

**SUBJECT: CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**MEETING: COUNCIL**

**DATE: 19 September 2019**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council's agreement to be part of the Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Development Plan and the associated governance, funding and staffing resource.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the recommendations set out in the report attached at Appendix 1 are agreed, namely:
1. That Monmouthshire County Council endorses the content of the report at Appendix 1 and agrees that the Responsible Authority be authorised to submit the Proposal for a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital Region to the Minister on behalf of the 10 Local Planning Authorities in the region.
  2. That Monmouthshire County Council endorses the Vale of Glamorgan Council as the Responsible Authority for the Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Development Plan (SDP).
  3. That Monmouthshire County Council endorses the strategic planning area should comprise the 10 local planning authority areas within the Cardiff Capital Region as shown on the map at **Appendix A**.
  4. That Monmouthshire County Council authorises relevant officers to engage with the Welsh Government in drafting the Strategic Development Plan Regulations to deliver the following governance arrangements for the SDP and Strategic Planning Panel (SPP):
    - i. That the Strategic Planning Panel (SPP) will be comprised of 10 Members, 1 from each constituent Local Authority with the weighting of votes for each constituent Local Authority being based on its population and geographical area as set out in the table below:

Local Authority	No. of Members on the Strategic Planning Panel	Weighting of Vote for constituent LA
Blaenau Gwent	1	1
Bridgend	1	2
Caerphilly	1	3
Cardiff	1	5
Merthyr Tydfil	1	1
Monmouthshire	1	3
Newport	1	2
Rhondda Cynon Taff	1	3
Torfaen	1	1
Vale of Glamorgan	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>
Nominated non-voting panel members	5	NA

- ii. That constituent Councils will be engaged through a prior consultation process as set out in Figure 1 of Appendix 1 and the SPP shall have full regard to the comments of constituent Councils.
  - iii. That decisions made on the SDP by the SPP shall require a 70% quorum of voting Members on the Panel and decisions shall require a 70% majority vote of a quorate meeting.
5. That Monmouthshire County Council endorses the setting up of an Interim Strategic Planning Panel prior to the formal establishment of the SPP and the nominated Member below represents Monmouthshire County Council on the Interim Strategic Planning Panel with delegated authority to take initial decisions on the preparation of the SDP (with a vote weighted in accordance with the table at Recommendation 4(i)) and thereafter on the Strategic Planning Panel. Monmouthshire County Council nominates:
- Councillor Bob Greenland, Cabinet Member for Innovation, Enterprise and Leisure, Monmouthshire County Council
- That in the event that Councillor Greenland is no longer able to sit on Interim Strategic Planning Panel, give delegated authority to the Leader of the Council to nominate a new Member to represent to Council on the Interim Strategic Planning Panel and Strategic Planning Panel.
6. That a Regional SDP officer team is established to progress the preparation of the SDP to be appointed by representatives of Interim Strategic Planning Panel, with appropriate human resource support from the Responsible Authority.
  7. That the cost of preparing the SDP is shared across the 10 Authorities on a proportional cost based on the voting representation on the Strategic Planning Panel, as set out in **Appendix F**, to be reviewed on an annual basis. This comprises an

initial contribution for 2019/20 from Monmouthshire of £6,520, and an annual contribution by Monmouthshire for the following five years of approximately £81,891 per annum. That Monmouthshire's Medium Term Financial Plan be amended to cover these costs as follows:

2019/20	£6,520	funded by current Planning Policy budget N130
2020/21	c.£81,891	as an addition to the MTFP
2021/22	c.£81,891	as an addition to the MTFP
2022/23	c.£81,891	funded by current Planning Policy budget N130*
2023/24	c.£81,891	funded by current Planning Policy budget N130*

