

Public Document Pack

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council



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*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg.
Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich
dewis iaith.*

*We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please
let us know if your language choice is Welsh.*



Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 / 643147 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Tuesday, 4 May 2021

Dear Councillor,

TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

A meeting of the Town & Community Council Forum will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams on **Monday, 10 May 2021 at 16:00.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 8
To receive for approval the Minutes of 15/02/2021
4. Climate Emergency - 2030 Decarbonisation Agenda update 9 - 12
5. Planning Update Local Development Plan, National Planning Policy and Placemaking 13 - 20
6. Urgent Items
To consider any other item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Rule 4 of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Note: Please note: Due to the current requirement for social distancing this meeting will not be held at its usual location. This will be a virtual meeting and Members and Officers will be attending remotely. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk or tel. 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yours faithfully

By receiving this Agenda Pack electronically you will save the Authority approx. £0.40p in printing costs

K Watson

Chief Officer, Legal, HR & Regulatory Services

Councillors:

S Aspey
SE Baldwin
JPD Blundell
MC Clarke
HJ David
P Davies
DK Edwards
RM Granville
B Jones
KL Rowlands

Councillors

B Sedgebeer
CE Smith
SG Smith
JH Tildesley MBE
SR Vidal
MC Voisey
KJ Watts
AJ Williams
RE Young

Plus a representative from each
of the Town/Community
Councils

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM HELD IN REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 16:00

Present

Councillors

HJ David – Chairperson

G Chappell	D Unwin	A Williams	K Rowlands
C Reeves	DJ Evans	J Hillier-Raikes	J Pratt
JPD Blundell	S Dendy	DK Edwards	B Jones
CE Smith	SG Smith	JH Tildesley MBE	SR Vidal
KJ Watts	RE Young	M Jones	P Davies
M Lloyd	A Hussain	M Thomas	
M Clarke			

Apologies for Absence

B Sedgebeer

Officers:

Shruth Guriswamy	BDP Consultants
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Michael Pitman	Democratic Services Officer
Nicola Bunston	Consultation Engagement and Equalities Manager
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Gill Lewis	Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services
Delyth Webb	Group Manager - Strategic Regeneration

Clerk's to
Town/Community
Councils

D Evans
K Grabham
G Letman
DL Jones
S Allin

200. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

201. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of a meeting of the Town and Community Council Forum dated 26 October 2020, be approved as a true and accurate record.

202. OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION "FIT FOR THE FUTURE"

The Consultation, Engagement and Equalities Manager presented a report, the purpose of which, was to present the Town and Community Council Forum with a copy of the

Outcome of the 'Fit for the Future' consultation report that was presented to Cabinet on 19 January 2021, for information.

She advised that, following a number of years of reductions in funding from central government, and continued financial pressures, along with addressing post-Covid-19 recovery, all Councils across the country are continuing to change the way they work and the services they provide so that they can manage with less. Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has made reductions from its budget of £22 million over the last four years (2017-18 to 2020-21), with an expectation of significant further reductions required over the next four years.

A public consultation exercise was undertaken over an eight week period from 19 October 2020 to 13 December 2020 on the Council's budget proposals contained within its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

With regard to this, respondents were asked to share their views on a range of areas including:-

- Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Business and the economy;
- Health and wellbeing;
- Customer access to Civic Offices;
- Digitalisation;
- Council Tax levels;
- The future.

Within the background section of the report, it explained all the methods of consultation that had been pursued with stakeholders and other organisations/groups that included the Youth Council, in order to ensure that the process was far reaching and included as wide an audience as was possible, so that individuals and groups were able to be given an opportunity to respond to the consultation.

The Consultation, Engagement and Equalities Manager, confirmed that attached to the cover report, was a copy of the report to Cabinet on 19 January 2021 on the Outcome of the 'Fit for the Future' Consultation (at Appendix A).

The attached consultation report (at Appendix B), set out in detail the views expressed by those who had participated in the consultation.

