

**SUBJECT: MONMOUTHSHIRE REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
ISSUES, VISION AND OBJECTIVES PAPER**

MEETING: CABINET

DATE: 5 June 2019

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is inform Cabinet of the amendments made to the Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper following targeted engagement and to seek Cabinet's endorsement of the Issues, Vision and Objectives (as amended), noting that they are subject to further refinement as the Preferred Strategy is progressed.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the amendments to the Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper following feedback received to date.
- 2.2 To endorse the updated Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper which has been prepared in connection with the Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP), noting that the objectives and vision will continue to be refined as the LDP Preferred Strategy is drafted and consulted on.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 A full review of the current Monmouthshire Local Development Plan (LDP) commenced in 2017, with the final Review Report published in March 2018. Based on the evidence contained in the Review Report, it was concluded that the LDP should be revised and that this should take the form of a full revision procedure. Council resolved in May 2018 to commence work on a replacement LDP for the County (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park).
- 3.2 The Replacement LDP will cover the period 2018-2033 and will be the statutory land use plan to support delivery of the Council's vision for the future of the County and its communities. The LDP will set out land use development proposals for the County and will identify where and how much new development will take place over the replacement Plan period. It will also identify areas to be protected from development and provide policies against which future planning applications will be assessed.
- 3.3 The Replacement LDP is being prepared in accordance with the Delivery Agreement (DA) which was agreed by WG in May 2018. The DA sets out the approach, timescales and

consultation arrangements for the Replacement LDP. The agreed timetable will see the Replacement LDP being adopted at the end of 2021/early 2022. Work has commenced on the Replacement LDP with the initial call for Candidate Sites and a targeted consultation on the draft Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report having recently closed.

Purpose of the Draft Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper

- 3.4 The preparation of the issues, vision and objectives is one of the first key stages in the Replacement Plan preparation process. The updated Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper (attached as **Appendix 1**) sets out the identified issues and proposed vision and objectives for the Replacement LDP. It sets out the key issues (both challenges and opportunities) facing the County informed by a range of evidence, including the Monmouthshire Public Service Board (PSB) Well-being Plan, Monmouthshire Corporate Business Plan, LDP Review Report, LDP Annual Monitoring Reports and Replacement LDP Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, along with wider contextual factors such as national guidance/legislation, the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and economic growth in the Bristol and South West region. It also sets out the revised draft LDP vision and objectives to address the issues/challenges/opportunities identified. The Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper will subsequently inform the Replacement LDP Preferred Strategy which will be subject to political reporting and statutory consultation later in 2019.

What are the LDP Issues, Vision and Objectives?

- 3.5 The issues relate to the key challenges, opportunities and drivers for the future of our County and communities (economic, environmental, social and cultural aspects). The objectives seek to address the identified issues, in the context of a land use planning framework, to achieve the vision. The key issues set out in the adopted Monmouthshire LDP have been reviewed to determine whether they remain relevant. New issues, challenges, opportunities and drivers that have arisen since the adoption of the current LDP have also been identified. The issues have been informed by a wide range of evidence as noted in paragraph 3.4. The Replacement LDP issues are set out in **Section 2** of the Paper and are grouped in accordance with the Seven Well-being Goals as set out in the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 3.6 The role of the LDP vision is to clarify the core purpose of the Plan and provide a framework for developing the Preferred Strategy and future detailed policies. The vision will set the overarching context for Monmouthshire for the period up to 2033. The vision set out in the adopted LDP has been reviewed and updated to take account of the issues, challenges, opportunities and drivers facing the County and reflects key elements of the PSB Well-being Plan and MCC Corporate Business Plan. The draft Replacement LDP vision is set out in **Section 3** of the Paper.
- 3.7 The LDP objectives reflect and elaborate on the Plan's vision and set out how the issues, challenges and opportunities identified as facing the area will be addressed through the Replacement LDP. The objectives identified should be capable of being addressed through the land use planning system. As with the issues and vision, the objectives set out in the adopted LDP have been reviewed/updated and reflect key elements of the PSB Well-being Plan and Corporate Business Plan. The Replacement LDP draft objectives are set out in **Section 4** of the Paper and are grouped in accordance with the Seven Well-being Goals.

The links to both the issues and main policy themes of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 10 December 2018) are also identified.

