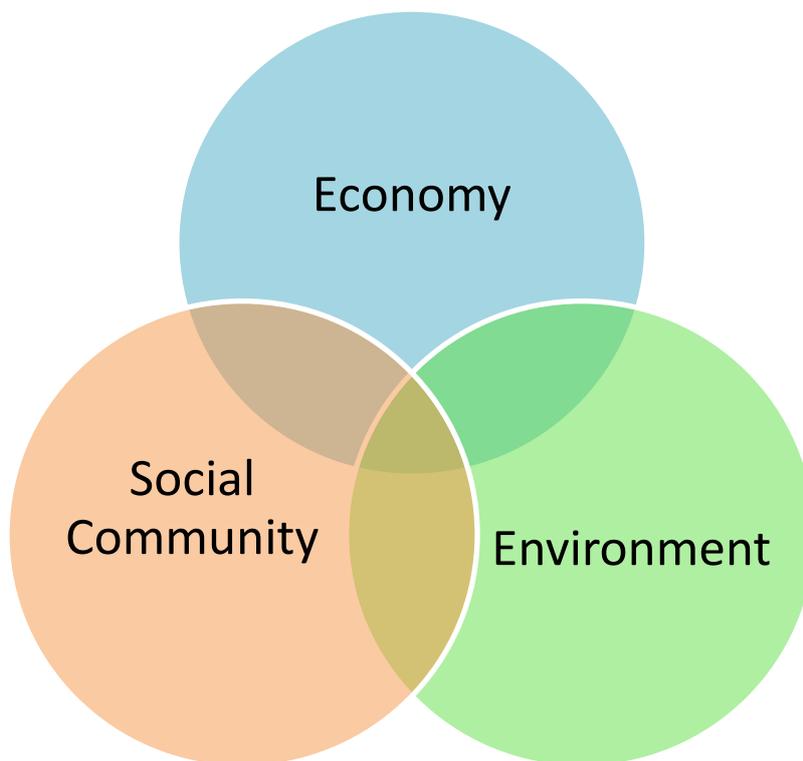




Sustainability Check



Sustainable Development

December 2018

Lezant Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan: A Sustainability Check

Introduction

This paper presents a Sustainability Check (SC) of Lezant 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 Lezant NDP, in order to ensure that the strategies and policies within this contribute to and promote sustainable development.

Lezant 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 Lezant and the prosperity and quality of life of residents through the NDP.

This report sets out how the SC was applied to Lezant NDP and the results thereof.

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

Lezant Parish NDP: The SC process

When adopted, Lezant 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 www.cornwall.gov.uk).

For consistency, the SC of the Lezant 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.

Table 1: SC Themes and Objectives

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 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 parish and allow its adaptation to climate change.
Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality of the natural, historic and cultural landscape.
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.

SC Theme	SC Objectives
Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.
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	<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>
Energy	To encourage the use of renewable energy, increase energy efficiency and security and reduce fuel poverty.

For the purpose of carrying out the SC on Lezant 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 Lezant 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 Lezant Parish NDP Steering Group have carried out the SC, by considering SC themes and objectives (Table 1) against the overall Lezant NDP and including consideration of all of the following elements of this:

- The Vision for Lezant Parish
- The NDP Objectives for Lezant Parish; and,
- Each of the 8 NDP Policies.

The Lezant Parish NDP was considered as to whether it is likely to undermine, support, or neither undermine or support, the SC themes.

Consideration of how the Lezant Parish NDP performed against the SC themes and objectives was carried out through a round table discussion at a meeting of the Lezant 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 Lezant Parish's NDP see [Appendix 1](#).
2. Sustainability Check of Lezant Parish NDP see [Appendix 2](#).
3. SC Summary Matrix Table of Lezant Parish's NDP see [Appendix 3](#).

SC Results

The results of the SC are presented in Appendix 2.

Both the policies and the suggested parish projects were analysed against the SC themes as some of the objectives, (which originated from the initial questionnaire and consultation meetings), covered not only the building of new houses but also how the Parish can be improved for the benefit of its present and future residents and wildlife. It was observed during discussion that all the policies and projects contributed to all the

sustainability objectives except for minerals and geodiversity which is outside the remit of this process. Maritime was totally excluded as the parish is many miles from the nearest coast. The Sustainability check was very useful to show that the policies and projects both contribute to a meaningful Development plan.

Conclusion

The SC on Lezant Parish's 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

SC Theme	SC 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?
Waste	To minimise the generation of waste and encourage greater reuse and recycling of materials in accordance with the waste hierarchy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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?
	To conserve, enhance and restore the condition of geodiversity in the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect, enhance and improve soil quality in Cornwall?

