

4. General Development Principles

Development Objectives

Policy GDP1 All new development should:-

- a)** Ensure that built development in its scale, design and layout, and in its use of materials and landscaping, accords with the character of the site and makes a positive contribution to the appearance of the nearby locality.
- b)** Take account of personal and community safety and security in the design and layout of development and public / private spaces.
- c)** Make the best use of design techniques, siting and orientation in order to conserve energy and water resources.
- d)** Ensure safe and convenient pedestrian and vehicular access to and from development sites, both on site and in the nearby locality.
- e)** Ensure that built development is located where it has convenient access to public transport facilities, and is well related to pedestrian and cycle routes wherever possible.
- f)** Ensure the safety and amenity of the public and safeguard the environment from the adverse effects of pollution of water, land or air, hazards from industry and quarrying, and associated noise, odour or vibration arising from development.
- g)** Secure public services (e.g. gas, water, electricity) to development at minimum public cost.
- h)** Safeguard sites and areas of nature conservation and wildlife interest, and to provide new habitats where there is an unavoidable loss of existing habitats and areas of wildlife interest.
- i)** Ensure that development does not result in, or is subject to, flooding, soil erosion, landslides or contamination, either on or off the site.
- j)** Have regard to the need to safeguard those areas that possess a strong Welsh cultural and/or linguistic identity from development that could harm this identity.
- k)** Secure the development of sustainable communities, through the promotion of the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.

4.1 In addition to the specific land use or locational policies of the Plan, all development proposals must satisfy certain general requirements, the regulation of which is a key function of the planning system (e.g. drainage/liability to flood, stability, natural hazard, energy efficiency, materials and design, etc.). Many of these matters are the responsibility of statutory organisations that are automatically consulted on development proposals. Quality development can only be achieved through the application of flexible but sensitive standards relating to the visual and operational quality of new development and its impact on people and the surrounding environment. Good design often costs no more than bad. The Council, will, from time to time issue supplementary planning guidance with the aim of encouraging high standards of development and design. Development proposals will be determined in accordance with the Unitary Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Council will also make reference to non-statutory Supplementary Planning Guidance in their consideration and determination of development proposals, as appropriate. The Council will make full use of obligations under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act and of planning conditions to ensure that all new development accords with detailed Plan policies and that



the aims of the Plan are fully implemented. The Council will also prepare Development Briefs for allocated sites where it is appropriate to do so. A development brief has been prepared, for example, for the major development site at Ruthin Road, Wrexham, where land is allocated for housing, employment, and education.

4.2 Wrexham County Borough contains a number of installations designated as notifiable to the Health and Safety Executive by virtue of the quantities of hazardous substances stored and used. Whilst they are subject to stringent controls under existing health and safety legislation, it is considered prudent to control the development of land in their vicinity. The siting of new installations will be subject to planning controls aimed at keeping them separated from houses and other land with which they might be incompatible from a safety viewpoint.

4.3 The unique character of parts of the County Borough is derived from its Welsh culture and landscape. The Welsh language is an important part of the daily lives of many local inhabitants and a key determinant of the social fabric of the communities of, for example, the Ceiriog Valley, Rhos/Johnstown, Penycae, Coedpoeth and Minera. The safeguarding and nurturing of this cultural and linguistic identity cannot occur in isolation from the development of the local economy and conservation of the landscape.

4.4 Crime prevention can be a material consideration when considering planning applications, and local authorities are under an obligation to consider the need to prevent crime in all decisions they take. There has to be a balanced approach to design which attempts to reconcile the visual and other qualities of a development with the need to prevent crime, the fear of crime, and disorder.