Targeted Engagement

- 3.8 The identified issues and proposed vision and objectives are heavily drawn from/reflect the PSB Well-being Plan which was extensively consulted on in 2017 and resulted in contributions from more than 1,400 people. This approach reflects Welsh Government guidance which recognises the significance of local well-being plans as a key evidence source for LDPs (paragraphs 1.6 and 1.27, Planning Policy Wales Edition 10, December 2018). In view of this, and given that it is not a statutory requirement to consult on the LDP issues, vision and objectives, it was not considered necessary to undertake a full public consultation exercise on this initial stage of the plan preparation process. Discussions on the draft issues, vision and objectives did, however, take place through an Economy and Development Select Committee Workshop which was open to all Members and Area Committee/Area Cluster meetings held throughout January/February 2019, where views were sought on the Draft Paper.
- 3.9 The feedback received covered a range of topic areas including:
- Population
 - Economic growth
 - Infrastructure
 - Housing /affordable housing
 - Economy/employment
 - Tourism /leisure
 - Retail /high streets
 - Commuting
 - Education
 - Climate Change
- 3.10 A summary of the feedback received, together with the Council's draft response and recommendation is set out in **Appendix 2**.¹ The Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper has been amended, as appropriate, to reflect the feedback received from the targeted engagement (**Appendix 1**).

Next Steps

- 3.11 The Replacement LDP vision and objectives will continue to be refined prior to inclusion in the Preferred Strategy (Autumn 2019) to reflect the outcomes of further stakeholder engagement/consultation in relation to the growth options and a revised evidence base. The spatial element of the vision will also need to be determined following consultation on the LDP growth options and will be set out in the Preferred Strategy. The growth options and Preferred Strategy will be the subject of further engagement and political reporting, including an Economy & Development Select Committee workshop.

¹ At the time of writing this report, the Caldicot Area Cluster meeting had not been held. Relevant feedback from this meeting will be will feed into the refinement exercise.

- 3.12 One notable matter of feedback was whether the draft issues, vision and objectives are challenging enough to really tackle the identified affordability, economic growth and demographic challenges identified, or whether they reflect a 'business as usual' approach. This feedback is fair, however at this stage it remains unresolved until such time as the growth options have been considered and a preferred strategy identified. Should, having considered the growth options and consultation feedback, the Council resolve to make brave and challenging decisions to seek to tackle the identified issues, the wording of the objectives and vision will be refined accordingly and will form part of the Preferred Strategy. The Preferred Strategy will be subject to future political reporting and consultation.
- 3.13 A number of other matters arising from feedback relate to detailed policy matters that will be considered in due course as the new LDP is drafted.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING): Sustainable Development and Equalities

- 4.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) sets out the requirement for all LDPs to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). All stages of the Replacement LDP will be subject to an Integrated Sustainability Assessment (including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Well-being of Future Generations (WBFG), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA), and Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)), whose findings will be used to inform the development of the Replacement LDP strategy, policies and site allocations in order to ensure that the Plan will be promoting sustainable development.
- 4.2 A Future Generations Evaluation (including equalities and sustainability impact assessment) is attached to this report at **Appendix 3**.

Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting

- 4.3 There are no safeguarding or corporate parenting implications arising directly from this report.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 5.1 The LDP Manual (Edition 2, August 2015) states that strategic issues, vision and objectives should be included within the Preferred Strategy. The Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper will therefore play a key role in informing the Replacement LDP Preferred Strategy which will be made available for consultation later in 2019. The options in relation to the Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper are limited to:
1. Amend the issues, vision and objectives set out in the Draft Paper, as appropriate, to reflect the feedback received from targeted engagement undertaken via the Economy and Development Select Committee Workshop, Area Committees/Area Cluster meetings and Economy & Development Select Committee. Continue to refine the vision and objectives prior to inclusion in the Preferred Strategy (Autumn 2019) to reflect the

outcomes of further stakeholder engagement/consultation associated with the growth options and a revised evidence base.

2. Accept the proposed issues, vision and objectives as set out in the Draft Paper with no amendments and use these as the basis for preparing the Preferred Strategy.
3. Do nothing in relation to the issues, vision and objectives set out in the Draft Paper.

