

## **Local Development Plan Advisory Panel**

**January 19 2018 – Carmarthen – 14.00pm**

### **1 In attendance**

*Councillors:* Mair Stephens (Chair), Tyssul Evans, John James, Sue Allen, Kevin Madge, Darren Price, Ken Howell, Ieuan Wyn Davies & Alun Lenny (14.08pm).

*Officers:* Ian Llewelyn: Forward Planning Manager, Owain Enoch & Simon Clement: Forward Planning Officers and Steven P Murphy: Senior Solicitor.

### **2 Welcome and introductions**

Cllr Mair Stephens welcomed all present to the meeting. Officers were instructed to clarify the position in relation to the non-attendance of a translator.

### **3 Apologies for absence**

None.

### **4 Confirmation of minutes**

4.1 Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the Panel meeting held on November 17 2017 that had been provided to Members in advance of the meeting.

4.2 It was resolved to confirm the minutes as presented and to instruct officers to take them through the reporting cycle to Executive Board.

### **5 Existing actions**

5.1 Consideration was given to a verbal report provided by officers which summarised progress being made on existing actions from prior meetings of the Panel.

5.2 It was resolved to note the verbal report provided and to instruct officers to list any pertinent items on future agendas of the Panel as and where appropriate.

### **6 Correspondence from Lesley Griffiths AM to the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council**

6.1 Whilst not on the agenda, the Chair considered that the content of letter required the Panel's consideration as a matter of urgency. The letter, dated 13 December 2017, invited the preparation of a joint LDP for Mid and West Wales. Lesley Griffiths AM was seeking responses to the letter's content by the 28 February 2018.

6.2 Members expressed concern in relation to a number of issues, particularly in relation to a lack of clarity on the strategic context and alignment (notably the City Deal, the Mid Wales Partnership and the emerging Strategic Development Plans). It was also noted that the letter does not quantify how preparing a joint LDP would deliver any efficiency savings and better outcomes.

6.3 Concerns were expressed in relation to the potential abortive cost and officer time should Lesley Griffiths AM intervene in the preparation of a revised LDP. There was concern that Lesley Griffiths AM could direct that a joint Plan be prepared or determine that any revised Carmarthenshire LDP would lack a statutory status. Officers clarified that the Minister and the Welsh Government could prevent the preparation of a statutory Plan by withholding approval for the Delivery Agreement, however further clarity would be sought on powers of direction. The potential risks arising from proceeding ahead of clarity on the Minister's approach should

a Joint Plan not be agreed to were highlighted. In noting these risks, there was a general consensus that the preparation of a Revised Carmarthenshire LDP should continue. The Panel deemed that the overriding risk at the present time for Carmarthenshire is a “no Plan” County at 2021 and any slippage to the timescale at this early stage would be difficult to overcome.

6.4 It was noted that high level discussions will be held over the coming weeks with Lesley Griffiths AM and the Welsh Local Government Association. There will also be a corporate response to the letter penned in advance of the 28 February 2018. Panel Members advised that elected AM's and MP's be advised and briefed as appropriate.

6.5 It was resolved that:

- (a) A copy of the letter from Lesley Griffiths AM be distributed to Panel Members forthwith;
- (b) The preparation of a Revised Carmarthenshire LDP should continue in accordance with the resolution of full Council on the 10 January 2018;
- (c) The concerns expressed by Panel Members be reflected in the corporate response being penned to Lesley Griffiths AM and within forthcoming high level discussions / meetings;
- (d) AM's / MP's be advised and briefed as appropriate;
- (e) Clarity be sought as to the potential scope for Lesley Griffiths AM in issuing a direction in relation to the preparation of a revised LDP for Carmarthenshire.

## **7 Key Stakeholder Forum: Terms of Reference**

7.1 Consideration was given to the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) which were provided to Members in advance of the meeting.

7.2 It was resolved: to ratify the ToR as presented, subject to the incorporation of the Panel's amendments therein.

## **8 Key Stakeholder Forum: Membership**

8.1 Consideration was given to the draft membership list which was provided to Members in advance of the meeting.

8.2 It was resolved: to ratify the membership list as presented, subject to the incorporation of the Panel's amendments therein.

## **9 Community Engagement**

9.1 Consideration was given to the scoping paper which was provided to Members in advance of the meeting. It was noted that the Delivery Agreement, as approved for public consultation by full Council on 10 January 2018, includes a Community Involvement Scheme.

9.2 Officers confirmed that they have undertaken exploratory discussions with Planning Aid Wales (PAW) with a view to commissioning them to assist with community engagement. A costed proposal has been received from PAW and is currently under consideration. A key component of the PAW proposal is to assist with the facilitation of the Key Stakeholder Forum.

9.3 Panel Members advised that there are considerable opportunities afforded by social media and officers confirmed that discussions are also ongoing with the Council's press and media team. Officers confirmed that they are also exploring the possibility of commissioning an animation to stimulate interest.

9.4 It was resolved to:

- (a) Note the report provided;
- (b) Endorse the potential role of PAW in assisting with community engagement; subject to the agreeing of the appropriate stages and services offered, a costed proposal and confirmation of procurement matters; and
- (c) Convene the first meeting of the Key Stakeholder Forum at the earliest possible opportunity.

**10 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be confirmed in due course, pending the outcome of those exchanges with Lesley Griffiths AM (minute number 6 refers).