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**DRAFT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2006 - 2026  
Scrutiny of the Draft Preferred Strategy**

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**REASON FOR THE REPORT**

1. To advise Members of the process for scrutinising the Draft Preferred Strategy for Cardiff's Local Development Plan (LDP).
2. To seek Committee's approval for the re-convening of a task & finish group of the Committee to consider the Council's approach to developing a Local Development Plan.

**BACKGROUND**

3. The Planning & Compulsory Order Act 2004 requires the Council to produce a Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP is a crucial strategic document which governs the future development and economic growth of Cardiff over a 20 year period 2006 – 2026. It is a key driver for investment, competitiveness, growth and environmental protection in Cardiff and will have implications for the wider city region.
4. In October 2008, the Policy Review and Performance Committee approved the establishment of a task & finish group, comprising the Chairpersons of the five Scrutiny Committees plus a volunteer from each Committee, to consider the previous Draft LDP. It was agreed that the group would meet periodically as the LDP moved towards its final adoption in 2015 and produce reports as appropriate for submission to the Council's Executive.

5. The Task Group met on several occasions and produced two reports. The first was on the deposit version of the previous LDP (Feb 2009), and the second was on the Vision and Objectives for the new LDP (Feb 2011), which were subsequently approved by Council in March 2011. The latter report is attached as **Appendix 1** of this document.

## **THE DRAFT PREFERRED STRATEGY**

6. The draft Preferred Strategy document will set out the overall proposed level of growth in Cardiff between 2006 and 2026. The document will list the strategic sites that have been identified to achieve the range of new homes, businesses and jobs and other land use that will deliver this growth. It will also contain a number of draft strategic policies – such as sustainable transport, protecting the environment and delivering quality new development – required to ensure the overall Plan strategy is based on the 10 “Tests of Soundness” set out by Welsh Government.
7. The document will explain how different options for the level and delivery of growth have been considered during the past 18 months. It will list in outline the sites that have been identified, but the detailed design and master planning of these sites will not be set out until the Deposit Plan is published in 2013.
8. The draft Preferred Strategy is scheduled to be finalised by the Council’s Cabinet on 11 October 2012, and will be considered for approval by Full Council on 25 October 2012.

## **THE SCRUTINY PROCESS**

9. It is essential that the draft Preferred Strategy is subject to robust scrutiny prior to being finalised by Cabinet in October 2012.
10. The Scrutiny Chairs have agreed to the principle that a task and finish group be established, consisting of the Chairs of the five Scrutiny Committees and a volunteer from each committee, thus replicating the previous arrangements.

11. The Chairs of the five Scrutiny Committees have written to their Committee Members seeking nominations. As is usual for task groups, officers will work to ensure that the group is broadly politically proportionate to the overall membership of the Council.
12. Members might wish to consider the potential benefits of joining the task and finish group. Some of these benefits will include:
- Becoming involved in the scrutiny of a key strategic corporate and statutory document which has major implications for the future of Cardiff.
  - Gaining an in-depth awareness of the issues underpinning the LDP and its process.
  - Gaining experience of the Task and Finish process and the dynamics of working with Members from the Council's other four Scrutiny Committees.
13. It is proposed that the task group will meet during the second half of July and potentially the first few days in September. The task and finish group will produce a report on the draft Preferred Strategy, which will be considered by the Policy Review and Performance Committee, and the Chair of that Committee will write to the Deputy Leader of the Council (who is responsible for the Plan) with the Committee's detailed observations and recommendations, reflecting the task and finish group's key findings.
14. Following approval of the draft Preferred Strategy, it is anticipated that the task and finish group will continue to meet periodically, with the next key LDP document (the Deposit Plan) due in 2013, and the post-Deposit scrutiny in 2014.

## **WAY FORWARD**

15. Paul Keeping (Operational Manager, Scrutiny) will be in attendance to answer questions on the process of scrutinising the LDP.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

16. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications.

However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers of behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

17. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

18. The Committee is recommended to:

- (i) Approve the re-convening of a task & finish group of the Committee to consider the Council's approach to developing a Local Development Plan.
- (ii) Note the contents of this report, and agree nominees from the Committee to take part in the task and finish group.

