see below)

SC Theme	SC Objectives	Decision making questions
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.	 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? Does it minimise vulnerability and encourage resilience to the effects of climate change?
Waste	To minimise the generation of waste and encourage greater reuse and recycling of materials in accordance with the waste hierarchy.	 Will it reduce the amount of waste produced, collected, and or landfilled? Will it increase the amount of waste recycled or recovered? Will it increase levels of composting or anaerobic digestion? Has space for storage of recycled materials been planned for? Will it reduce the waste management industry's contribution to climate change?
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.	 Will it minimise the consumption of primary mineral resources and encourage re-use of secondary resources? Will it ensure development does not irreversibly sterilise important mineral resources? Will it prevent harm to and, where appropriate, enhance geological conservation interests in the county? Will mineral working impact on designated land?
Soil	To minimise the use of undeveloped land and protect and enhance soil quality. To encourage and safeguard local food production.	 Will it protect, enhance and improve soil quality in Cornwall? Will it avoid development that leads to the loss of productive soils?
Air	To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve.	 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.	• Does the proposal reduce, or avoid increasing the risk of flooding overall?
	To maintain and enhance water quality and reduce consumption and increase efficiency of water use.	 Does the proposal maintain or enhance water quality overall? Does the proposal reduce the overall demand for water? Will the proposal provide for greater integrated water catchment management and strengthen links between habitats to increase the likelihood of adaptation to climate change? Will the proposal increase the risk of water pollution events?

SC Theme	SC Objectives	Decision making questions
Biodiversity	To conserve, enhance and restore the condition and extent of biodiversity in the county and allow its adaptation to climate change.	 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?
Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality of the natural, historic and cultural landscape and seascape.	 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.	 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?

SC Theme	SC Objectives	Decision making questions
Historic Environment	To protect and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of the historic environment.	 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?
Design	 To promote and achieve high quality, locally distinctive design, sustainable land use and sustainable built development. Will it help to promote local distinctiveness? Does the proposal meet targets for renewable energy capture and sustainable construction usin 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? 	
Social Inclusion	To reduce poverty and social exclusion and provide opportunities for all to participate fully in society.	 Will it improve access to and provision of services, health and community facilities (including community youth facilities) especially in rural areas and for the socially excluded? Will it reduce poverty, deprivation, discrimination, social exclusion and inequalities?
Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.	 Will it reduce crime and anti-social activity, and in turn, provide safer communities in Cornwall (particularly in the most deprived neighbourhoods and identified hot spots). Will it help reduce the fear of crime?

SC Theme	SC Objectives	Decision making questions
Housing	To meet the needs of the local community as a whole in terms of general market, affordable, adaptable and decent housing.	 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.	 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.	 Will it promote a diverse range of employment opportunities? Will it provide affordable, small scale, managed workspace to support local need? Will it support the development of access to ICT facilities including Broadband, particularly in rural areas? Will it raise the quality of employment and reduce seasonality?
Education and Skills	To maximise accessibility for all to the necessary education, skills and knowledge to play a full role in society.	 Will it help improve the qualifications and skills of young people? Will it improve facilities and opportunities for lifelong learning (particularly for those with greatest need)? Will it help increase the County's skilled and professional workforce? Will it support a viable future for rural communities? Will it encourage a greater diversity of choice in skills training as part of regeneration efforts? Will it increase accessibility to training facilities?

SC Theme	SC Objectives	Decision making questions
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.	 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? Will it transfer freight from road to rail and/or sea?
Energy	To encourage the use of renewable energy, increase energy efficiency and	Will it promote and support the use of renewable and low carbon energy technologies?
	security and reduce fuel poverty.	Will it help reduce fuel poverty?Will it encourage local energy production?