Overall, the council had received 1,831 interactions from a combination of survey completions, engagement at various meetings, social media engagement and via the authority's Citizens' Panel. Due to the impact of Covid-19 this was a decrease of 5,606 (75%) on the 7,437 interactions from last year. A total of 1,421 survey responses were received, which was a decrease of 58% on last year's survey completions.

The response rate, by method of interaction, was detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report.

There were no questions in relation to this report, which was for information purposes only.

RESOLVED:

That the Town and Community Council Forum received and considered the report, alongside the detailed reports attached at Appendix A and Appendix B.

203. **BRIDGEND TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION MASTERPLAN CONSULTATION (DECEMBER 2020 - MARCH 2021) - ENGAGEMENT WITH TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

The Corporate Director – Communities submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to inform the Town and Community Council Forum of the proposed Masterplan for the Bridgend Town Centre and also of the public consultation, with the aim to ensure effective engagement with Town and Community Councils, local residents and businesses.

The report was supported by a power point presentation from Ms. Shruthi Guruswamy from BDP Consultants, on the current and future proposals.

The Group Manager – Strategic Regeneration, advised that the, Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan was commissioned in February 2020 with the purpose of it being a key strategic document to create a coherent basis for securing future funding, attracting investors and delivering a comprehensive range of regeneration projects.

BDP Consultants and the wider sub-consultant team consisting of Asbri Planning, Cooke and Arkwright and Phil Jones Associates were appointed by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), to prepare a Regeneration Masterplan for and on behalf of BCBC for the Bridgend town centre.

The Masterplan purpose was to ensure that Bridgend builds on its many strengths, so that alongside recent investment, there is a catalyst for future growth that incorporates town centre mixed use regeneration. It will be used as a dynamic long-term planning document that will offer a theoretical layout to guide future regeneration and growth. It also provided analysis, recommendations, and proposals for the town centre. It complements the Local Development Plan and builds upon the Bridgend Town Centre Framework.

As part of the development of the Masterplan, BCBC had conducted an extensive stakeholder engagement process during the early stages of the project. The findings were represented / incorporated into the Masterplan. BCBC extended an invite to all external stakeholders including local organisations, landowners, the Bridgend Town Council, other governmental authorities and relevant working groups. BDP also subsequently conducted a visioning workshop with a range of external stakeholders.

The draft Masterplan was presently out for consultation, Members were advised.

The draft Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan, outlined a vision for a liveable and vibrant place. This vision brings together enterprise, employment, education, in-town living, shopping, culture, tourism and well-being within a historic setting.

She explained further, that the consultation gave an overview of the Plan which identified a series of ambitious and deliverable projects. To achieve the overall vision and regenerate Bridgend Town Centre over the next ten years, four broad themes had been identified:

- Growth;
- Resilience;
- Well-being;
- Identity

Bridgend town centre consists of a variety of uses, which has formed the basis of eight development zones, within which 23 relevant projects have been identified, plus a number of site wide projects.

The development zones included:

- The Railway Station Area
- Brackla, Nolton and Oldcastle
- The Retail Core
- Café and Cultural Quarter
- The Northern Gateway
- Riverside
- Newcastle
- Sunnyside

Key projects in the Masterplan were:

- A new entrance to the railway station from Tremains Road and Llynfi Lane;
- Improvements to the Northern Gateway - to create a legible and attractive gateway to the town centre;
- The relocation of Bridgend College to the town centre;
- To create a culture hub as an indoor event space;
- A new town square;
- More in-town living;
- Better access to the town centre;
- Strengthen the retail core; and
- Improvements in and along the Ogmore River

The Group Manager – Strategic Regeneration confirmed that a consultation survey aimed to gain views from as many different people and businesses about what their preferred projects, options and priorities might be, in terms of the Masterplans future proposals.

The Vice-Chairperson of the Forum thanked Ms. Guruswamy and colleagues in BCBC for all the hard work that had been committed to the Bridgend Masterplan to date. He felt that the proposals within the Plan were exciting and would give vision to Bridgend in future, thus reflecting it as being a County town, through a future joined-up series of different strategies. Work was in progress with landowners in the town as well as stakeholders, with a view to pursuing the aspirations of the Masterplan which would be financially supported through grant funding, as well as through other avenues. Some of the aims and objectives of the Masterplan, would free-up some invaluable open space in the town, which was crucial in these times of Covid-19. The Plan would also bring in opportunities for further and higher education to the town centre, at the Cheapside Police Station site, he added.

