

**Report To:** Planning Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Lead Member:** Councillor Brian Jones

**Report Author:** Angela Loftus, Strategic Planning & Housing Manager

**Title:** Consultation response – Issues, Options and Preferred Option for the emerging National Development Framework

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**1. What is the report about?**

- 1.1 This report sets out an update on the production of the Welsh Government's National Development Framework. It also seeks Planning Committee input to the Council's draft response to the current Welsh Government public consultation on the Issues and Options considered and the Preferred Option proposed for the emerging National Development Framework. A summary of the document content and timetable of delivery is attached as Appendix 1.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Planning Committee input to the draft consultation response attached as Appendix 2. The National Development Framework consultation was reported to Cabinet Briefing on 9<sup>th</sup> July and comments have been incorporated into the draft consultation response. Any additional comments from Planning Committee will be included in the draft response, before seeking approval to formally respond to the above public consultation as a Lead Member Delegated decision.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

- 3.1 That Planning Committee note the report and agree the draft National Development Framework consultation response attached as Appendix 2.

**4. Report details.**

- 4.1 The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 sets a statutory framework for the Welsh Ministers to prepare and keep up to date a national land use plan known as the National Development Framework for Wales (NDF). The NDF will set out where nationally important growth and infrastructure is needed and how the planning system – nationally, regionally and locally – can deliver it. The documents purpose is to support the delivery of Welsh Government '*Prosperity for All: the national strategy*', (2017) by developing long term spatial direction for Government policy, action and investment.

- 4.2 The National Development Framework will identify key growth areas, the type and location of infrastructure needed, by co-ordinating the delivery of housing, employment and connectivity infrastructure, and by directing key partners to help deliver the national spatial vision for the next 20 years.
- 4.3 The NDF will sit alongside Planning Policy Wales (PPW), which sets out Welsh Government's planning policies. Planning Policy Wales will continue to provide the context for land use planning, however the NDF will provide direction for Strategic and Local Development Plans. Strategic Development Plans at a regional level (SDPs) and Local Development Plans at a local level (LDPs) will have to conform to the requirements of the National Development Framework, and together these three tiers of spatial plan will constitute the 'development plan' for the local authority.
- 4.4 The Planning Act requires that as part of the process of developing the National Development Framework, Welsh Ministers must gather evidence, develop the vision, objectives and options as part of Stage 4 of the preparation of a National Development Framework. The National Development Framework is currently at Stage 5 – public consultation on Issues, Options and Preferred Option. This will close on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018. The consultation document sets out the vision and objectives for NDF, considers four options for alternative approaches to deliver these and identifies the preferred option (which is a hybrid of all four options).
- 4.5 The preferred option provides the framework for the emerging National Development Framework, identifying the spatial issues the National Development Framework will include and strategic direction for the NDF policies. It does not identify projects, sites or specify levels/locations of growth at this stage.
- 4.6 The consultation document is accompanied by Appendix A – Issues document, Appendix B – Options document, Appendix C - Statement of Public Participation, Preliminary Habitat Regulations Assessment and Interim Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report.
- 4.7 Following this consultation the Welsh Government will produce a formal draft version of the National Development Framework and issue for consultation. This will identify nationally significant sites and projects, provide direction for the three regions across Wales, including a framework for regional planning, and will identify growth deal areas. The timetable for consultation is estimated between July 2019 and September 2019. Members will have the opportunity to examine and comment on the draft version NDF at this time.

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

- 5.1 Responding to the consultation does not directly contribute to the corporate priorities. The comments received will inform the production of the National Development Framework, which will provide a land use framework for Local Development Plans.

**6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

- 6.1 The report relates to a consultation response and is not anticipated to create any additional costs.

**7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

- 7.1 A Well-being Impact Assessment has not been carried out as the report relates to a consultation response to Welsh Government by the Council. It does not set Council policy, working procedures, or decision-making criteria for other departments.

**8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

- 8.1 The draft consultation response was discussed at Cabinet Briefing on 9<sup>th</sup> July. Following discussion at Planning Committee, the intention is to seek approval to submit the final response as a Lead Member Delegated Decision.

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

- 9.1 The consultation response is not anticipated to create any additional costs but if any arise they will need to be contained within existing service revenue budgets.

**10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

- 10.1 It is considered that there are no risks arising from this report.

**11. Power to make the Decision**

- 11.1 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004  
Planning (Wales) Act 2015