

ADVISORY PANEL MEETING – 30/4/2009

Report on Key Stakeholder Forum 2 and Town and Community Council seminar

The process for preparing the LDP encourages a wide range of organisations and groups to work with the County Council in order to help set the broad strategy of the plan from a very early stage of preparation. So while the Council as local planning authority is responsible for producing the plan, it is essential that its preparation and content reflect the views and preferences of the community at large, and that it is based on consensus.

The Key Stakeholder Forum is an important way for the local community to have its say on the LDP vision, key objectives and strategic context. These are all things which will shape the future use of land within the County. In accordance with the Delivery Agreement, the business transacted at the Forum is now being relayed to the Advisory Panel. The first Key Stakeholder Forum event was held in Kidwelly on the 28 October 2008 and the outcomes of this event were duly reported to the Advisory Panel on the 17 December 2008 (and subsequently the Council's Executive Board on 16 March 2009).

A seminar for the County's Town and Community Councils has also been held as part of the pre deposit consultation. This event was held at County Hall on February 4 2009 and was organised in conjunction with One Voice Wales & Planning Aid Wales. Every Town and Community Council in Carmarthenshire was invited and the objective of the day was to engender an awareness of the LDP (and of the development plan process in general) amongst the County's Town and Community Councils. A copy of the Outcomes Report, along with the delegate training pack issued on the day, is available on the Council's website. A permanent link to this material has also been fixed from One Voice Wales' website. The County's Town and Community Councils have also been involved in compiling a settlements facilities survey via a postal questionnaire. The response rate to the questionnaire has been good and the results are being collated and interpreted accordingly.

The primary purpose of this report is to update Members of the Advisory Panel as to the outcomes of the second Key Stakeholder Forum which was held in Kidwelly on the 24 February 2009. This event was attended by 18 delegates from the organisations identified within the Delivery Agreement. Representatives of the Authority's Forward Planning Section facilitated the event alongside 2 representatives from Planning Aid Wales. The event was run in a bi lingual manner and simultaneous translation was provided. In order to evaluate the success of the day, an evaluation feedback form was provided to each attendee. The feedback received with regards to the format of the day has been positive.

The Forum event was designed to be informal, with the emphasis placed primarily on participation and the sharing of ideas. Delegate Packs were provided to attendees during registration and coffee. These packs contained a range of relevant background papers developed by the LDP team. Copies of the delegate packs issued are available for download on the Authority's website at www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk or through telephoning the Forward Planning Section on 01267 224805. All members of the Key Stakeholder Forum (including those absent from the day) were provided with all of these background papers a week in advance of the event itself.

The progress made since the First Forum event is largely reflected within the Forum 1 Consultation Report. The First Forum was successful in terms of providing a platform for delegates to strategically deliberate and develop the key plan issues, the vision, strategic objectives and a preferred spatial option. Copies of the Consultation Report were provided to the consultants who are undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the LDP. The input of the Forum has thus been integral to the plan making process.

The outputs of the first Forum event were duly utilised by the LDP Team in order to develop a range of background papers. These papers formed the core of the workshop sessions undertaken at the Second Forum event. Key Stakeholder Forum 2 undertook to appraise these background papers via a series of workshops, subsequent to which delegates were able to review, endorse and consolidate upon:

- 1. The key plan issues/elements of vision**
- 2. The LDP Vision**
- 3. 14 Strategic Objectives**
- 4. A preferred Spatial option**
- 5. Criteria for development in rural settlements without development limits**

Officers have prepared a Consultation Report in order to summarise the business transacted at the Second Forum. This Report includes a full review of points 1 to 5 above (including the LDP Vision and the 14 Strategic Objectives). Advisory Panel Members will note that the emerging strategic objectives, key plan issues and the LDP vision do demonstrate strategic adherence to the 5 pillars of the Community Strategy. These key plan drivers have thus been formulated in a manner which will ensure strategic fit with the Authority's Corporate Strategy 2007-12. This will help ensure that the LDP can deliver on the land use planning relevant aspects of the Community Strategy.

Copies of the Executive Summary and the full Consultation Report are available for viewing on the corporate website. The purpose of the Consultation Report is to provide a means for noting the views expressed/consensus achieved at the 2nd Forum meeting, whilst also providing the platform for an interactive and collaborative approach towards engagement to be taken forward. It also provides a basis for the Authority's LDP Advisory Panel to be fully briefed on the deliberations of the Forum.

A Stakeholder communication and feedback loop has provided Forum members, as well as the general public, with sufficient contextual information to develop an understanding of the process. This will also assist in facilitating ongoing participation within the LDP strategy-setting process. Forum Members were given the opportunity to consider the contents of the Consultation Report (and disseminate it as appropriate) and then feedback their views as to the contents of the report to the Council by the 17 April 2009.

The outcomes of the 2nd Key Stakeholder Forum are being utilised to inform the development of the pre deposit Topic Papers and will also inform the development of the preferred strategy in due course. The Consultation Report is also being shared with JACOBS so that the Sustainability Appraisal process is interwoven within the strategic pre deposit deliberations and consultation being undertaken.

Recommendations

- (1) That this report be noted and accepted
- (2) That Members appraise the Key Stakeholder Forum 2 Consultation Report