

## **SHIRE COMMITTEES**

### **Introduction to the Local Development Plan (LDP) Working Group**

#### **The Powys Local Development Plan**

Planning legislation in Wales requires Local Planning Authorities to prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP), which once adopted will replace the existing development plan, which in the case of Powys is the Powys Unitary Development Plan. The Powys LDP covers all of Powys except for those parts of the county located within the Brecon Beacons National Park, which are covered by the Brecon Beacons National Park LDP (2013).

The Powys LDP sets out the Council's strategy for the sustainable development of the area and safeguarding of the environment in relation to the development and use of land up to 2026.

The LDP aims to meet the housing, employment, retail, tourism, recreation, infrastructure, services and other needs of Powys over the Plan period (2011-2016). It proposes to direct growth to the most sustainable settlements whilst also managing development in less sustainable locations in order to meet the needs of local communities. The LDP also seeks to ensure protection of the natural, built and historic environment of the county, such as the native wildlife and habitats, natural resources, and outstanding landscape and heritage of the area, along with the Welsh language and culture.

The LDP contains local planning policies that will be used to make decisions on proposals for development (planning applications) in the area and will be used to determine where certain types of development should or should not be allowed. It also identifies proposed sites (allocations) for housing, employment and retail development, which have been assessed as being suitable in principle for development and also deliverable within the Plan period.

The policies and proposals of the Plan are designed to deliver and implement the Plan's strategy, and this will be monitored on an annual basis following adoption of the LDP by the Council. The Local Planning Authority will be required to undertake a review of the LDP within 4 years following adoption of the LDP.

#### **Progress of the LDP**

The Council has submitted the LDP to the Welsh Government for examination by an independent Inspector, Mrs Nicola Gulley, who has been appointed to determine whether the LDP is sound. In March to May this year, the Inspector conducted public hearing sessions as part of the LDP examination, which involved discussions on certain matters and issues with the Council and other participants who had

requested to participate. This included the Welsh Government, other bodies (Natural Resources Wales, CPRW, Community Councils, etc), developers and members of public who have made representations objecting or requesting changes to the LDP.

Hearing sessions in relation to Renewable Energy are due to take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of June at the New Life Church, Llandrindod Wells. These are followed by a hearing session on Monitoring on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June at the Media Resource Centre, Llandrindod Wells.

A further hearing session between the Inspector and the Council is also scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> of July in order to discuss Matters Arising Changes (MACs) to the LDP. MACs are further changes to the LDP that have arisen following discussions at the hearing sessions and action points set by the Inspector for the Council (and sometimes others involved). A formal 6 week public consultation on the proposed MACs to the LDP is due to take place during late Summer/early Autumn of this year.

After the hearings, the Inspector will prepare a report which will set out any recommended changes required to the LDP and conclusions as to the soundness of the LDP. Providing that the Inspector concludes that the LDP is sound and can be safely adopted, the LDP will proceed to adoption, which is likely to take place in early 2018. Adoption of the LDP is a decision to be made by the Full Council.

### **The role of the LDP Working Group**

The LDP Working Group was initially established in 2007 and comprises 9 Members in total made up of 3 Cabinet Members, 2 Brecknockshire Committee Members, 2 Radnorshire Committee Members and 2 Montgomeryshire Committee Members. It is an internal Officer-Member Working Group that meets to oversee and consider in detail the preparation of the LDP and to make recommendations to the Council's Cabinet.

The LDP's Delivery Agreement explains how the LDP Working Group and other stakeholders will be involved in the LDP process. At meetings of the LDP Working Group, Officers provide updates on progress with the LDP and also report responses to public consultations to the Working Group. Matters such as public consultation, draft revisions to the policies of the LDP, additional work and procedural matters are discussed and agreed by the Working Group. Members of the working group are also expected to feedback the matters agreed to other members of the Council.

Going forward Members of the LDP Working Group will be involved in the Matters Arising Changes and adoption stages of the process. Following the adoption of the LDP, Members will be involved in preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance, along with processes involved in the Annual Monitoring Report and the Review of the LDP.

### **Useful information**

LDP website:

<http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/planning-building-control/local-development-plan/>

LDP Working Group:

<http://powys.moderngov.co.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=146>

LDP Delivery Agreement:

[http://www.powys.gov.uk/fileadmin/TranslatedDocs/Planning/ldp/LDP\\_Examination/Core\\_Docs/Powys\\_LDP\\_Delivery\\_Agreement\\_Oct\\_2015.pdf](http://www.powys.gov.uk/fileadmin/TranslatedDocs/Planning/ldp/LDP_Examination/Core_Docs/Powys_LDP_Delivery_Agreement_Oct_2015.pdf)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Factsheet in relation to Renewable Energy:

[http://pstatic.powys.gov.uk/fileadmin/Docs/Planning/LDP/LDP\\_2015/LDP\\_Stages/2016\\_Further\\_Focussed\\_Changes/FAQ\\_-\\_LDP\\_V4\\_25-5-17.pdf](http://pstatic.powys.gov.uk/fileadmin/Docs/Planning/LDP/LDP_2015/LDP_Stages/2016_Further_Focussed_Changes/FAQ_-_LDP_V4_25-5-17.pdf)

### **Contact the LDP team**

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