Appendix [1/2]: The SC Results

Key:

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Likely to undermine the SC Objective

Likely to neither undermine or contribute to meeting the SC Objective

Likely to support the SC Objective

Impacts unknown or SC theme/objective(s) irrelevant to this element of the NDP

SC Theme	SC Objectives	Comment	Likely Impact
Climatic Factors	To reduce our contribution to climate change through a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.	 Fowey NDP Renewable Energy policies support appropriate energy reduction/carbon reduction. Our policies support the use of ground and roof mounted solar panels 	+++
	To increase resilience to climate change, and reduce vulnerability.	• Our policies support the commitment to 20% of our energy consumption from renewable and an 80% cut in greenhouse gases.	+
Waste	To minimise the generation of waste and encourage greater reuse and recycling of materials in accordance with the waste hierarchy.	• Fowey NDP supports the principles of sustainable development and a community which is committed to a future with reduced waste and an obligation to recycling.	+
Minerals and Geodiversity	To minimise the consumption of mineral resources and ensure the sustainable management of these resources	 The policies of the Fowey NDP support the proposals of the Cornwall AONB Management Plan to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB The Fowey Local Landscape Character Assessment has identified the valued landscape attributes and will help ensure future development will safeguard these values. 	+ +
	To conserve, enhance and restore the condition of geodiversity in the county.	 Development policies in Fowey NDP will avoid damage to designated sites of geological interest. 	+++
Soil	To minimise the use of undeveloped land and protect and enhance soil quality.	 Development policies in Fowey NDP will avoid damage to designated sites of geological interest 	+
	To encourage and safeguard local food production.	• The Fowey Local Landscape Character Assessment has identified the agricultural quality of the surrounding landscape as 3a and NDP policies support maintaining local food production	+
Air	To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve.	 Reduction of traffic in Fowey Town centre to reduce through traffic thereby improving air quality in the town 	+
Water	To reduce the risk of flooding and vulnerability to flooding, sea level rise and coastal erosion.	• Fowey NDP will not allow new development in vulnerable areas identified by the EA as zone 3	+

SC of the Fowey Parish Draft NDP				
SC Theme	SC Objectives	Comment	Likely Impact	
	To maintain and enhance water quality and reduce consumption and increase efficiency of water use.	• Fowey NDP support the Fowey Estuary Management Plan 2012-17 to maintain and enhance the water quality in Fowey harbour and the possibility of any future water pollution events	+ +	
Biodiversity	To conserve, enhance and restore the condition and extent of biodiversity in the county and allow its adaptation to climate change.	 Fowey NDP supports the protection, enhancement biodiversity interests of BAP habitats, Cornwall Wildlife Sites, SSSIs and internationally, nationally and regionally designated areas Fowey parish is in an area of AONB which is a national statutory designation Fowey Estuary is also designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value 	+ + +	
Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality of the natural, historic and cultural landscape and seascape.	 Fowey NDP will sustain and enhance the distinctive qualities and features of the natural, historic and cultural landscape and seascape character Fowey NDP will support the natural beauty of the Cornwall AONB, and the increased understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONBs Fowey NDP will promote opportunities for green infrastructure Fowey NDP will maintain and enhance a high quality living environment Fowey NDP will 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.	 Fowey NDP will protect and enhance the maritime heritage of Fowey and Polkerris Harbour. The Fowey NDP will support the AONB Management Plan and the Fowey Estuary plan which supports the habitat and biodiversity of both designated and undesignated biodiversity Fowey NDP has included a policy to proposal adaptation to climate change and its likely effects on the sea, coast and estuaries 	+ + + + +	

Historic Environment	To protect and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of the historic environment.	 The conservation areas of Fowey and Polkerris are supported in the Fowey NDP In the Quality of Life policies in the Fowey NDP, support is given to the cultural significance of Fowey parish Fowey NDP has policies which will support the design and character of Fowey parish Fowey Town Council is working with the EA to develop flood mitigation measures designed to be compatible with the immediate historic environment which is supported in the Fowey NDP Fowey NDP Zone 3 levels of flooding have been identified in Fowey and Polkerris and are recognised also as part of the conservation area. 	+ + + +
Design	To promote and achieve high quality, locally distinctive design, sustainable land use and sustainable built development.	 Proposals for development in the Fowey NDP recognise the importance good design and local distinctiveness Fowey NDP policies support development which ensures buildings' resilience to climate change and energy efficiency. 	+ +
Social Inclusion	To reduce poverty and social exclusion and provide opportunities for all to participate fully in society.	 Fowey NDP development policies expect any development to demonstrate that it can meet the economic and social needs of Fowey parish community The policies in the Fowey parish NDP Quality of Life, aim to support the services and amenities supporting community health, well-being and education 	+ +
Crime and Anti- Social Behaviour	To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.	• Fowey Parish is not seen as a crime hot spot however, Fowey parish NDP aims to strengthen the community spirit through supporting the cultural, sporting, recreational and well - being activities and the buildings/open spaces which support these activities	+

