

# **Adoption Statement**

## **Revised Eryri Local Development Plan 2016- 2031**

**February 2019**

### **Background**

In accordance with the requirements of Regulations 25 (2) of the Town & Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005, 25 (E) Town & Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 and Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004, the Authority is required to prepare an Adoption Statement for the revised Eryri Local Development Plan.

Part 1 of the statement addresses the requirements of the Town & Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 and Town & Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 and Part 2 accords with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004.

### **Part 1: Revised Eryri Local Development Plan Statement of Adoption**

On February 6<sup>th</sup> 2019, Snowdonia National Park Authority adopted the revised Eryri Local Development Plan 2016 – 2031 (the LDP) for Snowdonia National Park area. The adopted LDP will form the development plan for Snowdonia National Park area and will be the basis for decisions on land use planning in the area.

The revised LDP has replaced the existing Eryri Local Development Plan 2007-2022 as the policy context for assessing development proposals within Snowdonia National Park, up to 2031.

Copies of the adopted Eryri LDP (2016-2031) including its Proposals Map will be made available for inspection free of charge at the National Park Office, Penrhyndeudraeth, at public libraries in Barmouth, Bethesda, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Dolgellau, Penygroes, Tywyn, Porthmadog, Y Bala, Cerrigydrudion, Llanrwst, Llanfairfechan, Penmaenmawr, Conwy and at the Authority's Information Centre in Betws y Coed during normal opening times. They are also available on the Authority's website at [www.eryri.llyw.cymru](http://www.eryri.llyw.cymru).

*In addition to the adopted plan, the following documents have been published and are available in electronic format at the above locations:*

- The Inspectors Report (and in hard copy).
- Sustainability Appraisal Report (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment ) (available online).
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (available online).
- Adoption Statement (and in hard copy).
- The Consultation Report (available online).

A person aggrieved by the revised LDP who desires to question its validity on the ground that it is not within the powers conferred by Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 or that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with

in relation to the adoption of the revised LDP, may, within six weeks from 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 make an application to the High Court under Section 113 of the 2004 Act.

## **Part 2 – Environmental Assessment Adoption Statement**

When a plan is adopted the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 require a statement to be published that provides the following information:

- i. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;
- ii. How the Environmental Report (the SA/SEA Report) has been taken into account;
- iii. How opinions expressed in relation to the consultations on the plan/ programme and Environmental Report have been taken into account;
- iv. The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- v. The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

Each of the above matters will be addressed in this statement. It should be noted however, that whilst this document will set the position in respect of them, it does not repeat information that is already contained in the published LDP or SA/SEA documentation.

Planning legislation also requires that Development Plans are subject to a broader Sustainability Appraisal and LDP guidance recommends that the above information is incorporated into the LDP adoption statement.

The LDP was also subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). This assessment and subsequent addendum were reported separately. The HRA assessed the impacts of the Plan in combination with the effects of other plans and projects on European designated nature conservation sites. The HRA accompanied the Deposit LDP and an addendum was produced for the Focussed Changes and the Matters Arising Changes, the documents can be viewed in the places outlined in Part one of this Statement.

### **i) How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan**

To ensure that environmental considerations were fully integrated into the plan each stage of the decision making process has been informed by SA/SEA work. The SA/SEA work was undertaken by the Authority and the HRA was undertaken by DTA consultants. The relevant information at each stage of the plan process is contained within the following complete set of published SA/SEA documentation.

#### Reconsideration of the SA

- Reconsideration of the SA and HRA – this was subject to consultation with the statutory consultees during April and May 2016.

#### Review Report Consultation

- Updated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report July – September 2016.

#### Deposit Consultation Stage

- Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Report. Volume 1&2: Revised Eryri Local Development Plan (July 2017)
- Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment. Non-technical summary: Eryri Local Development Plan (July 2017)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) HRA Addendum (July 2017)

### Focussed Changes Stage

- Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Report Addendum: Assessment of Focussed Changes (March 2018)
- Habitats Regulation Assessment Addendum: Assessment of Focussed Changes (March 2018)

### Matters Arising Changes

- Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Report Addendum: Assessment of Matters Arising Changes (September 2018)
- Habitats Regulation Assessment Addendum: Assessment of Matters Arising Changes (September 2018)

The revised LDP has also been prepared in accordance with the Statutory Purposes of the National Park. The National Park purposes provide a clear statement of the statutory responsibilities and role of National Park Authorities. These are to:

- Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park.
- Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park, by the public.

The National Park Authority also has a duty in taking forward these purposes to:

- Seek to foster the social and economic well being of the local communities within the Park area.

The National Park purposes have provided an important strategic focus for the LDP, and have assisted in defining the scope for future development in the area and in ensuring that environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan. The National Park purposes are reflected in the LDP's vision, objectives and in the strategic policies. The requirements of the Well-being for Future Generations have also been taken into consideration while preparing the revised Local Development Plan.

### **ii) How the Environmental Report (the SA/SEA Report) has been taken into account;**

The SA/SEA Report (Environmental Report) and the revised LDP were developed in parallel, with each stage of the SA/SEA informing and influencing the progression of the LDP.

### Reconsideration of the SA

The reconsideration of the SA included a review of the sustainability appraisal framework to ensure that it was still an appropriate framework to be utilised going forward with the LDP revision. Having reconsidered the SA in terms of the potential areas for change as outlined in the review report it was considered that the SA objectives did not need to be revised and there was no gap in the objectives which needed to be filled in order to ensure the plan remained sustainable going forward. Therefore it was concluded that any new policies would be able to be considered against the existing SA Framework. The statutory consultees were consulted on this basis and agreed that the existing framework could be utilised.

### Review Report Consultation – SA Scoping Report

A 5-week consultation on an updated SA Scoping Report was undertaken while the Review Report was out to consultation from July – September 2018. The updated Scoping Report included a Review of the relevant plans, policies and programmes ensuring any changes in International, national and local plans, policies and programmes had been taken into consideration and any implications for the LDP and the SA process had been considered.

### Deposit Stage

The proposed changes were assessed against the SA framework. The main changes made as a result of the SA/SEA process are set out in Volume 1&2 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Report (March 2009). The new LDP Site Allocations were also subject to Sustainability Appraisal.

### Focussed Changes

Representations on the revised deposit LDP were considered and a number of changes to the revised Deposit LDP were identified. These changes, termed Focussed Changes were again assessed through the SA/SEA process and the outcome is contained in Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Report Addendum - Proposed Focussed Changes.

### Matters Arising Changes

The Authority proposed a series of further changes in response to matters raised through the examination process by the Inspector and participants at the hearing sessions. These were termed Matters Arising Changes and were subject to formal public consultation.

The Matters Arising Changes formed the basis of the Matters Arising Changes set out in Appendix A of the Inspector's Report. In recommending the Matters Arising Changes, the Inspector took into account the SEA / SA matters and concludes as follows: **'I am satisfied that these changes are in line with the substance of the overall Plan and its policies, and do not undermine the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and participatory process that have been undertaken.'** The complete findings of the Inspector are included in the 'Report on the Examination into the Snowdonia National Park Authority Local Development Plan Review 2016 -2031'.

## Final SA Report

A final SA Report has been produced which incorporates the SA Report produced for the Deposit Plan, the SA Report Addendum on the Focussed changes and the SA Report on the Matters Arising Changes. This can be viewed at the locations outlined in Part One of this Statement.

### **iii) How opinions expressed in relation to the consultations on the plan/ programme and Environmental Report have been taken into account**

The SA/SEA Report has been subject to the appropriate consultation processes and has been prepared in accordance with The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations. For SA/SEA, there is a statutory requirement to consult authorities with environmental responsibilities, namely, Natural Resources Wales and CADW. In addition, consultation with the public and other interested stakeholders has also taken place at the appropriate stages.

## Reconsideration of the SA

The Reconsideration of the SA went to the statutory consultees for a period of consultation during April 2016 for comment and feedback on whether the existing SA framework was still fit for purpose. Cadw had no specific comments to make and NRW agreed with the conclusion that the original SA/SEA framework could still be regarded as valid as part of the LDP revision process.

## Review Report Consultation – SA Scoping Report

A summary of the responses received from the consultation on the Review Report for the revised LDP and how the comments were taken into account are included in the Authority's Consultation Report. The comments received on the Scoping Report update and the officer response to the comments are contained within Appendix A of the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Report. Volume 2: Eryri Local Development Plan (July 2017).

## Deposit Stage

Consultation responses on the Deposit revised LDP and on the SA/SEA Report and the Authority's recommendations on how these have been taken into consideration and any proposed changes have been included in the Authority's Consultation Report.

## SA Focussed Changes

Following consultation on the deposit plan a series of focussed changes were undertaken. A Sustainability Appraisal Assessment Report Addendum considered the proposed amendments to the Eryri LDP and was subject to public consultation during the Focussed Changes Consultation

## SA of Matters Arising Changes

Further proposed changes were identified in response to agreed actions during the Hearing Sessions held as part of the examination process. These Matters Arising Changes (MACs) were

subject to public consultation (September 2018 – October 2018). A SA Assessment Report Addendum considered the proposed amendments and was subject to public consultation during the consultation period.

**iv) The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with**

As demonstrated in the Review Report the LDP Strategy underpinning the Plan continued to be considered sound and in undertaking the SA/SEA on the revised Plan the generation of alternative strategies was not considered necessary. A SA/SEA assessment of new or revised policies was undertaken compared to a “do nothing” baseline based on existing plan policies. The results of the assessment of the revised LDP and its policies are set out in the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal. The SA process has guided the Authority on the best options in sustainability terms

**v) The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.**

LDP Regulation 37 requires the Authority to prepare, and subsequently submit to the Welsh Government an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) that is required to monitor relevant indicators as well as identifying policies that are not being implemented. In addition to this Regulation 17 of the EAPP Regulations requires that the Authority must monitor the significant environmental effects of the plan. These statutory requirements to monitor the plan and its significant environmental effects will be undertaken through the AMR using the SA Objectives

Appendix 2 of the revised LDP contains the Monitoring Framework that provides the basis for monitoring the effectiveness of the policy framework in the LDP, it has been updated to reflect the changes proposed to policies. Section 12 of Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Report Volume 1 (July 2017) contains the tables setting out the Sustainability Objectives and Monitoring Indicators for the SA/SEA. These tables set out the indicators that will be used to monitor the significant effects of the LDP, and also set out environmental targets and source data for each of the indicators to provide a basis for consideration of the significance of any effect. The SA/SEA monitoring will form part of the overall AMR for the LDP, and will therefore, be undertaken on an annual basis.

**Further Advice**

If you require any further advice or assistance or wish to be placed on the Authority's consultation database, please contact the Planning Policy Section at:

**Snowdonia National Park Authority  
National Park Office  
Penrhyndeudraeth  
Gwynedd  
LL48 6LF**

**[polisi.cynllunio@eryri.llyw.cymru](mailto:polisi.cynllunio@eryri.llyw.cymru) 01766 770274**