

Bridgend Local Development Plan Examination

Session 14 – Delivery Implementation Monitoring Review

The Countryside Council for Wales's (CCW) Response to Inspector's questions

Question 1e. If the LDP has no means of monitoring water quality why is the target included? Also the CCW observations add an additional reference to water quantity. Does the Council consider that to be appropriate/necessary?

CCW's anticipation, as set out in our response to the Deposit Plan's HRA of August 2011, is that water quality monitoring within the LDP should be carried out, with reference to other bodies' data (such as CCW, EAW and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water) where appropriate, to ensure that, as developments are brought forward, the water environment at key locations (relevant to N2K sites) remains within agreed and accepted parameters. However, as this is largely an infrastructure capacity issue at the level of the Development Plan, it should be sufficient for the monitoring strategy to identify the number of developments which fail to progress due to, or progress despite of, specific issues or problems identified by DCWW and EAW in relation to treatment capacity/surface water management etc. This would also be applied to water resources where relevant, ie the number of developments where the availability of adequate water supplies has been raised as an issue. If there was an indication that developments were encountering such issues, further investigation would be triggered to determine what the specific issues were and whether it required review of the Plan etc. Such a measure should be cross-referenced to any project specific HRA that was carried out as appropriate.

Question 1f. What specific wording change is sought by CCW to the target, indicators, status and triggers?

The monitoring strategy would need to identify development completions where water treatment capacity or water resource availability had been identified as issues in the development control process. The target would be for no developments to go forward where such issues were not resolved to satisfaction of consultees. If any development progressed despite concerns not being fully resolved, there would then be a need to check existing water quality monitoring regimes to ensure that there was no corresponding significant deterioration in the water environment. If there was an indication that either water quantity or quality was deteriorating, then further investigation would be necessary to determine if the developments were contributing and, if so, the Plan may need to be reviewed to ensure that mitigation measures are adequate and that any further developments which could lead to impacts on the water environment would only proceed if sufficient environmental capacity is available and any likely significant effects could be avoided.

Note. Such monitoring would in effect provide 'early warning' of potential adverse effects in relation to relevant N2K sites (such as Kenfig SAC or the River Usk

SAC/River Wye SAC) and enable issues to be addressed by the Plan/Authority before any such effects could manifest themselves at the sites.