SC Theme	SC Objectives	Decision making questions
	To encourage and safeguard local food production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it avoid development that leads to the loss of productive soils?
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?
	To maintain and enhance water quality and reduce consumption and increase efficiency of water use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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?
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?

SC Theme	SC 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?
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?

SC Theme	SC 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 or Code for Sustainable Homes? • 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<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? • 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 support the development of access to ICT facilities including Broadband, particularly in rural areas? • Will it raise the quality of employment and reduce seasonality?

SC Theme	SC Objectives	Decision making questions
Education and Skills	To maximise accessibility for all to the necessary education, skills and knowledge to play a full role in society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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?
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.	<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? • Will it transfer freight from road to rail and/or sea?
Energy	To encourage the use of renewable energy, increase energy efficiency and security and reduce fuel poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it promote and support the use of renewable and low carbon energy technologies? • Will it help reduce fuel poverty? • Will it encourage local energy production?

Key:

-	Likely to undermine the SC Objective
+/-	Likely to neither undermine or contribute to meeting the SC Objective
+	Likely to support the SC Objective

Sustainability Check of the Lezant Parish NDP			
SC Theme	SC Objectives	Comment	Likely Impact
Climatic Factors	To reduce our contribution to climate change through a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.	Energy 1 Policy installing renewable energy technology.	
	To increase resilience to climate change, and reduce vulnerability.	Difficult to achieve with a small Parish plan.	
Waste	To minimise the generation of waste and encourage greater reuse and recycling of materials in accordance with the waste hierarchy.	Partially covered by Housing 1 policy. Design Guide Requisite Checklist.	
Minerals and Geodiversity	To minimise the consumption of mineral resources and ensure the sustainable management of these resources	Not within the scope of this plan.	
	To conserve, enhance and restore the condition of geodiversity in the county.	Housing 1 will help reduce the consumption of mineral resources supporting the use of brown field sites. Design Guide promotes using recycled materials.	

Sustainability Check of the Lezant Parish NDP			
SC Theme	SC Objectives	Comment	Likely Impact
Soil	To minimise the use of undeveloped land and protect and enhance soil quality.	Housing 1 Policy using brown field sites.	
	To encourage and safeguard local food production.	Housing 2 Design promoting gardens.	
Air	To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve.	Energy 1 Renewable and Low Carbon Technology.	
Water	To reduce the risk of flooding and vulnerability to flooding, sea level rise and coastal erosion.	Flooding not a problem and the parish is miles from a coast.	
	To maintain and enhance water quality and reduce consumption and increase efficiency of water use.	Housing 2 design promotes grey water use.	
Biodiversity	To conserve, enhance and restore the condition and extent of biodiversity in the county and allow its adaptation to climate change.	Aids biodiversity with its Design Requisite Checklist. Environment 2 aids biodiversity with its hedge policy.	
Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality of the natural, historic and cultural landscape and seascape.	Housing 1 using brown field sites. Housing 2 Using the Design Requisite checklist. Environment 2 with its hedge policy and the Design Requisite checklist.	

Sustainability Check of the Lezant Parish NDP			
SC Theme	SC Objectives	Comment	Likely Impact
Maritime	To encourage clean, healthy, productive and diverse waters; To protect coastal areas and ensure sustainable maritime environments.	Not applicable	
Historic Environment	To protect and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of the historic environment.	Environment 2 policy using the Design Requisite checklist.	
Design	To promote and achieve high quality, locally distinctive design, sustainable land use and sustainable built development.	Housing 2 Design.	
Social Inclusion	To reduce poverty and social exclusion and provide opportunities for all to participate fully in society.	Housing 1 having small developments helps contact with neighbours. Housing 1 Promoting Rural Exceptions Sites for affordable housing.	
Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.	Environment 1 enabling sensible external lighting .	
Housing	To meet the needs of the local community as a whole in terms of general market, affordable, adaptable and decent housing.	Housing 1 Promoting Rural Exceptions Sites for affordable housing.	

Sustainability Check of the Lezant Parish NDP			
SC Theme	SC Objectives	Comment	Likely Impact
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.	Community 1 Open Spaces.	
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.	Business 1 Promoting businesses in Treburley.	
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.	Housing 3 Parking and Access avoiding congestion and promoting safety.	
Energy	To encourage the use of renewable energy, increase energy efficiency and security and reduce fuel poverty.	Housing 2 Design using the Design Requisite Checklist Energy 1 promoting renewable energy technologies	

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

SC Theme	Potential Impact of Lezant Parish 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	