A Member noted that there were a number of different projects earmarked in the Bridgend Masterplan, ie around 23 in total and undoubtedly these would be progressed with on a phased basis. He asked how long after the consultation ended would it be, before works commenced and if any of the Masterplans projects had been considered in order of priority.

The Group Manager – Strategic Regeneration advised that consultations were ongoing with Welsh Government and other key partners, for example landowners within the town and projects such as locating the College to the town centre was a realistic proposal that was not too far off. Some finance had been made available to fund the Masterplan in 2021-22 for this and negotiations were in place with Bridgend College currently. The

train station propositions were also not that far away, as there was also funding available for works to be carried out there. The Council and partners were in consultations with Transport for Wales and Network Rail in relation to this particular project proposal, she advised. Smaller scale funding was also available presently, in order to 'green' the town centre and for smaller scale property enhancements.

A Member asked what was the total amount of cost estimated to support all the proposed projects within the Bridgend Masterplan and would any of it be funded by the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.

The Leader confirmed that certain opportunities associated with the Masterplan had been actively explored with the City Deal, who had also been involved in the development process of the Bridgend Masterplan.

The Group Manager – Strategic Regeneration echoed the above, adding that the works planned at the Bridgend Railway Station aligned with the City Deal Metro project.

The representative from BDP Consultants stated, that the design, land acquisition and other relevant costs around the Bridgend Masterplan were difficult to gauge at the moment and would likely change in any event, as the Plan progressed in the future.

A Member asked if the Bridgend Masterplan travel initiatives included any improved transport accessibility proposals from Bridgend to Porthcawl and vice-versa, in order that people could enjoy the different types of culture these two towns had to offer.

The Leader advised that as part of the Salt Lake car park project in conjunction with the City Deal ideology regarding improved travel links, bus transport routes would be strengthened between both Bridgend and Porthcawl, Porthcawl and Pyle Railway Station and Pyle and Bridgend. Improved Active Travel links were also being looked at he added, right throughout the County Borough.

RESOLVED: That the Forum noted the report and the accompanying presentation given by BDP Consultants.

204. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021

The Chief Executive submitted a report that was presented by the Council's Monitoring Officer, in order to provide the Town and Community Council Forum with an update regarding the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill, together with an Action Plan to ensure that the Council is prepared for the various elements of the Bill that will come into force in due course.

She explained that the Bill was passed by the Senedd on 18th November 2020, and would receive Royal Assent in January 2021. It was a substantial piece of legislation covering a number of key elements of work.

The new approach, as set out in the Bill, was designed to be a more streamlined, flexible, sector-led approach to performance, good governance and improvement. The intention was for Councils to be proactive in considering how internal processes and procedures should change to enable more effective planning, delivery and decision making in order to drive better outcomes.

In summary the Monitoring Officer outlined, that the Bill would introduce the following:

- Reforming Electoral Arrangements for local government;
- General Power of Competence;

- Reforming public participation in local government;
- Reforms around democratic governance and leadership;
- Reform of the performance and governance regime;
- Collaborative Working; and
- Voluntary Mergers of principal councils

It was anticipated that the Bill would receive Royal Assent in January 2021.

The 'Coming into Force' provisions of the Bill were complex explained the Monitoring Officer, with some provisions coming into force within days of Royal Assent, others within months, and the majority via Ministerial Statutory Instrument. Welsh Government will be developing a clear outline timetable for implementation for local authorities. The bulk however, would come into force in conjunction with the County Borough Elections in May 2022. Bespoke training sessions would be offered to Town/Community Council's on key elements of the Bill, which also affected their ways of working, at appropriate future dates, added the Monitoring Officer

Attached to the report at Appendix 1, was an Action Plan to ensure that the Council was prepared for the introduction of the Bill. The Action Plan will be updated accordingly as various provisions of the Bill come into force, she concluded.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the Forum noted the report and Action Plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report
 - (2) Noted also that further reports on individual elements of the Bill will be submitted to the Forum in due course, should this be considered necessary.

205. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items in terms of written reports accepted as such by the Leader and Chairperson. However, he invited the Monitoring Officer to update the Forum on some proposed training planned for the immediate future.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that BCBC Members, had recently received Code of Conduct training from an external provider. She advised that it was now planned to extend two further sessions of this to Town/Community Councillors at the end of March/early April. She urged Members to sign-up for this training, dates for which would be firmed-up and conveyed to them, in the next week or so.

The meeting closed at 18:10

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

10 MAY 2021

CLIMATE EMERGENCY – 2030 DECARBONISATION AGENDA UPDATE

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update on the BCBC decarbonisation work programme and raise issues of relevance to Town and Community Councils in their decarbonisation work.

2. Connection to corporate Well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** –Taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 Welsh Government (WG) declared a Climate Emergency in April 2019 and set out its priorities to address change for Wales to build resilience. In July 2020, the Welsh Government committed to achieving a net zero carbon public sector in Wales by 2030. This commitment includes the public sector in its entirety, including Town and Community Councils.
- 3.2 Bridgend supports the net zero goal and we have adopted it into our updated Corporate Plan for 2021-22. In addition, the Council is committed to coordinating action to help other areas of the economy make a decisive shift towards decarbonisation, by engaging in collaboration with other public sector organisations (including Town and Community Councils), academia, industry and the third sector.

- 3.3 The areas of focus for our internal decarbonisation efforts are energy, transport, buildings, procurement and open spaces. We will be optimising our use of buildings, reducing energy use, designing new builds to the highest standards of energy efficiency, ensuring judicious use of our open spaces to enhance biodiversity and sequester carbon through tree planting, seeking out renewable energy opportunities, and buying better overall. Most importantly, we will be having conversations internally across the Authority so that staff can coalesce around a genuine shared ambition for making a significant step change in our climate impact.
- 3.4 99% of emissions from within the boundaries of the county borough come from sectors other than the public sector. The Authority has a clear leadership role in influencing, driving and facilitating change right across the Authority. So aligning low carbon strategies and sharing best practice with Local Partnership Boards, regional neighbours, communities, and business, including our Town and Community Councils, is essential to tackling the full range of emissions, including those from goods and services procured.
- 3.5 All public bodies need to address becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030, based on tackling the different scope emissions shown in Figure 1 below. Our public sector partners are establishing their carbon baselines and seeking to address the same issues. Businesses are also identifying their corporate and social responsibilities to address climate change to reduce their impact and improve social well-being. A collaborative approach across sectors is therefore both desirable and practical.

