
REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – JOINT SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Purpose of the Report

1. To invite Members to express an interest in sitting on the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

Background

2. The Replacement LDP is a crucial strategic document which governs the future development and economic growth of Cardiff till 2036. It is a key driver for investment, competitiveness, growth and environmental protection in Cardiff and will have implications for the wider city region.
3. In September 2021, the five Scrutiny Committees individually considered the first stage of the Replacement LDP - *Vision, Issues and Objectives and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report* - prior to its consideration by Cabinet. Following these meetings, a collective letter capturing all concerns and observations from all five committees was sent to Cabinet.
4. In October 2021, all five scrutiny Committees approved the establishment of a joint task & finish group, comprising the Chairpersons of the five Scrutiny Committees plus a volunteer from each Committee, to consider the next stage of the Replacement LDP, the Strategic Options. The Task Group met on several occasions, resulting in two letters to Cabinet setting out key findings and recommendations relating to consultation and engagement, strategic and delivery options, and accessibility, inclusivity and environmental sustainability.

The Preferred Strategy

5. The next stage of the Replacement LDP is the Preferred Strategy, which will set out the preferred level of housing and jobs growth for the plan and the spatial strategy to deliver this growth. It will also contain a number of draft strategic key policies – such as sustainable transport, protecting the environment and delivering quality new development – which will inform the preparation of a Deposit Plan.
6. Welsh Government guidance requires the Preferred Strategy to be founded on a robust and up to date evidence base; this is tested during the independent examination of the Deposit Plan.
7. The draft Preferred Strategy will be consulted on July - September 2023, finalised by the Council's Cabinet in Autumn 2023 and will then be considered for approval by Full Council.

The Scrutiny Process

8. It is essential that the Preferred Strategy is subject to robust scrutiny prior to being finalised by Cabinet.
9. The Scrutiny Chairs have agreed that a task and finish group be established, consisting of the Chairs of the five Scrutiny Committees and two volunteers from each committee.
10. The Task and Finish group needs to be established as soon as possible to plan and commence work around the RLDP Preferred Strategy, scheduled to go out to consultation in July 2023.
11. The Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group have yet to be set but will be established by the Task and Finish Group and presented to the five Scrutiny Committees for agreement.

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 from March 2023 onwards. Following approval of the Preferred Strategy, it is anticipated that the task and finish group will continue to meet periodically, to undertake scrutiny of future stages of the Replacement LDP.

WAY FORWARD

14. Committee Members may express an interest to sit on the RLDP Task and Finish Group that will consider the next stage of the RLDP process.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

15. 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

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 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

17. The Committee is recommended to:

- i. Seek and agree expressions of interest in sitting on the Replacement Local Development Plan Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services

14 March 2023