

Ein Cyf /Our Ref:
Eich Cyf /Your Ref:
Dyddiad /Date:
Gofynnwch am/Please ask for:
Llinell uniongyrchol/Direct line:
Ebost/Email:

06/02/18
Tim Peppin
029 2046 8669
tim.peppin@wlga.gov.uk

Lesley Griffiths AM
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs
Welsh Government
5th Floor, Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA



Dear Lesley,

LDPs, joint LDPs and SDPs

Further to our meeting on 24th January, I am writing as promised to update you on the discussions that took place at the WLGA Executive Board concerning your recent letter on Joint LDPs. A range of points and concerns were raised by Leaders which I report below.

Some felt that that the requirement to produce joint LDPs raised many of the resource and capacity problems currently faced in relation to LDPs without offering any additional benefit. There would be a need to establish joint teams and agree governance arrangements, placing additional burdens on already stretched resources. Joint LDPs could also be subject to difficulty in securing final agreement from all the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) involved, especially where their creation may fall outside one political cycle.

It was stressed that LPAs do work together on boundary issues and seek to commission joint work where appropriate. It was also felt that joint LDPs would not act as a useful precursor to the SDP process.

However, there was a far more positive debate concerning SDPs and the role they could play in supporting initiatives such as the City Deal and other regional development activity. The spatial basis for SDPs was felt to be better aligned than the areas suggested for joint LDPs. There was also felt to be the potential at an SDP level to commission joint work in a more effective manner.

A major concern expressed, however, was that the 'drop dead' date for LDPs means a number of LPAs will have to prioritise their review process instead of contributing to the development of a regional SDP. This would result in a missing tier of planning between the National Development Framework and LDPs just in the period when it is most required. Of course, some LPAs have suggested that they will need to

Steve Thomas CBE
Prif Weithredwr
Chief Executive

Cymdeithas Llywodraeth
Leol Cymru
Tŷ Llywodraeth Leol
Rhodfa Drake
CAERDYDD CF10 4LG
Ffôn: 029 2046 8600

Welsh Local Government
Association
Local Government House
Drake Walk
CARDIFF CF10 4LG
Tel: 029 2046 8600

wlga.cymru
wlga.wales

@WelshLGA

**Croesawn ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb i ohebiaeth yn yr un iaith.
Ni fydd defnyddio'r naill iaith na'r llall yn arwain at oedi.**

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English and will respond to correspondence in the same language.
Use of either language will not lead to a delay.

progress a full LDP review in any circumstance due to changing external pressures such as the removal of bridge tolls from the Severn crossing.

Concerns continued to be raised concerning TAN 1 of which you are fully aware and are actively looking at.

In conclusion, the Executive Board reached consensus on the following points and asked for these to be relayed to you:

- There was agreement on the value of SDPs if aligned to, and supporting, regional development plans and developed iteratively with the National Development Framework
- In order to avoid the 'drop dead' situation with existing LDPs an extension should be sought from WG to allow time for these SDPs to be developed
- There was no support for the production of joint LDPs along the lines proposed by WG.

Yours sincerely



Cllr David Jenkins
WLGA Spokesperson for Planning

**Croesawn ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb i ohebiaeth yn yr un iaith.
Ni fydd defnyddio'r naill iaith na'r llall yn arwain at oedi.**

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English and will respond to correspondence in the same language.
Use of either language will not lead to a delay.