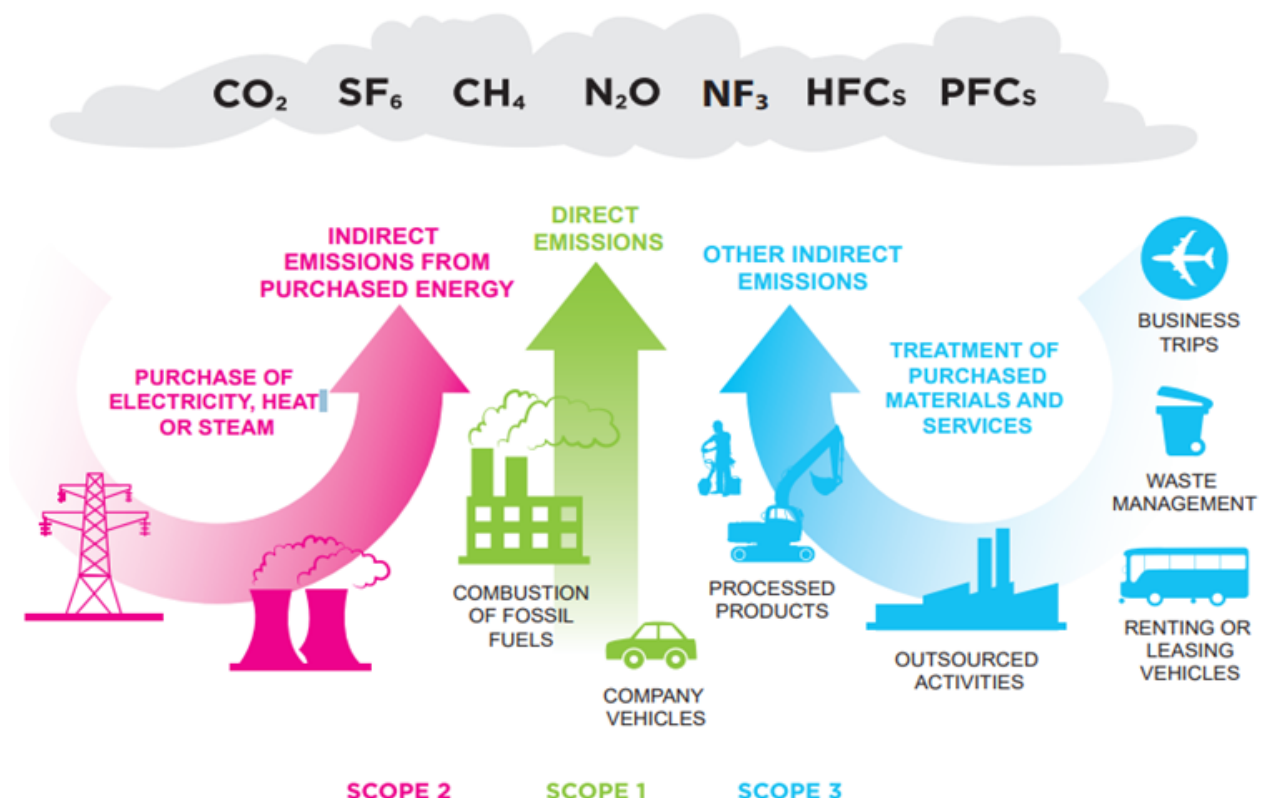


Figure 1 Scope for public sector emissions reduction

3.6 The shift to a low carbon system increases economic output and is part of our national recovery plans. Our strategy and action plan for carbon neutrality will therefore contribute to local economic prosperity.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 BCBC has engaged Carbon Trust to conduct a baseline emissions audit of our Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. This baseline will be used to prepare a plan for full decarbonisation by 2030.

4.2 Our provisional estimate is that around 60% of our emissions result from procurement. Our work with our suppliers and the supply chain will be crucial in ensuring swift progress to net zero.

4.3 The Council cannot achieve its decarbonisation goal alone and we will engage widely with partners for sharing experience, knowledge, and delivering on our aims. Our draft action plan will be shared widely for consultation so that members of the public, civil society, and all stakeholders have an opportunity to shape our work.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no direct impact on the Council's policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 An initial EIA screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 Setting the Carbon Neutral Bridgend Council 2030 strategy and action plan pathway is a positive step in regard to the Council's role in complying with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. A clear pathway to decarbonisation demonstrates BCBC taking a positive, proactive leadership role within the decarbonisation agenda in Wales which will ensure that the significant environmental, social and economic opportunities will be captured for Bridgend as well as the authority being able to demonstrate its compliance with national carbon reduction targets. Our engagement with Town and Community Councils will help provide a shared level of high ambition and ensure that our approaches are coordinated for maximum societal benefit.

7.2 In terms of meeting the 5 ways of working within the Act a "Bridgend 2030" Decarbonisation strategy and our engagement with Town and Community Councils will provide the following:-

1. **Long Term:** A decarbonisation strategy and action plan will provide the pathway for Bridgend County to develop a decarbonised set of enhancements that meet the Welsh 2030 decarbonisation targets. Our engagement with Town and Community Councils will help us to reach our shared ambition for

making early emissions reductions which are critical for long term climate stability.

