

Report To: CABINET

Date: 25th June 2013

Lead Cabinet Member: Councillor Eryl Williams

Lead Officer: Angela Loftus – Planning and Public Protection Policy Manager

Title: Review of Local Development Plan Steering Group

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 The report outlines proposals to revise the membership of the Local Development Plan Steering Group. It was agreed by Cabinet in September 2011 that a new LDP Steering Group should be set up to provide leadership and guidance in taking forward the Local Development Plan through to formal adoption, and to focus on the delivery of the LDP strategy and policies. Terms of Reference and Membership were agreed, and the group met last year. However it was acknowledged that membership would have to be reviewed following the local elections in May 2012 and following LDP adoption.
- 1.2 Following Council's agreement to adopt the LDP at the meeting on 4th June, it is important that the revised Group is established as soon as possible so that it is in place to be able to provide a political lead on the development of the suite of Supplementary Planning Guidance notes, development briefs and infrastructure plans urgently required to facilitate the delivery of the LDP.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 To seek Members' approval of proposals to revise the LDP Steering Group, to ensure political and geographical balance.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Cabinet approve the revised Terms of Reference and membership of the Local Development Plan Steering Group (attached as Appendix 1).

4. Proposal to revise the Local Development Plan Steering Group

- 4.1 The primary role of the LDP Steering Group is to support the delivery and on-going monitoring and future review of the LDP, together with supporting the implementation of the Plan Strategy. The Group will also oversee the production of the suite of Supplementary Planning Guidance required to ensure that policies are implemented and community benefits achieved. The Group has a non-executive role but will report back and make recommendations to Cabinet and/or Council as appropriate.
- 4.2 The revised Terms of Reference attached as Appendix 1 sets out the proposed new arrangements for membership.

4.3 Membership of the Group will still comprise 12 Members, with the aim of achieving a geographical balance and political balance as far as is reasonable and practical. Once agreed, it will be for each Member Area Group to nominate 2 Members to represent their area.

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

5.1 The LDP will have a direct role to play in achieving the priorities of 'Developing the Local Economy' and 'Ensuring Access to Good Quality Housing' through the policies and proposals within it, influencing development on the ground. The main role of the Steering Group will be overseeing delivery of the LDP, enabling the provision of housing, employment, community facilities and environmental protection throughout the County.

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

6.1 There are no additional direct cost implications resulting from agreeing the revised Terms of Reference and membership of the Local Development Plan Steering Group.

7. What are the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

7.1 The completed EqIA template is attached as Appendix 2 to this report. This concludes that an EqIA is not required for the proposed revisions to the LDP Steering Group.

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

8.1 The proposals were discussed at Cabinet Briefing on 3rd June 2013 and comments raised built into the report.

9 Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 The cost of the implementation of the LDP and the establishment of an LDP Steering Group should be contained within existing resources. The Council has been building a specific reserve within the accounts to contribute to the costs of producing the Plan.

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

10.1 Not agreeing the proposed arrangements for the establishment of the LDP Steering Group carries the risk of not providing the clear Member leadership required to deliver the LDP and to develop the associated guidance required.

11 Power to make the Decision

Local Government Act 2000, Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), and associated regulations and guidance.

Appendix 1: Local Development Plan Steering Group– Revised Draft Terms of Reference (attached)

Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment template