Compatibility with Soundness Tests

1. Since the adoption of the ELDP in 2011 the ten tests of soundness have been whittled down to three tests, they are;

   - Does the plan fit?
   - Is the plan appropriate?
   - Will the plan deliver?

2. In the initial stages of reviewing the Plan these questions have been asked in the light of the contextual changes that have occurred since adoption and in the light of the performance of the Plan in the “real world”. The Annual Monitoring Reports have tested the performance of the Plan against the initial targets set and known national and local contextual changes have been logged with their potential implications noted. The relevant Background Papers have also been updated and assessed in the context of continued relevance, resulting changes required and implications on overall soundness issues. The question that should now be asked is “whether the revisions now proposed are sufficient to maintain the soundness of the plan, and whether any unchanged parts of the Plan remain relevant and sound”?

3. An initial soundness test has been undertaken at this review stage taking in to account that a short term revision is being proposed with only minor revisions required. The table below provides an overall commentary against the three soundness tests. Once the revision changes are known in more detail further soundness tests will be necessary. The implications of other issues which may arise in the future will also need to be assessed.

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<tr>
<th>Soundness Test</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
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<td><strong>1. Does the Plan fit?</strong></td>
<td>Yes the Plan does fit. A change in national legislation, such as the “Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015”, has reinforced many objectives already in the Plan such as support for local cultural vibrancy and support for the Welsh language. The Wales Spatial Plan remains relevant and the strategy and spatial distribution of development remains unchanged. The Plan conforms with national and regional policies and to the emerging review of the National Park Management Plan. The full consequences of the Welsh National Marine Plan, which is currently in draft form, is currently unknown. However since adoption, further evidence has been gathers on the sensitivity of seascapes and their relationships with the landscape. Protection of the undeveloped coast will remain unchanged.</td>
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<td><strong>2. Is the plan appropriate?</strong></td>
<td>The existing Plan has broadly met its performance targets. The strategy remains appropriate for a National Park and the emphasis on sustainable local development and protecting cultural diversity has been strengthened, on the one hand by global evidence of climate change, and on the other by the reduction in the percentage of Welsh speakers in the 2011 census. The existing evidence base has been updated periodically since 2011 and this has assisted in monitoring changes which influence the revision. Only a few specialist policies have not been used in the plan. Further work on sustainable development has been prepared as a supplementary planning guidance on Sustainable Development. Through its existing operation it has proven to be logical, coherent and focussed. The changes proposed will improve its coherence and flexibility to meet future challenges.</td>
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<td><strong>3. Will the Plan deliver</strong></td>
<td>The existing Plan has delivered. The Authority is confident that the</td>
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changes proposed in the revision can also be delivered. The scale of
development proposed is not great therefore the Plan is not resource
intensive and reliant on new infrastructure projects. The AMRs prove
the existing Plan has been effective and has performed as expected in
difficult market conditions. The changes proposed will provide greater
choice of new housing sites and more flexibility policies which will
ensure future deliverability. Further general viability testing is required
together with specific viability testing once new allocated sites have
been identified.

SNPA Policy Team 10.02.16