Housing	To meet the needs of the local community as a whole in terms of general market, affordable, adaptable and decent housing.	 Fowey NDP will support an appropriate mix of housing to accommodate the changing nature of the residents' needs of Fowey parish The NDP will support the provision of affordable with a mix of different types and tenures to support a range of household sizes, ages and incomes The Fowey NDP will support adaptable housing to meet the lifelong needs of the community Fowey NDP will make the best use of land by ensuring development is controlled within a settlement boundary Fowey NDP policies support development which ensures buildings' resilience to climate change and energy efficiency. 	+ + + + +
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.	 Fowey parish NDP aims to strengthen the community spirit through supporting the cultural, sporting, recreational and well - being activities and the buildings/open spaces which support these activities Play/sports and recreational spaces will be maintained and enhanced under the Fowey NDP to support and encourage participation in physical activity and sport 	+ +
CO of the Former (
SC of the Fowey	Parish Draft NDP		
SC of the Fowey I	Parish Draft NDP SC Objectives	Comment	Likely Impact
· ·	SC Objectives To support a balanced and low carbon economy that meets the needs of the area and promotes a diverse range of	 Fowey NDP development policies expect any development to demonstrate that it can meet the economic and social needs of Fowey parish community Fowey NDP will support the provision of additional business, work space to support local need. 	Likely Impact + +
SC Theme Economic	SC Objectives To support a balanced and low carbon economy that meets the needs of the	 Fowey NDP development policies expect any development to demonstrate that it can meet the economic and social needs of Fowey parish community Fowey NDP will support the provision of additional business, work space to support 	+
SC Theme Economic Development Education and	SC ObjectivesTo support a balanced and low carbon economy that meets the needs of the area and promotes a diverse range of quality employment opportunities.To maximise accessibility for all to the	 Fowey NDP development policies expect any development to demonstrate that it can meet the economic and social needs of Fowey parish community Fowey NDP will support the provision of additional business, work space to support local need. The NDP supports marketing the parish to encourage a longer season and thereby improve the quality of employment offered. The policies in the Fowey parish NDP Quality of Life, aim to support the services 	+ +
SC Theme Economic Development	SC Objectives To support a balanced and low carbon economy that meets the needs of the area and promotes a diverse range of quality employment opportunities.	 Fowey NDP development policies expect any development to demonstrate that it can meet the economic and social needs of Fowey parish community Fowey NDP will support the provision of additional business, work space to support local need. The NDP supports marketing the parish to encourage a longer season and thereby improve the quality of employment offered. 	+ + + +

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.	 Fowey NDP will support sustainable transport improvements in Fowey town centre for the delivery of freight Sustainable travel choices will be encouraged Reduction of traffic in Fowey Town centre to reduce through traffic thereby improving air quality in the town Proposals which contribute towards the provision of a network of cycleways and footpaths will be supported in the Fowey NDP 	+ + + +
Energy	To encourage the use of renewable energy, increase energy efficiency and security and reduce fuel poverty.	 Our Renewable Energy policies supports appropriate energy reduction/carbon reduction. Our policies support the use of ground and roof mounted solar panels 	+ +

Appendix 2/3: The SC Summary Matrix of Results

Key:



Likely to undermine the SC Objective Likely to neither undermine or contribute to meeting the SC Objective Likely to support the SC Objective Impacts unknown or SC theme/objective(s) irrelevant to this element of the NDP

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