5.2 Option 1: Amend the issues, vision and objectives, as appropriate, to reflect the feedback received from the targeted engagement and continue to refine the vision and objectives prior to inclusion in the Preferred Strategy. **This is the preferred option.** The purpose of targeted engagement on the Draft Paper was to seek views on the identified issues and proposed vision and objectives. It is, therefore, considered appropriate to amend the issues, vision and objectives, where relevant, to take account of the feedback received from the engagement process. As noted above (3.11), the vision and objectives will need to be further refined to ensure that they accurately reflect and address the growth options and Preferred Strategy which are the next stages of the Replacement LDP process. In addition, the spatial element of the vision will need to be determined following consultation on the LDP growth options and will be set out in the Preferred Strategy. This option is also considered appropriate having regard to the five ways of working as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

5.3 Option 2: Accept the proposed issues, vision and objectives as set out in the Draft Paper with no further amendments and use these as the basis for preparing the Preferred Strategy. The purpose of targeted engagement on the Draft Paper was to seek views on the identified issues and proposed vision and objectives. Accordingly, it would not be appropriate to disregard the feedback received from this engagement process. In addition, as explained above, the vision and objectives will need further refinement prior to inclusion in the Preferred Strategy to reflect the outcomes of further stakeholder engagement/consultation associated with the growth options and a revised evidence base. This option should therefore be discounted.

5.4 Option 3: Do nothing in relation to the issues, vision and objectives set out in the Draft Paper. As noted above, the LDP Manual (Edition 2, August 2015) requires the strategic issues, vision and objectives to be included within the LDP Preferred Strategy which will be made available for consultation towards the end of 2019. Given that the Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper will play a key role in informing the Replacement LDP Preferred Strategy, and that the Replacement LDP is essential to shape and enable the future growth of the County, it is not considered appropriate to do nothing. This option should therefore be discounted.

Recommendation:

5.5 Based on the reasons above, Option 1 (amend the issues, vision and objectives set out in the Draft Paper, as appropriate, to reflect the feedback received from the targeted engagement and continue to refine the vision and objectives prior to inclusion in the Preferred Strategy) is the preferred option.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 6.1 The success or otherwise of the replacement LDP in tackling the identified issues and achieving the objectives and vision will be evaluated via the statutory annual monitoring process. It is proposed that the Annual Monitoring Report would be reported to the Economy and Development Select Committee for scrutiny, as is current practice.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and associated regulations, Local Planning Authorities are required to ensure that their LDPs are kept up-to-date. The Council has commenced preparation of a Replacement LDP for the County (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park) which will cover the period 2018-2033. The preparation of the Issues, Vision and Objectives is one of the first key stages in Replacement Plan preparation process. As part of the LDP pre-deposit proposals, a Preferred Strategy must be prepared, which in accordance with the LDP Manual (Edition 2, August 2015) should include the strategic issues, a vision and objectives. This Paper will play a key role in informing the Replacement LDP Preferred Strategy which will be made available for consultation later in 2019.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 Officer time and costs associated with the preparation of the Replacement LDP Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper. These were within the existing Planning Policy budget and carried out by existing staff.

9. CONSULTEES:

- SLT
- Economy & Development Select Committee on 14th February 2019.
- Cabinet
- An Economy and Development Select Committee Workshop (open to all Members) was held on January 22nd 2019 to discuss/ seek views on the Draft Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper.
- Area Committees (Severnside, Central Monmouthshire, Lower Wye and North Monmouthshire).
- Area Cluster Meetings (Monmouth, Usk, Caldicot² and Chepstow).
Feedback from all of the above is included in the appended report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- PSB Well-Being Plan (February 2018)
- Monmouthshire Corporate Business Plan 2017-2022 (February 2018)
- Monmouthshire Local Development Plan Review Report (March 2018)
- Monmouthshire Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Reports, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18
- Monmouthshire Replacement LDP Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (December 2018)

² At the time of writing this report, the Caldicot Area Cluster meeting had not been held. Relevant feedback from this meeting will be will feed into the refinement exercise.

11. AUTHOR:

Mark Hand (Head of Planning, Housing and Place-Shaping)

Rachel Lewis (Planning Policy Manager)

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633 644803

Email: markhand@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01633 644827

Email: rachellewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk

