



## **2<sup>ND</sup> REPLACEMENT CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UP TO 2035**

### **DELIVERY AGREEMENT (1<sup>ST</sup> REVISION, OCTOBER 24) - REPORT OF CONSULTATION**



#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In accordance with Regulation 9 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended), the Council is required to prepare a Delivery Agreement (DA) setting out the timetable and community involvement scheme for the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2035 (2RLDP).
- 1.2 The DA was originally agreed by Welsh Government on 17 June 2021.
- 1.3 Following conformity objections from Welsh Government to the Preferred Strategy, work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Replacement Local Development Plan up to 2035 (2RLDP) was halted whilst further work was undertaken.
- 1.4 With the WG conformity objections addressed, work on the 2RLDP can recommence. As part of the process of re-engaging the plan preparation process, the Council will need to prepare a revised DA for the plan.
- 1.5 This Report summarises the consultee responses related to the Draft DA and includes officer recommendations for appropriate changes to the document as a result.

#### **2. CONSULTATION**

- 2.1 The Draft DA was subject of a three-week targeted consultation, from 31<sup>st</sup> July to 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The consultation was publicised by the following means:
    - Letters or emails were sent directly to approximately 155 Specific Consultees, including Elected Members, Town and Community Councils, neighbouring Local Authorities and statutory undertakers.
    - The Draft DA was published on the Council's website.
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### **3. SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED AND COUNCIL RESPONSE**

- 3.1 The Council received a total of 5 responses.
- 3.2 No major issues in respect of the DA were raised, although it is recommended that an amendment to the DA is made to reference engagement with other local authorities.
- 3.3 The list of Consultation Bodies has been updated as a result of the consultation.
- 3.4 Factual and typographical errors that have been identified have also been amended but these have not been recorded in the Report of Consultation.
- 3.5 A summary of the responses received, together with the officer response, and recommended action is attached at Appendix 1.

### **4. MOVING FORWARD**

- 4.1 This report of consultation will be considered by a full meeting of Council on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.
  - 4.2 Council approval of the final DA will be sought along with agreement to submit the DA to Welsh Government.
  - 4.3 In accordance with the Development Plan Regulations, once approved by Council the DA must be formally submitted to Welsh Government (WG) for its approval. Once agreed, the DA commits the Council to producing the 2nd Replacement LDP according to the stated timescales and processes outlined within it.
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## APPENDIX 1 - SUMMARY OF RESPONSES RECEIVED

### Support

Issue:	Support for the complete DA
Summary of responses received:	2 responses have expressed full support for the DA
Council response	The support is welcomed
Changes required	None

Issue:	Support the timetable for the preparation of the plan.
Summary of response received:	Support for the timetable set out in the DA and, whilst acknowledging that the timetable is challenging, it is important that the key milestones in the timetable are met without delay, given the delays in preparation of the plan so far.
Council response	The support for the timetable is welcomed, and the importance of meeting the key milestones is noted.
Changes required	None

### Collaboration

Issue:	Consider setting up a working group for sub-regional collaboration
Summary of response received:	Welsh Government has advised some local authorities to seek to agree statements of common ground on cross border and sub-regional issues. Whilst the matters in question will be for the LDP itself to address and will include the co-ordination of the Green Belt, Special Landscape Areas, Minerals Safeguarding, the RTS2 requirement for Statements of Sub-Regional Collaboration on minerals, levels of housing & employment growth and traffic modelling. Setting up a working group of adjoining local authorities will facilitate the consideration of these issues. This could be referenced in the Community Involvement Strategy
Council response	The Delivery Agreement sets out how the Council will engage with its stakeholders in the preparation of the plan. The DA currently addresses other groups of stakeholders and how they are involved, and it would make sense to include a section on other local authorities.
Changes required	The following section be inserted into the DA after the section on Businesses, Landowners, Developers and Agents  "Other Local Authorities The preparation of LDPs has always involved collaboration and engagement with neighbouring authorities and other authorities where issues extend over wider areas. The Council will continue to engage with the local authorities within the region through various mechanisms as part of its preparation of the LDP."

