

**RLDP JOINT SCRUTINY INQUIRY – Final Report**

**Reason for this Report**

1. To seek Committee's approval for the final draft of the Joint Scrutiny Inquiry on Cardiff's Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP), prior to its presentation to Cabinet.

**Background - Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP)**

2. The RLDP is a crucial strategic document which will govern the future development and economic growth of Cardiff up to 2036. It will be a key driver of investment, competitiveness, growth and environmental protection in Cardiff and will have implications for the wider city region.
3. The next stage of the RLDP 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.
4. 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.

**The Scrutiny Inquiry Process**

5. It is essential that the Preferred Strategy is subject to robust scrutiny prior to being finalised by Cabinet. Therefore, the Scrutiny Chairs agreed that a joint task and finish group be established, consisting of the Chairs of the five Scrutiny Committees and volunteers from each committee.

6. It is anticipated that the cross committee task and finish group will continue to meet periodically following approval of the Preferred Strategy, to undertake scrutiny of future stages of the RLDP.
7. At its meeting on 22 March 2023, Members considered the Scrutiny Chairs' request for expressions of interest to take part in a cross-committee scrutiny inquiry as part of the next stage of the RLDP. Cllrs Ash-Edwards, Henshaw, Hunt and Thomson expressed an interest in joining the Chair, Cllr Williams, in representing this committee.
8. The RDLP cross-committee group met on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 to discuss how it could most effectively scrutinise this issue, given its breadth. The group agreed that prioritising three topics of focus would be most effective; and that smaller sub-groups would be established to undertake this work.
9. The three priority topics agreed were:
  - Securing Planning Obligations/s106 – Chaired by Cllr Joel Williams;
  - Transport – Chaired by Cllr Owen Jones;
  - Local and District Centres – Chaired by Cllr Peter Wong.
10. The timescales all three sub-groups worked towards were:
  - Evidence Gathering – October 2023
  - Drafting of key findings, recommendations and report – November 2023
  - Submission to full committees – December 2023

## Way Forward

11. The final draft Joint Report of the five scrutiny committees is attached at **Appendix 1**. It has been agreed by all members who participated in the three sub-groups and noted by all other scrutiny committees. Members of PRAP are invited to consider the final draft prior to its submission to Cabinet.
12. Chairs of the Economy & Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committees, Cllrs Owen Jones and Peter Wong respectively, will attend the meeting in their capacity of sub-group chairs, to support consideration of this item.

## **Legal Implications**

13. 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 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 of 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 on 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**

14. 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.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are recommended to:

- i. Approve the proposed Final Joint RLDP Inquiry report attached at **Appendix 1**.
- ii. Authorise the Chair of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee to submit the report to the Cabinet on behalf of all five scrutiny committees.

**LEANNE WESTON**

**Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer**

**7 December 2023**