

# Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan

## **DRAFT ISSUES, VISION AND OBJECTIVES PAPER: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

June 2019

## Executive Summary

- i. The Council is preparing a new Local Development Plan (LDP) for Monmouthshire (excluding the part of the County that is within the Brecon Beacons National Park). The new LDP will identify where and how much new development will take place during the 'plan period' (2018-2033). It will allocate land for development, identify areas to be protected, and contain policies to guide decisions on applications for planning permission. We aim to adopt the new LDP at the end of 2021/early 2022.
- ii. The LDP will be accompanied by an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) which will consider the environmental, equalities, health and well-being impacts of the Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal is a working document, updated as the LDP progresses.
- iii. This Paper identifies the key issues, challenges and drivers facing the County (economic, environmental, social and cultural). Thirty-eight key issues have been identified (see **Table 2.1**), informed by a range of evidence, in particular the public engagement unpinning Monmouthshire's Public Service Board Well-being Plan.
- iv. The proposed Monmouthshire Replacement LDP Vision is

### **By 2033 Monmouthshire will be a place where:**

- (1) **People are living in sustainable, resilient communities that support the well-being of current and future generations and are more inclusive, cohesive, prosperous, vibrant and balanced demographically. Both urban and rural communities are well-connected with better access to local services and facilities, open space and employment opportunities.**
  - (2) **Communities and businesses are part of an economically thriving and well-connected County.**
  - (3) **The best of the County's built heritage, countryside, landscape and environmental assets have been protected and enhanced to retain its distinctive character.**
  - (4) **People enjoy healthier, more sustainable lifestyles with improved access to public transport and active travel opportunities and have a minimised impact on the global environment.**
- v. The role of the LDP vision is to clarify the core purpose of the new LDP and provide a framework for developing the LDP's Preferred Strategy and future detailed policies. It sets out how Monmouthshire will develop, change or be conserved in land use planning terms. A spatial element will be added to the Vision in coming months, once the Preferred Strategy is decided.
  - vi. Seventeen LDP objectives (see below) have been drawn up to set out how the issues will be addressed and the vision delivered. These have been reviewed and amended following public consultation and in the light of the Council's declaration of a climate emergency on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The objectives are listed under the most relevant Well-being goals from the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, and matched against the LDP issues, the theme from Planning Policy Wales edition 10, and matched against the PSB Monmouthshire Well-being Plan (see **Table 4.1**).

## **1) Economic Growth/Employment**

To support a thriving, well-connected, diverse economy, which provides a range of good quality employment opportunities to enable and encourage indigenous business growth and attract inward investment and competitive innovative businesses in appropriate growth sectors, including through the provision of start-ups and grow on spaces.

## **2) Retail Centres**

To sustain and enhance the main County towns of Abergavenny, Chepstow, Monmouth and Caldicot as vibrant and attractive retail centres serving their own populations and those of their surrounding hinterlands, along with increasing the potential customer base through future growth whilst recognising that the role of these centres is evolving.

## **3) Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape**

To protect, enhance and manage Monmouthshire's natural environment and ecosystems. This includes, the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the County's other high quality and distinctive landscapes, protected sites, protected species and other biodiversity interests, along with the connectivity between them by creating new linkages for them to adapt while at the same time maximising benefits for the economy, tourism, health and well-being.

## **4) Flood Risk**

To ensure that new development takes account of the risk of flooding, both existing and in the future, including the need to avoid inappropriate development in areas that are at risk from flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere and the need to design development to appropriately manage surface water run-off.

## **5) Minerals and Waste**

To meet the County's regional and local obligations to manage and dispose of its waste and to safeguard and exploit its mineral resource in a sustainable fashion.

## **6) Land**

To promote the efficient use of land, including the need to maximise opportunities for development on previously developed land, whilst recognising that brownfield opportunities are limited in Monmouthshire.

## **7) Natural Resources**

To promote the efficient use of natural resources including providing increased opportunities for water efficiency, energy efficiency, renewable energy, recycling and waste reduction.

## **8) Health and Well-being**

To improve access for all ages to recreation, sport, leisure activities, open space and the countryside and to enable healthier lifestyles.

## **9) Demography**

To increase opportunities for the younger population to both live and work within Monmouthshire to assist in ensuring a balanced demography.

## **10) Housing**

To provide a level of housing that is sufficient to provide a wide ranging choice of homes both for existing and future residents, while ensuring that local needs for appropriate, affordable and accessible housing are met as far as possible, particularly in towns but also in rural areas, so long as such housing can assist in building sustainable balanced communities.

## **11) Place-making**

To promote good quality sustainable design and layouts that enhance the character and identity of Monmouthshire's settlements and countryside; create attractive, safe and accessible places to live, work and visit; and promote people's prosperity, health, happiness and well-being.

## **12) Communities**

To build sustainable resilient communities where people have good access to employment, shops, housing, public transport, active travel, healthcare, community and cultural facilities.

## **13) Rural Communities**

To sustain existing rural communities as far as possible by providing development opportunities of an appropriate scale and location in rural areas in order to assist in building sustainable rural communities and strengthening the rural economy.

## **14) Infrastructure**

To ensure that appropriate physical and digital infrastructure (including community and recreational facilities, sewerage, water, transport, schools, health care and broadband etc.) is in place or can be provided to accommodate new development. H

## **15) Accessibility**

To seek to reduce the need to travel by promoting a mix of land use allocations and improved internet connectivity, and where travel is required, to provide opportunities for active travel and integrated sustainable transport.

## **16) Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language**

To protect and enhance the built environment, culture and heritage of Monmouthshire for the future while maximising benefits for the economy, tourism and social well-being, including supporting and safeguarding the Welsh Language.

## **17) Climate Change**

To strive to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5°C, supporting carbon reduction through a variety of measures including the use of renewable energy, the design and location of new development, encouraging balanced job and population growth to reduce out-commuting, the provision of broadband connectivity to reduce the need to travel, the provision of ultra-low emission vehicle charging infrastructure to reduce emissions and improve air quality, and the provision of quality Green Infrastructure.