2. **Prevention:** The decarbonisation strategy and action plan are premised on fully realising BCBC's contribution to preventing the worst excesses of climate change. Likewise, our engagement with Town and Community Councils will facilitate their action to take preventative steps.
3. **Integration:** A decarbonisation strategy and action plan offers an opportunity to work with a wide range of partners, including Town and Community Councils, to ensure that effort is coordinated and that resources are used effectively.
4. **Collaboration:** Working with and through our own staff as well as multiple external stakeholders, collaboration is critical to achieving our shared decarbonisation goals.
5. **Involvement:** Creating and delivering a decarbonisation strategy and action plan will involve working with a variety of stakeholders, including Town and Community Councils and the public we serve.

8. Financial implications.

- 8.1 The report is for noting and what is covered is being carried out within existing budgets.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 That the Town and Community Council Forum notes the report.

Janine Nightingale
CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES
28 April 2021

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Postal address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB

Background documents

None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

10 May 2021

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

PLANNING UPDATE

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY & PLACEMAKING

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Local Development Plan, the Publication of new national planning policy and an overview of the principles of placemaking in the planning process.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-**

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** –. taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Local Development Plan (LDP) is a statutory, high level strategy which must be prepared and sets out in land-use terms the priorities and objectives of the Council. The current Bridgend LDP is due to expire and the preparation of a replacement plan is underway. The plan is at a critical stage and the Council is seeking to publish the Replacement LDP Deposit Draft for public consultation in June 2021 for a period of 8 weeks in accordance with the Delivery Agreement approved by Council and Welsh Government. All Town and Community Councils will be notified of the consultation arrangements when they have been confirmed.
- 3.2 In February 2021, the Welsh Government published Future Wales, The National Plan 2040 (FW2040) along with an update Planning Policy Wales 11 (PPW11). FW2040 is a national development plan for the purposes of determining planning applications and PPW 11 is the relevant national planning policy. The LDP must be in conformity with FW2040.
- 3.3 FW2040 together with PPW11 provides the national policy background and places great emphasis on the principle of ‘placemaking’. Placemaking relates to the way places are planned, designed, developed and managed and has the potential to

positively shape where and how people will live, work, socialise, move about and engage.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The Local Development Plan

4.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Bridgend County Borough Council to prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP), setting out its objectives for the development and use of land in Bridgend County Borough over the plan period to 2033, and its policies to implement them. The Deposit Draft builds upon the Preferred Strategy, which has previously been consulted on in 2019. The purpose of the Deposit Draft consultation is to seek the views of all of our communities on the next stage of the LDP process. Amendments to the Deposit Draft can be made after the public consultation and prior to being reported to Council to seek approval to submit the plan for independent examination in public (EIP).

4.3 Once finalised and adopted, the Replacement LDP will replace the existing LDP (2006-2021) as the statutory Development Plan for the County Borough. The Replacement LDP will be required to:

- deliver sustainable & transit-orientated development;
- maximise well-being and create sustainable places through placemaking;
- build upon, and add value to Future Wales and national planning policies and guidance produced by the Welsh Government;
- reflect local aspirations for the County Borough, based on a vision agreed by the Council and other stakeholders;
- express in land-use terms the objectives of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Bridgend Public Service Board's Well-being Plan.
- provide a basis for rational and consistent development management decisions;
- guide growth and change, whilst protecting local diversity, character, and sensitive environments;
- ensure the social and economic resilience of settlements and their ability to adapt to change over the long term; and
- show why, how and where change will occur over the plan period.

4.4 The Deposit Draft consists of a Written Statement and Proposals Map. The Written Statement outlines local planning policies, land use allocations and associated justification based on the supporting evidence. The Proposals Map illustrates the land use allocations, settlement boundaries and planning designations proposed in the Plan.

4.5 LDP Vision, Strategic Objectives and Specific Objectives

4.6 The LDP Vision is set out in the Deposit Draft and will be delivered through 4 Strategic Objectives, underpinned by 35 Specific Objectives. These seek to reflect national

policy and legislation and address the issues facing the County Borough. The four Strategic Objectives are as follows:

- ***To Create High Quality Sustainable Places (Placemaking)***
- ***To Create Active, Healthy, Cohesive and Social Communities***
- ***To Create Productive and Enterprising Places***
- ***To Protect and Enhance Distinctive and Natural Places***

In turn, the 35 Specific Objectives have been devised to create the right conditions to address the various social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being outcomes.

