

Isle of Anglesey County Council	
Report to:	Planning Policy Committee
Date:	10 th September 2025
Subject:	Consultation summary: Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats' Regulations Assessment Scoping reports
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr. Nicola Roberts (Planning, Public Protection and Climate Change)
Head of Service / Director:	Christian Branch Head of Regulation & Economic Development Service
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Local Members:	Applicable to all Elected Members

1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 This report is for information purposes only. It focuses on the following:

- Public consultation on the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) Scoping Report:
- Consultation with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on the Habitats' Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report.

2.0 Decision required

2.1 The report is submitted for information only.

3.0 Public consultation on ISA Scoping Report

- 3.1 Members will be aware of the statutory requirements relating to the need for sustainable development to be at the heart of the development plan process and the need to undertake Sustainability Appraisals (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) of Local Development Plans (LDPs). These requirements are set out in s39 (2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and SEA Regulations 5(2) and 5(4) respectively.
- 3.2 The Development Plans Manual advocates an integrated approach to these requirements through the undertaking of an ISA given that it enables a more transparent, holistic and rounded assessment of the sustainability implications of growth options, objectives, policies and proposals. The ISA Scoping Report

provides the context for, and determines the scope of, the ISA of the LDP and sets out the framework for undertaking the later stages of the ISA.

- 3.3 The Manual advises consulting on the ISA Scoping Report with statutory authorities (NRW and Cadw) over a period of 5 weeks and adds that it would be best practice “to make the scoping report publicly available.” Given the best practice advice provided in the Manual and the commitment made in the Delivery Agreement to publish the Scoping Report for public consultation, members agreed at the meeting of the Planning Policy Committee to a consultation period in relation to the ISA that would invite comments from the following:
- Specific consultation bodies;
 - General consultation bodies;
 - Council Services;
 - Environmental consultation bodies; and
 - General public.
- 3.4 A five-week consultation period was run between 9th July and 13th August 2025 and, outside of the responses of the statutory consultees, generated one response from Heneb (the Trust for Welsh Archaeology).
- 3.5 The consultation asked 5 specific questions of respondents:
- Were any key documents or messages missing from the policy context review carried out for each ISA theme;
 - Were any key data sources or trends missing from the baseline information for each;
 - Whether they had any comments on the identified key issues for each ISA theme;
 - Whether they had any comments on the ISA objectives and/or assessment questions for each ISA theme; and
 - Whether they had any other comments on the Scoping Report.
- 3.6 NRW’s response made observations about flood risk, protected sites, water quality and designated landscapes whereas Cadw’s response pointed to certain omissions in relation to historic environment documentation, the updated legislative position and a need to provide appropriate assessment criteria to assess the protection and enhancement of historic landscapes.
- 3.7 Outside of the statutory consultees, the response of Heneb made observations relating to legislative changes, a key omission in relation to the Beaumaris World Heritage Site and suggested amendments to certain sections of the scoping report to more accurately reflect the Welsh context of the subject matter.
- 3.8 Copies of the responses received in relation the ISA consultation are attached as **Appendix 1**.

4.0 HRA Scoping Report consultation

- 4.1 The requirement to undertake a HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations 2007; the currently applicable version being the Habitats Regulations 2017, as amended.
- 4.2 As was reported to Committee Members at the meeting of 11th June 2025, the HRA cannot be integrated with the ISA given that it uses a different precautionary testing mechanism. However, the ISA should summarise the HRA findings as part of its assessment of effects on biodiversity.
- 4.3 Given the content and technical nature of the HRA, consultation on the Scoping Report was limited to NRW.
- 4.4 NRW responded to the consultation in a letter dated 22 August. It agreed that the proposed approach to the HRA was reasonable and that the correct sites and sensitivities had been identified in most cases but provided further advice that should be considered further prior to the preparation of a HRA screening report and appropriate assessment where required. The advice related to the following issues:
- Water quality;
 - Identification of European site features;
 - Marine mammals;
 - North Anglesey Marine SAC;
 - Functional linkage – scoping in of Dyfi Estuary SPA given the population of white-fronted geese specific to the SPA and Anglesey;
 - Extending the dispersal distances with relation to impacts on great crested newts; and
 - Air quality and identification of sites sensitive to ammonia pollution.
- 4.5 A copy of NRW's response to the HRA consultation is attached as **Appendix 2**.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 Overall, the responses received to both the ISA and HRA Scoping Report consultations are generally supportive of the approach outlined and, except for making minor amendments in light of the observations received, the scoping reports are considered robust and fit for purpose.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 It is recommended that members accept this report.