

**COUNCIL:**

**26 OCTOBER 2023**

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**CABINET PROPOSAL**

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**SEVENTH CARDIFF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT**

**Reason for this Report**

1. To outline the purpose of the Local Development Plan (LDP) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) process and to seek the endorsement of the Seventh Cardiff LDP AMR for submission to the Welsh Government by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

**Background**

2. The Cardiff Local Development Plan (2006 to 2026) was formally adopted by the Council on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016. As part of the statutory development plan process the Council is required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and submit to Welsh Government by the 31<sup>st</sup> October each year after Plan adoption.
3. This is the seventh AMR to be prepared since the adoption of the plan and is based on the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. The AMR consists of the following sections:
  - Executive Summary
  - Introduction
  - Contextual Information – changes to policy framework at a national or local level.
  - LDP Monitoring Process – explains the monitoring process undertaken.
  - LDP Monitoring Indicators – reporting on the 107 LDP monitoring indicators which were agreed during the LDP examination process and set out in the Inspectors Report.
  - Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring – reporting on the 28 sustainability monitoring indicators.
  - Conclusions and recommendations – setting out an overall overview of all indicators and Plan performance in the first two years following adoption.

4. This is the seventh year the LDP has been operative, and this AMR provides a 7 year position statement and provides a comparison with the baseline data provided by the previous AMR's. Importantly, the findings of this monitoring work over 7 consecutive years will help to inform the ongoing LDP review process which commenced in March 2021.

### **The AMR Report**

5. Overall, the findings of the seventh AMR are positive with the majority of the indicators shown as green indicating that most LDP policies are being implemented effectively. A summary of performance against the main Plan topics are set out below with Appendix 1 setting out the data and conclusions in more detail.
6. **Employment** – Monitoring data shows continuing positive performance. Of particular importance is data regarding net job creation - There is a requirement for 40,000 new jobs over the plan period 2006-2026. 20,900 jobs were created between 2006 and 2015 and therefore the target for the remaining plan period is 19,100 jobs or 1,750 jobs annually. Since the first AMR (16/17) the number of jobs has shown a net increase and the latest AMR shows an increase of 9,000 jobs since the first AMR (16/17).
7. **Housing** – Monitoring data shows good progress is being made in delivering new homes on many of the LDP strategic housing sites with a total of 3,295 new homes delivered to date. Specifically, there are new completions on 5 of the strategic housing sites:
  - 626 completions have been achieved within the Cardiff Central Enterprise Zone;
  - 945 completions have been achieved on the North West Cardiff strategic site;
  - 317 completions have been achieved at the North of J33 strategic site.
  - 341 completions have been recorded on the North East Cardiff strategic site; and
  - 1,066 completions have been achieved at St Ederyns Village;
8. Although most of the strategic housing site completion rates are below targets set out in the AMR it is now evident from the above data that the Plan-led approach is now successfully driving the delivery of new homes at a level not seen for the last 10 years. For example, completions for the last 5 years (2018 to 2023) have averaged 1,242 in contrast with the previous 9 years (2008 to 2017) where completions averaged 725 units per annum, with no year above 1,000 units for this period.
9. The data on housing delivery demonstrates the 'lag' between Plan adoption and homes being completed on new sites allocated in the Plan. Due to a combination of site assembly, legal and logistical factors experienced by landowners/developers along with the time required to secure the necessary planning and adoption consents, trajectories of delivery are slower than originally anticipated. This includes time spent

securing the accompanying Section 106 Agreements which fully deliver the Council's aspirations as set out in the LDP. Overall, over the 17 years between 2006 and 2023 a total of 21,323 new dwellings were built in Cardiff which represents 52% of the overall dwelling requirement.

10. As evidenced above, good progress is now being made with construction of new homes on most of the strategic housing sites following the master planning and infrastructure plans approach as set out in the plan. It is therefore expected that housing completions over the remaining 3 years of the Plan period will continue with an increased level of new homes being delivered on the strategic housing sites.
11. **Affordable Housing** – The plan sets a target for the delivery of 6,646 affordable units to be provided for the 12 years between 2014 and 2026 and monitoring data shows that affordable housing completions are increasing as a range and choice of new housing sites begin to come forward. The latest figures show that 2,265 new build affordable dwellings were completed since 2014, which represents 25% of total new build housing completions over this period. This trend is expected to continue as construction of the greenfield strategic housing sites gathers pace for the remaining 3 years of the Plan period. These figures show that good progress is being made in delivering affordable housing to meet the identified need within the city.
12. **Transportation** – The proportion of people travelling by sustainable modes of transport has been consistently higher than prior to the pandemic and has increased 7% over the monitoring period to 55%.
13. The proportion of all journeys overall made by walking remains largely unchanged from 2021/2022 but has increased from previous years. However, walking to school specifically has increased by 1.4% since 2021/2022. The proportion cycling overall has increased slightly from 2021/2022. Cycling levels have remained consistently higher each month than relative to prior to the pandemic. The proportion of journeys made by public transport has increased from 2021/2022. Bus use specifically has also increased over this period from 68% to 80%, following the lows experienced during the pandemic. The proportion of journeys made by public transport overall has increased from 2021/2022. Latest data indicates that as of August 2023, rail patronage has returned to around 80% of pre-pandemic levels, consistent with the current service frequency relative to that of 2019.
14. Traffic volumes have increased by 46% from the low levels seen in 2020/2021 in response to the pandemic, nevertheless the traffic remains down at 95% (-5%) relative to pre-pandemic levels. Comparing published mobility data as of October 2022, commuting remains at around 60% (i.e., equivalent to 40% of the workforce continuing to work from home).
15. **Gypsy and Traveller Sites** - work is progressing the identification of sites to meet the evidenced need for permanent and transit Gypsy and Traveller sites. This has included discussions with the Welsh

Government and work continues to secure appropriate outcomes. In terms of transit sites, it is considered that these would best be considered on a regional basis, requiring collaboration with neighbouring local authorities through the forthcoming Strategic Development Plan preparation process.

