

Torfaen Replacement Local Development Plan (2022-2037)

Delivery Agreement: Executive Summary - July 2023

*This document is available in Welsh
Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local authorities to produce a Local Development Plan (LDP) for their area and also to prepare a Delivery Agreement (DA) for its development.
- 1.2 The Delivery Agreement consists of a Community Involvement Scheme and a Timetable for preparing the LDP. The Delivery Agreement must be approved by the Council and then agreed by the Welsh Government before an LDP can be started.

LDP Review Report

- 1.3 A full review of the first Torfaen Local Development Plan (2006-2021) has been undertaken, the findings of which are set out in the LDP Review Report available on the Council's website via the link at <https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/Related-Documents/Forward-Planning/Local-Development-Plan-Review/Torfaen-LDP-Review-Report.pdf>:
- 1.4 The conclusion of the LDP Review Report is that Torfaen County Borough Council prepare a Replacement plan (RLDP) following the full revision procedure.

Withdrawal of Torfaen RLDP (2018-2033)

- 1.5 Therefore, in 2018, through the LDP Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) process the Council resolved to commence preparation of a new Torfaen RLDP, with a 1st April 2018 - 31st March 2033 plan period. Following production of a range of background evidence, a call for candidate sites for potential inclusion in the new plan, and 'participation' workshops with Members and general / specific (key) stakeholders, Council agreed a draft plan, known as the Torfaen RLDP: Preferred Strategy in September 2020 which was then subject to formal consultation from November 2020 to April 2021.
- 1.6 However, the Council subsequently resolved to withdraw this plan at its meeting on 25th April 2023 (for reasons explained in the [Council Report](#)); which was confirmed by the Welsh Minister on 2nd May 2023. Following withdrawal of the RLDP (2018-2033) all stakeholders were informed of this withdrawal and the intention of the Council to commence a new replacement Local Development Plan with a revised timescale of 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2037 plan period.

Delivery Agreement for new Replacement Local Development Plan (2022-2037)

- 1.7 Before substantive work can commence on the revision of an LDP a Delivery Agreement has to be prepared by the Council and agreed with the Welsh Government (WG). Therefore, the Council is consulting on the Draft Delivery Agreement. This document is an Executive Summary of the Draft Delivery Agreement.

Purpose of the Delivery Agreement

- 1.8 The Delivery Agreement is a succinct public statement that contains two key parts: A Timetable for preparing a revision of an LDP following a review (see Section 2 below) and; the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS), setting out how and when stakeholders and the community can contribute to the plan preparation, development, monitoring and review (see Sections 3 and 4 below).

1.9 Section 2: Timetable

Figure 2.1 - Key Stage Timetable (including key participation dates*)

Stage	Stage Description	Timescale
1	Review of LDP	Dec 17 - Apr 18
2	Produce Delivery Agreement	May / July 23
	DA submission / agreement,	July / Aug 23
3	Review & Update Evidence Base	May / Sep 23
4	Pre-Deposit Participation	
	Call for Candidate Sites*	Aug / Sep 23
	Engagement on Vision and Objectives*	Nov 23
	Growth and Spatial Options development	Nov 23 / Jan 24
	Engagement on Growth and Spatial Options*	Dec 23 / Jan 24
	Development of Preferred Strategy	Jan 24 / Apr 24
5	Pre-Deposit Public Consultation - Preferred Strategy	
	Council considers Preferred Strategy	Apr 24
	Consultation on Preferred Strategy*	May 24 / Jun 24
	Preparation of Deposit Plan	Jul 24 / Dec 24
6	Statutory Deposit of Proposals	
	Council considers Deposit Plan	Jan 25
	Consultation on Deposit Plan*	Feb / Mar 25
	Assess consultation and prepare for submission	Mar / Aug 25
	Council considers submission	Sep 25
7	Submission to the Welsh Government	Oct 25
8	Examination of the RLDP*	Jan / Mar 26
9	Receipt of Inspector's Report	Sep 26
10	Adoption of RLDP	Oct 26
11	RLDP Annual Monitoring Report	Oct 28

- 1.10 **Section 3:** of the 'Draft Delivery Agreement' provides the '**Community Involvement Scheme**' (CIS), which sets out the Council's principles, strategy and process for proactively engaging the community throughout the LDP preparation process. Early community engagement and consensus building will be an important element of the new LDP, in order to meet Welsh Government principles. The five ways of working prescribed

by the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act are integral to the CIS, namely long term, integration, involvement, collaboration and prevention.

- 1.11 A range of engagement methods are suggested from direct contact via letter and e-mail to social-media, advertisements, public information exhibitions and workshops; which show how people and organisations are to be involved in the preparation of the new plan. The Draft Delivery Agreement also includes a list of all specific, general and other consultation bodies that will be consulted throughout the process and will be involved in its early preparation.
- 1.12 **Section 4:** of the 'Draft Delivery Agreement' on '**Monitoring and Review**' shows how the Council will ensure that the preparation of the LDP is kept to timetable throughout the process and will produce an Annual Monitoring Report on how the new plan is doing each year following adoption. Then, unless an AMR shows that the plan is not working and needs an early review, the plan will be reviewed every four years in any event.
- 1.13 The Draft Delivery Agreement was subject to targeted key stakeholder consultation for 3 weeks in June/July 2023.
- 1.14 Following completion of the consultation, a report was presented to Council on 18th July 2023 to consider all comments made and approve the new Delivery Agreement for submission to the Welsh Government for final agreement.
[Scrutiny Report Template \(torfaen.gov.uk\)](#)
- 1.15 Welsh Government agreed the Delivery Agreement on 20^h July 2023 and work then started on the Torfaen Replacement LDP (2022-2037) in accordance with the agreed Delivery Agreement.
- 1.16 If you wish to contact the Planning Policy and Implementation Section or require any information on the developing LDP please provide comments by:
 - email to ldp@torfaen.gov.uk; or
 - in writing, to the Planning Policy & Implementation Team, Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool, NP4 6YN.