4.7 Growth and Spatial Strategy

4.8 Development will be directed towards locations conducive to sustainable placemaking that facilitate a balance of environmentally friendly, economically vibrant, and socially inclusive characteristics, aiming to benefit current inhabitants and future generations alike. Sustainable placemaking is therefore an overarching concept that underpins the Replacement LDP, specifically seeking to create places that:

- Meet the needs of all members of the community;
- Promote balanced economic growth that provides access to employment opportunities;
- Provide for active travel and integrated Green Infrastructure networks;
- Provide appropriate infrastructure and services;
- Provide a range of high quality private and affordable housing; and
- Are resilient and adaptable to change and support the Councils vision to make Bridgend a decarbonised, digitally connected smart County Borough.

4.9 Correspondingly, and in order to achieve the Vision and Objectives of the LDP, the Council will follow a Regeneration and Sustainable Growth Strategy. This will provide the framework to help realise the regeneration priorities of the Council, whilst also apportioning sustainable growth towards existing settlements that demonstrate strong employment, service and transportation functions. This approach seeks to balance housing, economic development, connectivity, social needs and environmental protection and enhancement to allow the County Borough to prosper, whilst contributing to the success of the Cardiff Capital Region and Swansea Bay Region. This approach has directly informed and resulted in the formulation of Strategic Policy 1 (SP1), which outlines how the LDP will make provision to deliver the Regeneration and Sustainable Growth Strategy for 2018-2033.

4.10 Strategic Allocations

4.11 In order to enable the implementation of the Growth and Spatial Strategy, Strategic Policy 2 (SP2) defines a suite of Strategic Allocations where growth will be focused. SP2 therefore builds upon SP1 by directing growth to Regeneration Sites and Sustainable Urban Extensions within the identified Regeneration Growth Areas and Sustainable Growth Areas. The location and scale of these sites present

opportunities for significant new development to take place over the plan period to help meet the LDP Vision and Objectives and ensure implementation of the Regeneration and Sustainable Growth Strategy. The combined development of these sites will result in the provision of comprehensive residential, employment and commercial development whilst providing new transportation, affordable housing, community, education and recreation facilities to serve the respective sites and existing communities.

4.12 Strategic and Development Management Policies

4.13 A suite of Strategic Policies were identified in the Preferred Strategy. These have been modified to take account of representations received and extended to provide a more comprehensive Strategic Policy Framework, which form the basis to implement and deliver the Vision and Strategic Objectives. The updated suite of 18 Strategic Policies is now supported by 56 accompanying Development Management Policies, which address a range of detailed thematic issues.

4.14 Supporting Documents

4.15 The Deposit Draft is supported by a Candidate Site Assessment, which has identified the sites that are suitable for allocation within the Replacement LDP. All candidate sites have been subject to a sequential four-stage assessment. This has considered the potential of each site to support the Preferred Strategy before scrutinising detailed site assessments (in terms of deliverability, sustainability and suitability) and consulting with appropriate specific consultation bodies. The fourth stage of this assessment has sought additional information from site promoters, where appropriate, to support sites for inclusion and subsequent allocation in the Deposit Plan.

4.16 There are a large number of supporting technical documents that have been produced to inform the Replacement LDP. These ensure that the Deposit Draft has complied with all statutory requirements and that the policies and proposals it contains are based on substantial evidence. This evidence base will form part of the consultation and should be read alongside the Deposit Draft.

4.17 Steps Following Consultation

4.18 Public consultation on the Deposit Draft will give all members of our communities and key stakeholders the opportunity to provide their opinion. Once consultation has closed, officers will review all representations submitted and consider whether changes need to be made to the Deposit Plan. The supporting evidence base will also be reviewed to determine if any updates are required. The Council will then need to prepare a new Delivery Agreement with Welsh Government to set out an appropriate timescale towards formal adoption of the replacement LDP.