\*in-budget funding is possible once work on the replacement LDP is completed

### 3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The attached report (Appendix 1) is being reported to each of the ten Cardiff Capital Region Councils to seek formal agreement to be part of, and commence work on, a Strategic Development Plan for the region. For Monmouthshire County Council, this confirms and builds upon the in principle agreement made by Council on 19 March 2018. The City Deal Agreement gave a commitment to prepare a Strategic Development Plan for the region and to work collaboratively on strategic transport and strategic planning issues. This reflects the recommendation from the Growth Commission's report.
- 3.2 The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 introduced additional tiers of statutory Development Plan:
- A National Development Framework (NDF), covering the whole of Wales and written by the Welsh Government. This will replace the Wales Spatial Plan. The Welsh Government has commenced work on the NDF and it is expected to be published in September 2020. A report will be brought to Council in October on the draft consultation version;
  - Strategic Development Plans (SDP), which are an optional tier of Plan intended to provide an effective cross-boundary planning policy framework for matters of regional significance. This would sit alongside a Regional Economic Development Strategy and Regional Transport Plan;
  - If a SDP is in place, local matters, such as the allocation of land for housing or employment, would sit in a 'light touch LDP'. If there is no SDP, a 'full LDP' is required;
  - Place Plans can then be provided at a community level. These must reflect the LDP and would be a planning consideration rather than a statutory part of the Development Plan framework.
- 3.3 Work has commenced on Monmouthshire's replacement Local Development Plan, and it is expected that this will be adopted in late 2021/early 2022. This work must continue to ensure Development Plan coverage when the current LDP expires in December 2021. It is anticipated that the proposed Strategic Development Plan (SDP) would be adopted in 2025. At that time, it will be necessary to review our (new) Local Development Plan to ensure conformity, however it will continue to be necessary to have a Local Development Plan containing local policies and land allocations/designations. Decisions on future planning applications within Monmouthshire LPA area would continue to be taken by Monmouthshire

County Council with the exception of Developments of National Significance and national infrastructure projects, as per current arrangements.

- 3.4 The report attached at Appendix 1 sets out the detailed proposals, but in summary:
- 3.4.1 It is proposed that the Welsh Government be formally notified that the 10 SE Wales Local Planning Authorities wish to produce a Strategic Development Plan for their area. This triggers the associated legal process.
- 3.4.2 It is proposed that the Vale of Glamorgan Council acts as the Responsible Authority meaning that they take on an administrative coordination role.
- 3.4.3 It is proposed that the SDP covers the area of the 10 Local Planning Authorities. The Brecon Beacons National Park Area is excluded from the SDP.
- 3.4.4 It is proposed that the Strategic Planning Panel which has the governance role for the SDP, making all decisions on the SDP, comprises 10 elected members with voting rights and 5 expert advisors, and that voting rights are weighted based on a combination of current population and land area (which gives Monmouthshire Council a 3-weighted vote). To make decisions, a 70% majority is required, and a quorum of 70% attendance is required. Prior to being considered by the Strategic Planning Panel, key matters will have been reported to each constituent Council.
- 3.4.5 It is proposed that, in advance of the formal Strategic Planning Panel being established by the Regulations, an interim SPP be established and that Councillor Bob Greenland be nominated, as Cabinet Member with responsibility for planning, to be Monmouthshire County Council's representative.
- 3.4.6 It is proposed that an officer team be established, appointed by the interim Strategic Planning Panel, to commence work on the SDP.
- 3.4.7 It is proposed that the estimated costs of the SDP are divided according to the SPP voting. This requires an initial financial contribution from Monmouthshire County Council of £6520 in 2019/20, followed by a likely contribution of £81,891 per annum for the following five years to 2024/25. This is a total estimated cost of £415,975 for Monmouthshire.

#### Next Steps

- 3.5 Should all 10 Councils in the region secure agreement to proceed (the Vale of Glamorgan and Rhondda Cynon Taf Councils have already done so), a letter will be sent to the Welsh Government by the Responsible Authority to formally notify of the proposal to commence a SDP for SE Wales. Work would then commence on the Regulations and the interim Panel and officer team would be established.

#### **4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):**

##### Sustainable Development and Equalities

- 4.1 The SDP will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). All stages of the SDP will be subject to an Integrated Sustainability Assessment (including Strategic Environmental

Assessment (SEA), Well-being of Future Generations (WCFG), 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 SDP strategy, policies and strategic site allocations in order to ensure that the Plan will be promoting sustainable development. Section 3 of the attached report at Appendix 1 considers this matter further.

- 4.2 A Future Generations Evaluation (including equalities and sustainability impact assessment) is attached to this report at **Appendix 4**.

Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting

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

**5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

Option	Benefits	Risks	Comments
1: That MCC agrees to be part of the SDP and the associated recommendations	The SDP will allow proper meaningful regional planning on matters of strategic importance. The proposal sets out the governance and resourcing of the proposal. Local matters such as allocating sites for development and decision-making on planning applications remains with MCC. Key stages of the SDP will be reported to Council for agreement before proceeding to the SDP Strategic Planning Panel.	<p>The SDP relies on trust and cooperation throughout the region. As a statutory Development Plan, our future LDPs must be in conformity with it.</p> <p>In the short term, there is a risk that not all Councils sign up to the SDP, or that WG rejects the proposal. However everything possible has been done to mitigate these risks through careful open dialogue over the last two years.</p>	This is the preferred option
2: Do not agree to be part of the SDP	Retains full control of forward planning functions within MCC.	MCC will be trying to operate in isolation in a number of matters that are of a strategic and regional nature. This could minimise the benefits to the County from other CCR work, and the benefits the region can derive from	WG has the ability to direct an Authority to be part of the SDP, although there is no indication at present that it would be minded to do so. Monmouthshire has identified itself as part of the CCR City Deal

		Monmouthshire, as we would have a limited voice at a regional level.	ad regional work and has played a lead role in bringing those arrangements together.
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Recommendation:

5.1 Based on the reasons above, Option 1 is the preferred option.

**6. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

6.1 The success or otherwise of the SDP in tackling the identified issues and achieving the objectives and vision will be evaluated via the statutory annual monitoring process.

**7. REASONS:**

7.1 There is a need for joined-up strategic planning for the Cardiff Capital Region, providing an enabling tool for the region’s economic growth, transport/connectivity and other ambitions. The best way of achieving this is via a statutory Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region in order to:

- Provide a regional spatial framework for the future development and use of land in the Cardiff Capital Region;
- Achieve truly transformational change in the region;
- Provide the mechanism for consensus to be reached on significant strategic and cross boundary land use issues;
- Provide certainty, transparency and democratic accountability for decision making on land-use planning matters at a strategic/regional level;
- Guide strategic public and private investment decisions, including those made under the City Deal initiative and beyond; and
- Enable true collaboration between LPAs working together on a Development Plan framework for the region, with associated benefits such as shared resources, resilience and savings.

7.2 The City Deal Agreement gave a commitment to prepare a Strategic Development Plan for the region and to work collaboratively on strategic transport and strategic planning issues. This reflects the recommendation from the Growth Commission’s report.

7.3 A statutory SDP provides certainty to developers, investors and our communities that key strategic decisions around housing, transport, employment and infrastructure provision are being taken at an appropriate regional level, whilst still allowing key decisions on planning proposals to be taken locally through Local Development Plan allocations and policies and thereafter in development management decisions.

**8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

8.1 These are detailed in paragraphs 2.31 to 2.41 and Appendix E of the report attached at Appendix 1. It is proposed that the estimated costs of the SDP are divided according to the SPP voting. This requires an initial financial contribution from Monmouthshire County

Council of £6520 in 2019/20, followed by a likely contribution of £81,891 per annum for the following five years to 2024/25. This is a total estimated cost of £415,975 for Monmouthshire.

8.2 The initial cost of £6520 can be met within the existing planning policy service budget. Once work on our replacement LDP is completed at the end of 2021/22, the annual £81,891 can be funded from the existing planning policy budget. However, for 2020/21 and 2021/22 when the existing planning policy budget will be required to fund the replacement LDP, there is a funding shortfall of approximately £164k. It is therefore recommended that the Monmouthshire Medium Term Financial Plan be amended to allow for this expenditure.

**9. CONSULTEES:**

- SLT
- Cabinet

**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)
- Local Housing Market Assessment (September 2018)

**11. AUTHOR:**

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**APPENDICES:**

**APPENDIX 1: Proposals for a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital Region**

**Appendix A – Proposed Strategic Planning Area Boundary Map**

**Appendix B - Letter from Lesley Griffiths (then Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs) to all Leaders and Chief Executives dated 13.12.17**

**Appendix C – SDP Timeline**

**Appendix D - Responsible Authority - Options Paper**

**Appendix E - Staff Resources**

**Appendix F - Cost Analysis (June 2019)**

**APPENDIX 2: Wellbeing of Future Generations evaluation**