

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION



CEREDIGION County Council

Ceredigion Local Development Plan Draft Issues Environment: Utilities

2008

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1. Issues to be addressed through the LDP

1.1 A number of issues, (problems and opportunities) have been identified within this topic area and should be considered through the LDP, either to ensure conditions do not worsen or to help promote mitigation. These include:

1.1.1 The WAG publications Planning Policy Wales and Planning Policy Wales Companion Guide outline WAG objectives and also specific expectations for LPAs regarding utilities provision. These include;

- a. to protect and improve water resources through increased efficiency and demand management of water;
- b. to ensure that appropriate sewerage facilities are provided;
- c. to promote the generation and use of energy from renewable sources and energy efficiency;
- d. to facilitate the development of an advanced broadband telecommunications infrastructure throughout Wales;
- e. to promote an integrated approach to the provision and renewal of environmental and telecommunications infrastructure; and
- f. to ensure that environmental and telecommunications infrastructure is provided in such a way as to enable sustainable development objectives to be met.

1.1.2 Specific areas of policy recommended for inclusion in the LDP by the PPW Companion Guide:

- a. promoting efficiency and demand management of water resources;
- b. telecommunications and development.

1.1.3 Ensuring consistency with other legislation and Government policy is also very important. Important examples include the Wales Spatial Plan 2008 Update. This document highlights a number of issues which include:

- a. a lack of adequate broadband coverage across the County creating a barrier to learning,
- b. inadequate mobile phone coverage; and
- c. the need for wireless technology within strategic settlements.

1.1.4 There is a danger of an urban/rural divide in the quality of ICT broadband infrastructure, an important communications link for rural competitiveness.

1.1.5 Provision of 3G mobile services is required within Ceredigion.

- 1.1.6 The use of DACS technology, where a single phone line is split to provide a line to two properties, may be preventing access to broadband. Consideration should be given to whether the LDP can address this issue.
- 1.1.7 Ensuring that climate change is adequately addressed in relation to requirements for new utilities provision is a very important consideration. This will involve increasing use of renewable and sustainable energy and reducing the demand for water. Reducing the demand for water should be adequately addressed by the LDP.
- 1.1.8 It is important that any needs for additional utility provision adequately address sustainable development factors and is consistent with the Community Strategy and Environmental Partnership work.
- 1.1.9 A lack of infrastructure relating to mains gas supply has been identified, although electricity supplies appear to be sufficient.
- 1.1.10 Electricity is often supplied via single circuits of considerable length, up to 140 km; this can cause problems maintaining supply at extremities. Reinforcing such systems to remote rural areas can be costly.
- 1.1.11 There is a lack of three phase electricity supply within the County.
- 1.1.12 A lack of sewage capacity exists within the County. The percentage of settlements, where data is available, which have no public sewers or where issues are present have been identified. The highest proportion of settlements without public sewerage facilities are the smaller settlements (55 % without). The highest number of settlements where 'issues' exist are the larger settlements (52 % have issues). However, this value may be masked by the high number of settlements with no public sewers.
- 1.1.13 Providing satisfactory interim sewage infrastructure needs to be addressed. Given the large number of settlements without mains sewage, interim measures are often required to allow development to take place whilst more permanent infrastructure is provided. Further consultation with DCWW and EAW may be necessary to explore this matter.