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Eich cyf \* Your ref JT/RLD  
Ein cyf \* Our ref A-PP030-02-006  
5<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Dear Mr Timothy

**Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan: Delivery Agreement Revision  
Regulations 9 and 10 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales)  
Regulations 2005**

I refer to your letter which we received on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

You have sought the agreement of the Assembly Government for a proposed amended Delivery Agreement timetable which was approved at the Carmarthenshire County Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010. You have provided a copy of your report to Cabinet together with a copy of the amended timetable.

The Council proposes a formal extension of 16 months to the original revised timetable agreed August 2007, resulting in an indicative adoption date of July 2013 instead of March 2012. This level of slippage is outside the 3 month limit of tolerance set out in the Delivery Agreement. The main reasons provided for this slippage are:

- unforeseen staffing issues, namely, long term sickness, vacated posts and subsequent recruitment difficulties; and,
- unforeseen workload issues in respect of both the LDP evidence base and non-LDP matters.

You have advised that these matters have now been resolved and measures have been taken to secure replacement staff with one outstanding post being advertised (as at end of May 2010).

It is the Welsh Assembly Government's aim to have a plan-led system, with formally adopted new style plans in place, as soon as possible. Your proposed timetable exceeds the 4-year LDP

preparation target and brings total plan preparation time from the formal commencement date of March 2008 to 5 years 4 months.

On behalf of the Welsh Ministers I am able to **confirm agreement** to the amended timetable as provided for by the section 63(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 along with regulation 9 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005.

I would point out that the timetable is regrettable given that the slippage already taken place makes it impossible for you to reach adoption by the EC Waste Framework Directive July 2010 date. The original provision in the Delivery Agreement for 3-months slippage will no longer be available for the revised timetable. In addition we would emphasise the need for the current Council to authorise submission for examination prior to Council elections in May 2012. In this respect we do have your assurance that, given the lengthy reporting cycles, a council resolution and commitment to a submission date will be taken well in advance of the elections; this point should be reported to your Council at the next convenient opportunity.

This timetable revision should now be incorporated into, or attached to, the published version of the Delivery Agreement made available publicly in accordance with the requirements indicated in regulation 10; it should be plainly evident to all who inspect the documentation on-line or in hard copy that the timetable is amended. It would assist clarity if you could notify all stakeholders and those who responded to the regulation 15 consultation that the Delivery Agreement timetable has been amended. Please note that **4 copies** of the revised timetable / delivery agreement should be forwarded to the Assembly Government (Planning Division).

I would take this opportunity to draw your attention to the need to define the indicative timetable within 3 months of the close of the formal 6-week deposit period in accordance with paragraph 4.11 of LDP Wales and paragraph 4.6.2 of the LDP Manual.

As you will appreciate the Delivery Agreement is a commitment on the part of the authority and as such it is to be expected that it will be followed conscientiously. Further variation should not be necessary and must be avoided. Effective project management is essential to ensure there will be no further slippage. To ensure that no further slippage is encountered, I consider it appropriate that my Development Plan Team work more closely with your team, particularly through greater involvement in the project management aspect of the LDP. A series of regular meetings to update us on progress will be sought to confirm positive progress is being maintained. An initial **meeting in July** to ascertain recent progress would be beneficial, and I would be grateful if you would advise me of possible dates.

I am copying this letter to the Head of Planning and Chief Executive as it is essential that there is no further slippage to the agreed timetable.

Yours sincerely

**Mark Newey**

Plans Branch, Planning Division

**Cc:**

- ***Eifion Bowen, Head of Planning, Directorate of Regeneration and Leisure***
- ***Mark James, Chief Executive***