

Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	16 APRIL 2024
Report Title:	STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SDP) INITIAL RESOURCING APPROACH
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES
Responsible Officer:	RICHARD MATTHAMS, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION MANAGER
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no impact on the policy framework or procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	For Cabinet to delegate authority to the Strategic Planning and Transportation Manager to act as a Corporate Joint Committee Liaison Officer in regard to regional spatial planning for the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) and to prepare the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) Delivery Agreement (DA) which is a public statement that contains the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) setting out how and when stakeholders and the community can become involved in the plan making process and a timetable for preparing the SDP.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to delegate authority to the Strategic Planning and Transportation Manager to act as the Corporate Joint Committee Liaison Officer in regard to regional spatial planning for the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR).

2. Background

- 2.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 puts forward a more coherent, consistent, simplified and democratically controlled mechanism for regional working, by establishing Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). The ambition is for a strategic approach to both land-use and transport planning that aligns tightly to ambitions around economic development. To that end, CJCs are required via statutory instruments to promote economic wellbeing, spatial planning and regional transport planning.
- 2.2 In regard to spatial planning, the statutory duty to prepare both a Local Development Plan (LDP) and a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) is set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021 (the 2021 Regulations) enable CJCs to prepare an SDP. Advisory notes were issued in August 2021 covering

governance and the plan preparation process, and a draft SDP Manual was issued to all Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in autumn 2022. The draft Manual provides high-level timelines.

- 2.3 It is not anticipated that the SDP will be adopted until 2029 earliest, and LDPs must be kept up to date, ensuring, for example, that investment and sustainable development can continue to take place in a Plan-led way, providing confidence to all stakeholders including investors, developers and communities.
- 2.4 Given this context, a paper was submitted to the South East Wales CJC (SEWCJC) outlining a proposed approach to the initial development stages of the Regional Transport Plan and Strategic Development Plan. In the case of preparing the SDP, the approach is to seek an appropriate officer from the CCR LPA network to be the CJC Liaison Officer in regard to regional spatial planning. This would ensure representation for local authority and regional interests, allied to subject matter expertise.

3. Current situation/ proposal

- 3.1 The CJC Liaison Officer role is critical to ensure strategic alignment at a regional and local level and will be the regional lead in discussions and negotiations with Welsh Government (WG), as regards spatial planning.
- 3.2 This role will be on a temporary basis with a specific remit to:
- Prepare the Delivery Agreement (DA) which is a public statement that contains the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) setting out how and when stakeholders and the community can become involved in the plan making process and a timetable for preparing the SDP in accordance with the 2021 Regulations.
 - Analyse the requirements of the SDP.
 - Develop a report detailing how these requirements can (or cannot) be met and a high-level view of the resources required to develop the SDP in the short-medium term.
 - Relay information and seek input from CJC LPA Officers via South East Wales Planning Officers Society (SEWPOS) and South East Wales Strategic Planning Officers Group (SEWSPG) networks and relevant Officers in other specialisms (such as, Regional Transport and Economic Development).
 - Lead in discussions with WG, regarding the requirements of the SDP and the proposed CJC approach.
 - Liaise with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and other CJCs on possible areas of collaboration.
 - Brief the region's directors via the South East Wales Directors Economic and Regeneration Group (SEWDER) group.
 - Present the report and associated recommendations for development of the SDP to the SEWCJC Board.
- 3.3 This position will function on a task-based approach and will not have any adverse effects on the Strategic Planning and Transportation Manager role. CJC will provide reimbursement to Bridgend County Borough Council at his standard hourly rate.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 Information / Administrative report – EIA not needed.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The SDP will contribute to the full suite of goals within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, most notably:

- A prosperous Wales – sustainable, placemaking-led development will reduce the reliance on costly transport, promote active travel opportunities, enable new jobs and support town centres within the county borough.
- A resilient Wales – provision of good quality market and affordable housing alongside new employment provision will increase the resilience of both individuals and communities.
- A Wales of cohesive communities – enabling well-connected, mixed-use and multi-tenure developments will foster sustainable, socially cohesive communities.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 The SDP will set a framework at a regional scale for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. This work will be funded through the CJC budget.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to delegate authority to the Strategic Planning and Transportation Manager to act as the Corporate Joint Committee Liaison Officer in regard to regional spatial planning.

9.2 Cabinet is recommended to note that the CJC Liaison Officer will provide update reports to Cabinet about the progress of the Strategic Development Plan and any changes to the role of CJC Liaison Officer, should it change, so that any impact to the Council can be considered.

Background documents

None.