

Report to	Council
Date of meeting	9 th May 2023
Lead Member / Officer	Cyng/Cllr Win Mullen-James – Lead Member for Local Development and Planning
Head of Service	Emlyn Jones – Head of Planning, Public Protection & Countryside Services
Report author	Lara Griffiths Principal Planning Officer
Title	Replacement Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy – Report of Consultation

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The report sets out the role of draft Preferred Strategy; what it contains; the consultation undertaken, and the key points arising from the consultation. The attached Preferred Strategy Consultation Report (Appendix 2) provides detail on the consultation carried out, the responses to the consultation and recommended amendments to the Preferred Strategy.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1. A decision is required on the Preferred Strategy Consultation Report for the replacement LDP. That Council approve the LDP Preferred Strategy with the changes as recommended by Strategic Planning Group (23/02/2023) and Cabinet on 28th March 2023.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1. That Council confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix 3) as part of its consideration.

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

- 3.2 That Council approve the Preferred Strategy as amended by this report.
- 3.3 That Council approve the Preferred Strategy as amended by this report form the basis for developing the Deposit Replacement Local Development Plan for consultation.
- 3.4 That Council authorises the Lead Member for Local Development and Planning in consultation with the Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services to agree any minor amendments and corrections required to the Denbighshire Replacement Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy.

4 Report details

- 4.1 The draft Preferred Strategy was approved by Council for consultation on 14th May 2019 and consultation on draft Preferred Strategy and Candidate Sites Register took place between 8 July 2019 and 30 August 2019. Over 2,850 responses were received in relation to the consultation on the Candidate Site Register and the draft Preferred Strategy for the LDP, of these 858 related to the Preferred Strategy. Where there have been changes in national policy or the evidence base that have resulted in recommended changes to the Preferred Strategy these are also highlighted in the Preferred Strategy Consultation Report attached at Appendix 2.
- 4.2 In brief the key changes to the Preferred Strategy include making additional references to climate change mitigation, carbon reduction and Active Travel in the LDP Vision, objectives and key policies. Further key changes include the removal of the Bodelwyddan Strategic Site from the LDP and the reduction in the amount of green field new B land use employment land to be allocated in the plan.
- 4.3 The covering report to Strategic Planning Group meeting on 23rd February 2023 is attached at Appendix 1 and this report summarises the recommended changes to the Preferred Strategy. Minor amendment to include reference to 'heritage' in Key Policy Visitor Economy was included following Cabinet on 28th March 2023. The Preferred Strategy Consultation Report which can be found at Appendix 2 sets out the full details of the consultation undertaken; the responses received, and the recommended amendments to the replacement LDP Preferred Strategy. The proposed amendments have been assessed via the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment and the results have shaped the final proposed amendments.

5 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

- 5.1 The Local Development Plan makes a significant contribution towards the implementation of all of the Council priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan 2022 – 2027.
- 5.2 The replacement LDP will contain policies and land allocations that should make a positive contribution to the Council becoming Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically Positive by 2030.

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

- 6.1 Approval of the Preferred Strategy Consultation Report will not incur any additional costs of impact on other services.

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

- 7.1 The LDP Preferred Strategy is a high-level document that seeks to promote sustainable development within the County. The majority of impacts are likely to be neutral or positive as the plan has sustainability at its core. The strategy has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal which assesses the social, environmental and economic impacts of the strategy and the options considered. A Health Impact Assessment was also carried out as part of the Preferred Strategy consultation process.
- 7.2 Much of the mitigation identified will be included at the Deposit stage when detailed policies will be developed and land allocations identified which will demonstrate that negative impacts can be mitigated. Following consultation additional policies relating to climate change, carbon reduction and Active Travel will be included in the Deposit LDP.

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

8.1 The Preferred Strategy Consultation Report was presented to the Strategic Planning Group on 23 February 2023 and Cabinet on 28th March 2023 where it was recommended to be progressed to Council for approval.

9 Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 The service have confirmed that any additional resources can be maintained within existing budgets.

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

10.1 If the Preferred Strategy Consultation Report is not approved by Council then there will be a significant delay in progress on the replacement LDP. An approved Preferred Strategy is required before any further statutory consultation stages can take place. The Council will become increasingly reliant on national, rather than local policy in determining planning applications which will erode local decision making.

11. Power to make the decision

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