16. **Supplementary Planning Guidance** – Significant progress has been made in producing a programme of new Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and since adoption of the LDP 18 SPGs have been approved by Council to support the policies in the adopted Plan.
17. **Contextual Changes** – the contextual review highlights significant changes in the national planning policy framework which has evolved significantly over the five monitoring periods. In particular, Planning Policy Wales (PPW, Edition 10, December 2018 & PPW, Edition 11, February 2021) and the publication of Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (February 2021) have made significant changes to the high-level policy framework.

## **Conclusions**

18. Section 7 of the AMR provides the conclusions and recommendations of this seventh AMR which provides a comparison with the baseline data provided by the first six AMRs published between 2017 and 2022. The key conclusions in the seventh year of reporting, are that good progress is generally being made in delivering the identified targets and monitoring outcomes with the identified lag in housing delivery now showing strong signs of enhanced completions.
19. It is recommended that this AMR be submitted to the Welsh Government in accord with statutory requirements. Continued monitoring in future AMRs will help to identify any definitive trends in the performance of the Plan's strategy and policy framework.

## **Next Steps**

20. It is a requirement that AMRs must be submitted every year to Welsh Government until any Replacement/Revised LDPs are adopted. Therefore, the eighth AMR in respect of the Cardiff LDP will be presented to Cabinet at the same time next year, with the broad structure of the AMR remaining the same from year to year to provide ease of analysis between successive reports. This AMR, along with the previous AMRs, will help inform the ongoing review of the LDP.
21. The AMR will be placed on the Council's website for information.

## **Reason for the Recommendation**

22. To comply with provisions in the Planning Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and Welsh Government guidance which require the Council to produce an AMR for submission to the Welsh Government at the end of October each year following adoption.

## Legal Implications

23. The annual monitoring of the LDP is part of the wider statutory LDP process. Section 76 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires authorities to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report covering the preceding financial year from 1 April to 31 March. It must be submitted to the Welsh Government by 31 October each year and published on the authorities' website, in accordance with Regulation 37 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan)(Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended). Those regulations and the Development Plans Manual Edition 3 March 2020 specify what the AMR is required to include. The AMR and associated documents have been prepared in accordance with the body of the report.
24. The decision about these recommendations has to be made in the context of the Council's public sector duties under the Equalities Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties) – the Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED). These duties require the Council to have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of 'protected characteristics'. The 'Protected characteristics' are: • Age • Gender reassignment • Sex • Race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality • Disability • Pregnancy and maternity • Marriage and civil partnership • Sexual orientation • Religion or belief – including lack of belief.
25. When taking strategic decisions, the Council also has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage ('the Socio-Economic Duty' imposed under section 1 of the Equality Act 2010). In considering this, the Council must take into account the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers (WG42004 A More Equal Wales The Socio-economic Duty Equality Act 2010 (gov.wales) and must be able to demonstrate how it has discharged its duty.
26. The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Act') places a 'well-being duty' on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 national well-being goals for Wales - a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, has cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, and is globally responsible.
27. In discharging its duties under the Act, the Council has set, and published well-being objectives designed to maximise its contribution to achieving the national well-being goals. The well-being objectives are set out in Cardiff's Corporate Plan 2019-22 <http://cmsprd.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Your-Council/Strategies-plans-and-policies/Corporate-Plan/Documents/Corporate%20Plan%202018-21.pdf> When exercising its functions, the Council is required to take all reasonable steps to meet its well-being objectives. This means that the decision makers should consider how the proposed decision will contribute towards meeting the well-being objectives and must be

satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to meet those objectives.

28. The Council has to consider the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and how this strategy may improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The well-being duty also requires the Council to act in accordance with a 'sustainable development principle'. This principle requires the Council to act in a way which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Put simply, this means that Council decision makers must take account of the impact of their decisions on people living their lives in Wales in the future. In doing so, the Council must:

- Look to the long term
- Focus on prevention by understanding the root causes of problems
- Deliver an integrated approach to achieving the 7 national well-being goals
- Work in collaboration with others to find shared sustainable solutions
- Involve people from all sections of the community in the decisions which affect them.
- The decision maker must be satisfied that the proposed decision accords with the principles above; and due regard must be given to the Statutory Guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers, which is accessible using the link: <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en>

29. The Council has to be mindful of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards when making any policy decisions and consider the impact upon the Welsh Language.

### **Financial Implications**

30. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report with the preparation of the LDP AMR being completed using existing resources.

### **Human Resources Implications**

31. There are no HR implications for this report.

### **Property Implications**

32. None

## **CABINET PROPOSAL**

Council is recommended to endorse the seventh AMR for submission to the Welsh Government by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

The following Appendix is attached:

- Appendix 1 - Cardiff LDP 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Monitoring Report, October 2023