4.18 **National Planning Policy: Future Wales 2040 & Planning Policy Wales 11**

- 4.19 Future Wales – The National Plan 2040 (FW2040) is the Welsh national development plan, setting the direction for development in Wales to 2040. Formerly known as the National Development Framework, it is a development plan with a national strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, achieving decarbonisation and climate-resilience, developing strong ecosystems and improving the health and well-being of our communities. FW2040 outlines where we should be investing in infrastructure and development for the greater good of Wales and its people.
- 4.20 FW2040 is linked to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It demands that development and use of land contribute to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It is a framework which will be built on by Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) at a regional level and Local Development Plans (LDPs) at local authority level - these must be in conformity with FW2040 . Development Control Decisions must consider FW2040 as a development plan.
- 4.21 FW2040, identifies 4 regions in Wales: North, Mid, South West and South East. As part of the South East Wales region, Bridgend is specifically identified in as a centre of regional growth. This is based on its strategically important location as part of the South Wales Metro system and the opportunity that this provides to improve rail, bus, cycling and walking infrastructure across the region to provide a focus for investment, regeneration and associated development.
- 4.22 FW2040 also identifies Bridgend as a Priority Area for District Heating Networks, with an expectation on local planning authorities to identify opportunities for integrating into new and existing development.
- 4.23 Other key policy areas include:
- Supporting Urban Growth and Regeneration – Public Sector Leadership
 - Supporting Rural Communities and the rural economy
 - Town Centre First approach
 - Delivering Affordable Homes
 - Flooding
 - Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure
 - National and International Connectivity
 - Supporting Digital Communications
 - Planning in Mobile Action Zones
 - National Forest
 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure
 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments of National Significance
- 4.24 Planning Policy Wales (PPW 11) is published alongside FW2040 and reflects the change in the development planning hierarchy introduced by the national plan.
- 4.25 **Placemaking**
- 4.26 FW2040 places great emphasis on strategic placemaking principles to ensure that the growth and regeneration of towns and cities should positively contribute towards building sustainable places. PPW11 is also updated to reflect more emphasis on the placemaking agenda and to take into account potential changes to the land use

planning system as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. These places support active and healthy lives, with urban neighbourhoods that are compact and walkable, organised around mixed-use centres and public transport, and integrated with green infrastructure

- 4.27 Placemaking is about ensuring that each new development contributes positively to creating or enhancing environments within which people, communities, businesses and nature can thrive. It puts people at the heart of the design and development process to create places that are vibrant, have a clear identity and where people can develop a sense of belonging.
- 4.28 A holistic approach is needed that takes into consideration whole places rather than individual land uses or each development in isolation. Masterplanning is an important aspect. Placemaking has grown in importance as the links with health and wellbeing have been more explicitly explored and understood.
- 4.29 The Placemaking Charter Wales was launched in September 2020 by Julie James, Minister for Housing and Local Government. The Charter outlines placemaking principles that cover the range of considerations that contribute to establishing and maintaining good places. These include: people and community, movement, public realm, location, mix of uses and identity.
- 4.30 It is open for individual organisations and groups to sign up to the Placemaking Charter Wales.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 The statutory town and country planning system is governed by the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Planning Wales Act 2015 and various regulations.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.
- 6.2 As part of the wider statutory planning process the effective management of land and its change seeks to help to eliminate inequality and disadvantage in people's lives. This has been reflected in the recently published Planning Policy Wales 11 (PPW11), which aligns the planning system with other key Welsh Government strategies including the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 and the Socio- Economic Duty.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

- 7.1 Any changes to policy or procedure will be prepared in accordance with the 7 Wellbeing goals and the 5 ways of working as identified in the Act.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The report is for noting and current procedures are carried out within existing budget heads.

9. Recommendation(s)

9.1 That the Town and Community Council Forum notes the report.

**JANINE NIGHTINGALE
CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES**

10th May 2021

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Background documents:

Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Form 29th April 2021

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