

From: Paul Williams (Hywel Dda UHB - Head of Property Performance) [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 June 2026 11:47
To: EED Forward Planning
Cc: Rachel Davies (Hywel Dda UHB - Corporate Governance Administrator); Lee Davies (Hywel Dda UHB - Executive Director of Strategic Development & Operational Planning); Paul Williams (Hywel Dda UHB - Assistant Director Of Strategic Planning); Stuart Irwin (Hywel Dda UHB - Estates)
Subject: Carmarthenshire Local Development plan (LDP) 2018 - 2033 consultation
Attachments: Carms County Council LDP Consultation letter May 2026.pdf
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Hi,

Please see the response from the Hywel Dda University Health Board on the attached consultation.

Regards
Paul Williams
Head of Property Performance

Response to Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018–2033 – Matters Arising Changes Consultation

1. Introduction

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Matters Arising Changes (MACs) to the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (2018–2033).

As the local NHS organisation responsible for planning and delivering healthcare services across Carmarthenshire, the Health Board has a key interest in ensuring that spatial planning decisions support:

- Sustainable population health outcomes
- Equitable access to healthcare services
- Long-term service sustainability and infrastructure alignment

We recognise the important role that the LDP plays in shaping the wider determinants of health, including housing, environment, transport, and community infrastructure.

2. Strategic Alignment and Health Considerations

UHB supports the principle of ensuring that the LDP aligns with national policy, including:

- Planning Policy Wales (PPW)
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Care

We emphasise the importance of embedding a “Health in All Policies” approach within spatial planning, ensuring that:

- Health impacts are considered at all stages of development
 - Prevention, early intervention and wellbeing are prioritised
 - Inequalities in health outcomes are actively addressed
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3. Population Growth and Service Demand

The proposed housing allocations and population growth assumptions within the LDP will have **direct and indirect impacts** on healthcare demand.

UHB requests that:

- Population growth forecasts are shared and aligned with health service planning assumptions
- Early engagement is undertaken with the Health Board regarding large-scale housing allocations
- Consideration is given to cumulative impacts of development on existing healthcare infrastructure

Without appropriate planning, there is a risk of:

- Increased pressure on GP services
 - Capacity challenges in community and acute care settings
 - Reduced accessibility to timely care
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4. Healthcare Infrastructure and Developer Contributions

The Health Board highlights the importance of:

- Recognising healthcare infrastructure as essential community infrastructure
- Ensuring that new developments contribute appropriately to mitigating their impact

We would support:

- The inclusion of healthcare within Section 106 / planning obligation frameworks, where appropriate
 - Early identification of sites where new or expanded healthcare facilities may be required
 - Continued dialogue between the Local Planning Authority and HDdUHB on infrastructure planning
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5. Spatial Distribution of Development

UHB encourages a pattern of development that:

- Supports sustainable communities with access to local services
- Reduces reliance on long-distance travel to access healthcare
- Aligns with existing healthcare service locations and transport networks

Particular attention should be given to:

- Rural communities where access challenges are more acute
- Areas with existing healthcare capacity constraints

Transport & Carmarthen's Regional Role

- **Strategic Transport and Regional Access**

The Health Board highlights the critical role of transport infrastructure in enabling equitable access to healthcare services across West Wales. Carmarthen performs an important strategic role as a hub for acute and specialist healthcare services serving a wider population across Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire.

- In this context, the LDP should place greater emphasis on strengthening transport connectivity into Carmarthen, including public transport provision and strategic road networks, to support patients, visitors and staff travelling from rural and coastal communities.
- Without appropriate focus on regional accessibility, there is a risk of exacerbating existing health inequalities, particularly where travel times and limited transport options act as a barrier to timely access to care

6. Active Travel, Environment and Prevention

The Health Board strongly supports policies that promote:

- Active travel infrastructure (walking, cycling)
- Access to green spaces and recreational areas
- Healthy placemaking and design principles

These are critical to:

- Reducing preventable ill health
- Supporting mental wellbeing
- Lowering long-term demand on NHS services

7. Integration and Collaboration

UHB welcomes ongoing collaboration with Carmarthenshire County Council and would encourage:

- Continued engagement through the planning and development process
- Integration with Regional Partnership Board objectives
- Alignment with broader public service and community planning

This collaborative approach will ensure that development supports:

- Integrated health and social care delivery
 - Community resilience
 - Sustainable service provision
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8. Conclusion

Hywel Dda University Health Board broadly supports the direction of the LDP Matters Arising Changes, subject to continued engagement and consideration of healthcare impacts.

We look forward to working with Carmarthenshire County Council to ensure that:

- Growth is supported by appropriate healthcare infrastructure
 - Planning decisions contribute positively to population health
 - Communities are designed to enable healthier lives
 - Transport connectivity supports equitable access to services from across West Wales
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9. Contact

For further engagement, please contact Lee Davies, Executive Director of Strategy and Planning