

SUBJECT: MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME
MEETING: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
DATE: 12 MARCH 2018
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek comment from the Democratic Services Committee on the draft LDP Community Involvement Scheme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Democratic Services Committee considers the draft LDP Community Involvement Scheme and, if applicable, recommends additions or amendments.

3. KEY ISSUES:

Context

- 3.1 A report will be considered by Council on 19th March 2018 with regard to the land use planning framework for Monmouthshire. That report is based on the conclusions of a full review into the operation and effectiveness of the current Monmouthshire Local Development Plan 2011-2021, and Council will be asked to:

- 1) Approve the commencement of work on a replacement Local Development Plan for Monmouthshire for the period 2018-2033;
- 2) Endorse the draft Delivery Agreement including Community Involvement Scheme for four week targeted consultation; and
- 3) Agree in principle to be part of a South East Wales Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region.

- 3.2 Without prejudicing any discussion and decision on those matters to be considered by Council on 19th March 2018, the comments and input of the Democratic Service Committee on the draft Community Involvement Scheme would be invaluable. This input will help shape the way in which we engage our communities and stakeholders when preparing the new LDP, should Council agree to proceed with a new Plan.

Why is this important?

- 3.3 The land use planning system is one of the main tools available to the Council to seek to deliver its purpose, as identified in the Corporate Plan 2018-2022, of helping to build sustainable and resilient communities that support the well-being of current and future generations. The Local Development Plan (LDP) allocates land for types of development (such as housing or employment uses), designates land as open space or green wedge, and provides a policy framework which provides the basis or making decisions on planning applications. It seeks to support good quality development in the right locations, and resist poor quality or inappropriately located development.

- 3.4 To ensure the new Local Development Plan meets the needs and ambition of our communities while being deliverable it is important to engage communities and stakeholders.

The draft Community Involvement Scheme

- 3.5 The draft Delivery Agreement is provided at **Appendix 1** to this report. The Delivery Agreement is split into two key parts: the timetable for preparing the LDP and the Community Involvement Scheme.
- 3.6 The timetable for producing the revised LDP provides a clear indication of when each of the different stages of plan preparation will take place. Definitive dates are provided up to the deposit stage and indicative dates for later stages. This is an example of a project management approach to ensure that the plan is adequately resourced and delivered on time. The timetable is included in Part 2 of this Delivery Agreement.
- 3.7 The Community Involvement Scheme outlines the Authority's principles of community engagement; its approach in relation to who, how and when it intends to engage with the community and stakeholders, how it will respond to representations and how these representations will inform later stages of plan preparation. This is included as Part 3 of the Delivery Agreement.
- 3.8 Pages 13 to 16 of the document set out the people with whom we will seek to engage. Table 3 sets out how different groups would be involved in the stages of the LDP preparation.

Next steps

- 3.9 The Democratic Services Committee is invited to consider the draft Community Involvement Scheme and provide any comments or suggested amendments. The draft Scheme will be reported to Council on 19th March, and if agreed by Council, would be subject to four weeks' targeted consultation before being reported back to Council on 10th May 2018. Council approval of the final Delivery Agreement including Community Involvement Scheme in May 2018 would be followed by the submission of the Delivery Agreement to the Welsh Government. Its approval by Welsh Government would trigger the commencement of work on Monmouthshire's new LDP.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 4.1 The regulations require the submission of a Delivery Agreement including Community Involvement Scheme in order to commence a new LDP. The Democratic Services Committee is invited to consider the draft Community Involvement Scheme and provide comments for amendments or additions to the CIS.
- 4.2 The options available to the Committee are:
- 1) To consider the draft Community Involvement Scheme and suggest amendments or additions; or
 - 2) To consider the draft Community Involvement Scheme but resolve that no amendments or additions are necessary; or
 - 3) To decline to consider the draft Community Involvement Scheme.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND REASONS:

- 5.1 The input of the Democratic Services Committee is invited to help ensure community engagement is the best that it can be within the time and procedural constraints. This will not prejudice any decision that Council may make on 19th March.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report beyond a small amount of officer time.

7. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 Under the 2004 Planning Act, the LDP is required to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The role of the SA is to assess the extent to which planning policies would help to achieve the wider environmental, economic and social objectives of the LDP. In addition, the European Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive requires the '*environmental assessment*' of certain plans and programmes prepared by local authorities, including LDP's. All stages of the new LDP will be subject to a SA, whose findings will be used to inform the development of LDP Scheme, policies and site allocations in order to ensure that the LDP would be promoting sustainable development. It will be necessary to update the environmental baseline, plans, policies and programmes as part of any LDP revision process. The new LDP would also include a Well-being Assessment and Health Impact Assessment (potentially as integral part of the SA).
- 7.2 The LDP was also subjected to an Equality Challenge process and due consideration given to the issues raised.
- 7.3 The Community Involvement Strategy sets out how communities and stakeholders will be engaged in a new LDP, should Council resolve to proceed with a new Plan. Collaboration, involvement and participation are integral to the ways of working required under the Well-being Act.
- 7.4 A full Well-being assessment has not been completed for this report because the report does not seek a decision. Endorsement of the CIS for targeted consultation will be considered by Council on 19th March 2018.

Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting

- 7.3 There are no safeguarding or corporate parenting implications arising directly from this report. Engagement with children and young people would be via existing organisations such as schools or via Engage 2 Change.

8. CONSULTEES

- None to date. The purpose of this report is to agree a framework for future consultation and engagement, with associated political reporting.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1: Draft Delivery Agreement including Community Involvement Scheme

10. AUTHORS & CONTACT DETAILS:

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