Issue:	Continue working with the Coal Authority in preparing the LDP
Summary of response received:	The Coal Authority, as a statutory consultee, will continue to collaborate with the council in respect of minerals related matters in the plan.
Council response	The commitment to collaborating with the Council in preparing the LDP is welcomed.

Changes required	None
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Issue:	Commitment to engaging with Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Summary of response received:	NRW confirmed their commitment to engage with the Council throughout the preparation of the LDP.
Council response	The commitment to collaborating with the Council in preparing the LDP is welcomed.
Changes required	None

Issue:	Support for and commitment to engage in the preparation of a Regional Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment (SFCA)
Summary of response received:	NRW acknowledge commit to supporting and engaging in the preparation of a regional SFCA.
Council response	The commitment to collaborating with the Council is welcomed. The Council has undertaken the Stage 1 report for the SFCA, with the remaining stages are ongoing. NRW has input into the Stage 1 Report and the continued involvement of NRW in the remaining stages is welcomed.
Changes required	None

Issue:	Commitment to collaborating with the Council to deliver a sound Replacement LDP.
Summary of response received:	The development consortium for the Maesycwmmer Strategic site remain committed to collaborating with the Council in preparing its replacement plan
Council response	The commitment to collaborate with the Council in preparing its LDP, despite the deletion of the Strategic Site from the plan, is welcomed
Changes required	None

**Information and Evidence for the LDP**

Issue:	Consideration of population and health need in the county borough
Summary of response received:	The Aneurin Beavan University Health Board provided information on the population health issues under the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demographics</li> <li>• Smoking, Weight, and Physical Activity</li> <li>• Disease and ill-health</li> </ul>
Council response	This information is not relevant to the DA which is procedural document that does not address the content of the LDP. However, the Council will continue to liaise with ABUHB in preparing the plan and this information will be taken into account during the plan's preparation.
Changes required	None

Issue:	Information sources to assist in the preparation of the LDP.
Summary of response received:	NRW identified DataMapWales and the South East Wales Area Statement as sources of information to assist the preparation of the LDP.

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Council response	Whilst this information is not relevant to the DA, the Council are using these data sources in the preparation of its Green Infrastructure Assessment that will be published alongside the Revised Preferred Strategy. NRW's flag posting of these data sources is welcomed.
Changes required	None

### Housing

Issue:	The Plan Led system in Wales is failing
Summary of response received:	In 2023/24, a total of 4,756 homes were completed in Wales – 18% fewer than the year before. This represents one of the lowest levels of completions on record, second only to the post-pandemic levels of 2021/22 when a total of 4,616 dwellings were completed (HBF Wales). Furthermore, despite the fact that a development plan must be replaced once time-expired in accordance with legislation, it is the case that currently 11 out of 25 LDPs across Wales are now time-expired, and only 7 LDPs are less than five years old (HBF Wales). The above clearly demonstrates that the LDP process is failing to achieve a plan led system
Council response	These issues are not a matter for the Delivery agreement. However, the Council is duty bound to prepare its LDP within the requirements of the LDP system in Wales and will endeavour to do this and adopt the 2RLDP according to its timetable.
Changes required	None

Issue:	Concern over the ability to identify sufficient land to meet the LDP housing requirement up to 2035.
Summary of response received:	Concern is raised regarding the ability of the Authority to identify a sufficient amount of deliverable sustainable land to meet housing need up to 2035 (without the inclusion of a Strategic Site as one of the key threads of the Preferred Strategy), and the associated implications for the Delivery Agreement should further delays to the programme be incurred.
Council response	Whilst this is not a matter for the DA, the Council acknowledges the concerns regarding the provision of suitable land for housing and this will be addressed as part of the LDP preparation process.
Changes required	None