

# Response to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee Joint Task and Finish Group Inquiry Report on Replacement LDP Strategic & Delivery Options

10 November 2022



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# Background

- Joint Task and Finish Group formed in November 2021 to scrutinise the preparation of the Replacement LDP at key stages
- Report covers the latest stage – consultation on strategic and delivery options
- Series of meetings held in winter 2021/22 with Planning Officers, Cabinet Members and consultant forecasters to explore evidence on the options
- Group also undertook a “*Call for Evidence*” with a range of external stakeholders to inform the findings and recommendations
- Findings and recommendations presented to Cabinet for consideration in July 2022



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# Findings & Response



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- 6 Recommendations: re consultation process, the strategic and delivery options, accessibility, inclusivity and environmental sustainability issues and further scrutiny involvement in the plan preparation process
- Majority of the recommendations are agreed
- However (recommendation 1) re consultation process being deficient is strongly rejected:
  - Misunderstands the consultation process to date, the amount of consultation which has been undertaken and growth in responses compared with previous consultations.
  - Fails to recognise the significant engagement that has and is taking place outside of statutory consultation periods
  - No statutory duty to consult on the strategic options, however despite this, the Council decided to fully engage at this stage and at the earlier informal vision, issues and objectives stage



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# Findings & Response



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- Consultation was undertaken in full accordance with the Community Involvement scheme agreed with Welsh Government
- To compensate for the lack of face-to face meetings because of the pandemic an extensive campaign was produced to ensure simple messaging on process through social media together with a new bespoke user friendly website, user-friendly online surveys, child friendly short films and user friendly virtual consultation room
- This resulted in 332,000 impressions or views on social media and 7,400 visitors to the LDP website
- Clearly demonstrates that the Council went above and beyond the requirements agreed with Welsh Government and engaged with as many people as possible



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# Conclusions & Recommendation



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- As the plan develops over the coming years we will continue to provide comprehensive consultation and engagement with residents and stakeholder, specifically targeting those groups and citizens who do not traditionally engage in LDP processes.
- Recommendation:

***Cabinet is recommended to approve the response to the recommendations of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee Joint Task and Finish Group on the Replacement Local Development Plan – Strategic and Delivery Options, as set out in appendix 2.***



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# Appendix 2



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Recommendation	Accepted, Partially Accepted or Not accepted	Cabinet Response
<p>1. The evidence and key findings in relation to the <b>corporate consultation process</b> for the Strategic and Delivery Options contained within this letter and the attached matrix (<i>Appendix F</i>) are used to inform and develop the consultation process for the Preferred Strategy and all other consultation processes for future stages of the RLDP.</p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p>	<p>This Cabinet Report sets out a response to some of the criticisms of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group that the corporate consultation process was flawed.</p> <p>The report provides a rebuttal to this claim and sets out the process we have followed in particularly challenging circumstances due to Covid and importantly the additional steps we have taken over and above what we have done in the past and how this has been successful in reaching out to the local community.</p> <p>The lessons learnt from this process, together with any other relevant evidence and findings from the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group will be used to inform and develop the consultation process for the Preferred Strategy and future consultation processes on the RLDP.</p>
<p>2. The evidence and key findings on the <b>Strategic and Delivery Options</b> contained within this letter and the attached matrix (<i>Appendix G</i>) are incorporated as formal responses and given equal weighting to those from the corporate consultation process.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Agree that the evidence and key findings of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Strategic and Delivery Options are incorporated as formal responses and given equal weighting to those from the corporate consultation process.</p>



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# Appendix 2 (continued)



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Recommendation	Accepted, Partially Accepted or Not accepted	Cabinet Response
<p>3. The evidence and key findings in relation to <b>accessibility, inclusivity and environmental sustainability</b> contained within this letter and the attached matrix (<i>Appendix H</i>) are incorporated as formal responses and given equal weighting to those from the corporate consultation process in relation to the Strategic and Delivery Options.</p>	Accepted	Agree that the evidence and key findings of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group in relation to accessibility, inclusivity and environmental sustainability are incorporated as formal responses and given equal weighting to those from the corporate consultation process.
<p>4. The evidence and key findings in relation to <b>accessibility, inclusivity and environmental sustainability</b> contained within this letter and the attached matrix (<i>Appendix H</i>) are used to inform the development of the Preferred Strategy for the RLDP as part of addressing and meeting the needs of the individuals and communities in Cardiff as well as the Council's environmental responsibilities.</p>	Accepted	Agree that the evidence and key findings of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group in relation to accessibility, inclusivity and environmental sustainability are used to inform the Preferred Strategy for the RLDP.
<p>5. That <b>Scrutiny be prioritised</b> in future stages of the RLDP, with early sight of RLDP consultation documents to enable their feedback to be considered prior to them being finalised for publication.</p>	Accepted	Agree that engagement with Scrutiny be prioritised in future stages of the RLDP
<p>6. That <b>all political groups</b> are provided with an early draft of RLDP consultation documents for consideration before being finalised so that they can also provide comment and suggest amendments for incorporation</p>	Accepted	Agree that an early draft of the RLDP consultation documents can be shared with the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group so they can provide comment and suggest amendments for incorporation



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