**MIKE DAVIES**  
**Head of Scrutiny, Performance and Improvement**  
**22 June 2012**

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A Report of:  
Policy Review & Performance  
Scrutiny Committee

**Local Development Plan  
Interim Report:  
Vision & Objectives Document**

**February 2011**



County Council of The City and County of Cardiff

1. This report sets out the comments and observations of the Local Development Plan task and finish group. It is envisaged that the task & finish group will submit several reports as the process for creating a Local Development Plan (LDP) unfolds. The task and finish group met on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 to consider the Vision & Objectives Document.
  
2. Present were Cllr Wakefield (Chair), Cllr Dianne Rees, Cllr Grant, Cllr Kelloway, Cllr Islam, Cllr Mckerlich, Cllr Walker, Cllr Goodway, Cllr Ralph Cook, and Cllr Robson.
  
3. The following Officers were also present:
  - a. James Clemence – OM, Planning Policy
  - b. Stuart Williams - Group Leader, Policy

## **BACKGROUND**

4. Following Deposit of an LDP in April 2009, the plan was submitted to the Welsh Assembly for Examination in November 2009. However in view of significant concerns raised by the Inspectors examining the plan, and following agreement from the Welsh Assembly Government, the Council withdrew the LDP from the examination in April 2010 and commenced work on preparing a new plan.
5. It was suggested to the Chairs Liaison Forum at this time that the scrutiny of the LDP should recommence, but at an earlier stage in the process than previously. The scrutiny of the draft LDP in 2009 was undertaken by a task & finish group, comprised of the five Chairs, and Members from across the five scrutiny committees; representative of the five committees and politically proportional. It reported formally to the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee.
6. Recommencing involvement in scrutinising the LDP at an earlier stage than previously, enabled Members to be involved in stakeholder meetings at key stages, as the LDP evolves. This will enable members of the task & finish group to be better informed when it came to the stage of scrutinising the new draft LDP.
7. The first meeting of the task & finish group took place in November 2010 when Members were introduced to the timetable for the LDP and talked through the production of the Delivery Agreement.

## **ISSUES**

8. The Delivery Agreement having been approved by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) in October 2010 the next stage of the process was the production of a Vision & Objectives document. To help inform the

consideration and objectives for the plan, during November and December 2010 a wide ranging consultation and engagement exercise took place, to which the members of the task & finish group were invited.

9. On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 the task & finish group received a presentation on the Vision & Objectives document prior to its consideration by EBM on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011, and report to Full Council in March.
10. The task & finish group considered the draft copy of the Vision & Objectives document along with documentation on the consultation process which had taken place. This included a copy of “Your City, Your Future” Consultation 2010, and a “Summary of the consultation and engagement findings from Consultee Conferences”.
11. Members took on board the fact that the Wales Spatial Plan and the Community Strategy form the strategic policy context for the document. The Vision in particular being closely linked to the “What Matters’ Strategy (2010 – 2020), which brings the Community Strategy together with the three partnership strategic documents. Consequently that document’s seven outcomes have become integral to the LDP vision.
12. The objectives set out in a little more detail how the LDP vision can be addressed through the planning system, and the document sets these out under four main headings:
  - To respond to evidenced economic needs and provide the necessary infrastructure to deliver development;
  - To respond to evidenced social needs;
  - To deliver economic and social needs in a co-ordinated way that respects and enhances Cardiff’s environment; and
  - To create sustainable neighbourhoods that form part of a sustainable city.



13. The task & finish group felt that the contents of the Vision & Objectives document were very neutral, and what might be expected; it felt that the statements in the document were inoffensive, and therefore there was nothing in the document, to which they could object. It was the 'action plans' which would flow from this document which Members were anxious to consider. The key things will be the next stages where more detail is included in the documentation. Members looked forward to their scrutiny of the Preferred Strategy leading up to the draft deposit plan.
  
14. Members therefore were content to endorse this document and would urge the Executive to proceed as quickly as possible to fill the gap which exists because of the lack of an up to date LDP.
  
15. In the mean time the task & finish group will continue looking at various aspects of the LDP process in preparation for considering the draft Preferred Strategy, when that is available for scrutiny, prior to its presentation to the Executive.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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## **POLICY, REVIEW & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**



Councillor Dianne Rees  
Chairperson



Councillor  
Fenella Bowden



Councillor  
Roger Burley



Councillor  
Joseph Carter



Councillor  
Paul Chaundy



Councillor  
Russell Goodway



Councillor  
Brian Jones



Councillor Francesca  
Montemaggi



Councillor  
David Walker

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