Cardiff Council

Replacement Local Development Plan

Examination

Additional Hearing Session 8a – 09.30 -13.00, 4 December 2026

In Person

Natural Environment

Issue - Whether the Plan provides a clear, consistent and effective framework to protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity, including legally protected sites, habitats and species; and whether the Plan is in accordance with Planning Policy Wales Chapter 6.

1. Opening and introductions

2. Proposed revisions

2.1 Council to:

a) Give an overview of the proposed changes and how they respond to matters raised at earlier hearing sessions;
b) Explain the engagement undertaken in preparing the revisions; and
c) Identify any outstanding issues arising from consultation on the proposed revisions.

3 Policy matters

3.1 Is New Policy SPxx: Step-wise Approach, Green Infrastructure and Net Benefit for Biodiversity consistent with PPW in relation to:

a) The application of the step-wise approach, including avoidance, the location of measures and requirements for compensation;
b) The approach to enhancement and securing a net benefit for biodiversity; and
c) Securing the implementation, long-term management and funding of biodiversity measures?

3.2 In relation to Revised BG1: Recreational Pressure on the Severn Estuary and Cardiff Beech Woods:

a) Is it consistent with the Habitats Regulations assessment requirements and the tests relating to site integrity; and
b) Does the “or” suggest that securing strategic mitigation provides an alternative route to permission?

3.3 In relation to BG2: Designated Sites:

a) The Council previously proposed a separate policy for non-statutory sites. Why has it now returned to a single-policy approach;
b) Does the revised policy clearly distinguish the protection and assessment requirements applying to international, national and local designations; and
c) Does the proposed policy test for development affecting SSSIs properly reflect the presumption against development established by PPW?

3.4 In relation to Policy BG3: Protected Habitats, Species and Habitats and Species of Principal Importance:

a) Does the policy provide clarity on the legal and policy requirements applying to the different categories of habitats and species;
b) What requirements does this policy add to the new Step-wise Approach policy; and
c) Is the scope of the net benefit for biodiversity requirement clear, including whether it applies to individual habitats and species or to the proposal as a whole?

3.5 In relation to Policy BG5 Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows and Policy BG6 Soils:

a) How will BG5 and BG6 operate alongside the new Step-wise Approach policy? Are their distinct requirements and any necessary cross-references clear?
b) What changes have been made to BG6 in response to action point HS8.2(v), and how do they address the matters raised?

4 Action Points