



Ein cyf/Our ref: qA1884945

Adrian Wilcock
Principal Planner
Planning Policy and Implementation
Economy and Environment
Torfaen County Borough Council
Civic Centre
Pontypool
Torfaen
NP4 6YB

20 July 2023

Torfaen County Borough Council: Initial Delivery Agreement 2nd Replacement Plan

The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended)

Thank you for your e-mail of 18 July requesting agreement to your proposed Delivery Agreement (DA) for your replacement Local Development Plan (LDP). This new DA request comes as a result of your authority voting to formally withdraw your emerging LDP on 19th April. The Minister for Climate Change in her response to Cllr Hunt (Leader) dated 03rd May confirmed that the Welsh Government was not minded to intervene in the withdrawal process and agreed that the Council should commence work on a new LDP as soon as possible.

The preparation of a Local Development Plan (LDP) is a statutory duty placed on all Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in Wales. Having an up-to-date development plan in place underpins the very basis of the planning system in Wales and reinforces the Government's commitment to a plan-led approach to development. Effective project management and a fully resourced team is essential to ensure the plan can be prepared in accordance with the timescales set out in Figures 2.1 and 2.2 of the DA with a plan preparation time of 3.3 years plus a single additional slippage period of 3 months. This timescale broadly aligns with requirements in the Development Plans Manual (Edition 3) recognising that your authority already has an adopted plan in place supported by a number of existing evidence base documents.

A test of 'soundness' against which the plan will be considered through the examination is whether it adheres to the agreed DA including the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS).

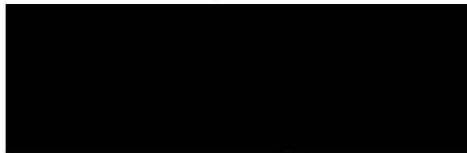
The plan will also need to demonstrate general conformity with Future Wales: The National Plan 2040.

The Welsh Government welcomes the commitment shown by Torfaen County Borough Council to prepare a replacement plan. Your submitted DA contains a detailed breakdown on the timings of each LDP stage (in Figure 2.2) with an indicative adoption date of October 2026.

After considering your DA submission, I can **confirm agreement** to the timetable set out in Figures 2.1 and 2.2 as provided for by Section 63(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 9 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended).

The published version of your DA should now be made publicly available in accordance with the requirements set out in Regulation 10.

Yours sincerely,



Neil Hemington
Prif Gynllunydd
Chief Planner

CC:

Robert Murray, Principal Planner
robert.murray@torfaen.gov.uk

Richard Lewis, Head of Planning and Development
Richard.Lewis@torfaen.gov.uk