

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

4 March 2021

Future Wales 2040 (National Development Framework) & Planning Policy Wales 11

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the publication of Future Wales 2040 (FW2040) which is the National Development Framework (NDF) together with Planning Policy Wales 11 (PPW11). FW2040 is a Development Plan for the purposes of determining Planning applications and PPW 11 is the relevant national Planning policy. The documents were published on 24 February 2021. A letter from the Minister providing further information together with the appropriate links to the Welsh Government website is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Members may recall that BCBC provided a response to the (then NDF) consultation in 2019 and this was reported to the Development Control Committee on 5 December that year.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/other Corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being 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. The Planning system is also seen as crucial to the delivery of the national placemaking agenda and helping public bodies meet key carbon reduction targets.

3. Background

- 3.1 Future Wales – the National Plan 2040 is the Welsh national development framework setting the direction for development in Wales to 2040. It is a Development Plan with a 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.

- 3.2 FW2040 sets out development policies for Wales as a whole and for three national growth areas: Wrexham and Deeside (North Wales), Swansea Bay & Llanelli (Mid & South West Wales) and Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys (South East Wales). Bridgend falls within the South East Wales growth area, which is consistent with the Cardiff Capital Region.
- 3.3 This regional approach aligns with other Welsh Government strategies and allows a consistent approach to policy implementation across Wales including the delivery of Strategic Delivery Plans (SDPs) for each of the regions identified. FW2040 identifies a vision for change over the next 20 years and forms the basis for its policies and proposals.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 As part of the South East Wales region, Bridgend is specifically identified in FW2040 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.
- 4.2 FW2040 also identifies Bridgend as a Priority Area for District Heating Networks with an expectation on Planning Authorities to identify opportunities for integrating into new and existing development.
- 4.3 PPW 11 is published alongside FW2040 and reflects the change in the Development Planning hierarchy introduced by the National Plan. It is also updated to reflect a greater 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.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 National Development Framework 2040 represents the top tier of the Development Plan hierarchy in Wales with the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) at regional level and the Local Development Plan (LDP) at local Authority level operating below it.
- 5.2 The LDP will need to be in general conformity with FW2040 and PPW11 however, there are no identified impacts on the ongoing review of the LDP. The Council published its draft Preferred Strategy in accordance with the then emerging policies of FW2040. At its core, the Preferred Strategy promotes growth to be focused on existing settlements in accordance with a settlement hierarchy which highlights the importance of public transport connectivity. Policies within the LDP will emphasise the need for the provision of Active Travel infrastructure to be incorporated into development proposals. The Preferred Strategy also emphasises the opportunities presented by the projects and activities identified in the Bridgend Smart Energy Plan to promote decarbonisation. Specifically, the LDP will incorporate policies to ensure proposed developments demonstrate how the proposal will facilitate a connection to a District Heating Network or robustly justify why the connection is not technically and/or economically viable and suggest an alternative approach.

5.3 Officers are currently assessing both FW2040 and PPW11 and will be partaking in focused Welsh Government workshop sessions over the coming weeks. It is intended to provide suitable Member training later in the year.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no direct implications associated with this report.

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

7.1 FW2040 and PPW11 have been prepared in accordance with the 7 Wellbeing goals and the 5 ways of working as identified in the Act and which is now embedded in national Planning policy.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There is no cost implication for the Authority relating to FW2040 as it is a Welsh Government function. The cost of the ongoing LDP Review will be met from the Development Planning budget and carried out by Development Planning staff with expert advice and evidence procured from consultants and through collaboration with neighbouring Authorities as required.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That Development Control Committee notes the publication of Future Wales 2040 and PPW11 and its implications for the making of decisions by the Council on planning matters and to note that further training will be provided to committee on the implications.

Letter from Julie James AS/MS Minister for Housing and Local Government (attached as Appendix 1).

Janine Nightingale
CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

Background Papers

None

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Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

To: Local Authority Leaders & Chief Executives
At: Arweinwyr a Phrif Weithredwyr Awdurdodau Lleol

24 February 2021

Dear Leader, Chief Executive,

Today I have published the Welsh Government's national development plan '[Future Wales – The National Plan 2040](#)'. Future Wales will immediately play a major role in the planning system. All planning applications and all local development plans will now be required to accord with Future Wales. I have today written to your leading Planning Officer, to advise of the publication of Future Wales and to arrange for my officials to meet with them and their teams, to discuss the relationship between Future Wales and your authority's planning role. I have requested that the Welsh Government's Planning Directorate officials continue to work with and support your Development Plans teams in the preparation of local and strategic development plans. Future Wales and the Local Government Elections (Wales) Act 2021 both have a strong focus on regional planning and the preparation of a strategic development plan will be a key task for your authority and your regional partners. I intend to front-load the Welsh Government's work with you and reduce the role we have played in recent years in detailed technical scrutiny of your local development plans and our participation at examinations. I recognise fully the unique challenges you have faced over the last year and will continue to face in years to come. The legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic will remain with us for some time and the climate change emergency is as urgent as ever. Pressures on public finances have impacted on the delivery of all services and from my conversations with planning officers across Wales, it is clear that planning departments have significantly felt the effects of budgetary constraints.

I firmly believe that the planning system has a central role to play in meeting the challenges we face. The preparation of development plans and effective development management is the best way to meet these challenges and to manage long-term positive change. I want local planning authorities to be at the heart of the decisions we need to take on how Wales, our regions and our local areas will grow and change. It is vital that planning teams are staffed, resourced and empowered to lead the way. I am open to any ideas and suggestions on how we can ensure this and as explained above, have directed the Welsh Government's Planning Directorate to engage directly with your planning teams.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In addition to its defined role in the planning system, Future Wales will also influence the Welsh Government's decisions across a broad range of policy areas. Future Wales identifies areas of growth, where we will invest, where new infrastructure will be provided and provides a 20 year spatial framework for the Welsh Government's key strategic policies. In addition to the importance of your planning teams in working with Future Wales, I strongly encourage you to disseminate information on Future Wales to your teams in housing, regeneration, economic development, environment, energy, transportation and other areas likely to be involved in the planning system or whose work is influenced by wider Welsh Government policy in these areas.

I look forward to supporting you in your work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government