



Summary of an Inquiry Report of the:
Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Replacement Local Development Plan: Strategic Growth and Delivery Options INQUIRY SUMMARY: March 2022



Cardiff Council

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FOREWORD

On behalf of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee and Members of the Joint Task and Finish Group, I would like to thank all our witness for their participation in the scrutiny of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Strategic Growth and Delivery Options.

As can be seen from the Terms of Reference, the Group had several key areas that they wished to explore, including the effectiveness of the Council's consultation with stakeholders and the public, with particular focus on the plans and approaches for involving hard to reach and under-represented groups. The Task Group also identified accessibility, inclusivity, and environmental sustainability as central themes to examine in relation to the RLDP Strategic and Delivery Options. In addition to this, the Task Group sought to explore the supporting rationale for the projected growth provided by Welsh Government as well as how Cardiff's RLDP Strategic and Delivery Options are aligned with regional planning.

The Inquiry held a series of meetings with internal and external witnesses to explore and gather evidence on the Strategic Growth and Delivery Options. In addition to this, we held a '*Call for Evidence*' to seek the views of stakeholders, receiving 18 responses from a range of stakeholders and representative groups.

I trust you find our headline findings and evidence matrices useful when developing the next stage of the RLDP consultation and the Preferred Strategy. It is vital that the consultation process is strengthened by utilising the recommendations, evidence and suggestions set out in this letter and appendices, as well as our previous recommendations. It is also vital that scrutiny is engaged early, to use Members' knowledge and community links effectively and to benefit from our critical friend role, to strengthen the consultation process and overall Preferred Strategy.

The replacement Local Development Plan is a key document for Cardiff, its citizens, businesses, employees, and our neighbouring local authorities, particularly as it will inform the regional plan. We are willing to work together to ensure a robust process is in place to develop it, to enable local people to have their voices heard, and to ensure the final plan is fit for purpose. I commend our recommendations to you.



Councillor Ramesh Patel
Chairperson – Environmental Scrutiny Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- To explore, scrutinise and act as a consultee on the Strategic Options for the Replacement LDP focusing on how these have addressed:
 - Accessibility and Inclusivity
 - One Planet Cardiff.
- To review the Council’s consultation process to date; to examine its effectiveness and make recommendations for future consultation on the next stages of the Replacement LDP
- To understand the supporting rationale for the projected growth provided by Welsh Government in order to consider whether the evidence base is robust, realistic, and viable.
- To consider how Cardiff’s replacement LDP and the Strategic Options are aligned with regional planning.
- To hear and consider views of stakeholders to inform the recommendations of Scrutiny on both the Strategic Options and the Council’s consultation processes.
- To coordinate and provide a single joint response from the Scrutiny Committees.
- To make recommendations that will inform the decisions and considerations that the Council’s Executive will make in the development of the Preferred Strategy.
- To make recommendations that will inform any future scrutiny of the replacement LDP.

APPROACH TAKEN

M1. In October 2021, all five scrutiny committees supported the establishment of a Joint Inquiry to undertake further RLDP scrutiny. The Inquiry was led by the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, with representation from all 5 Scrutiny Committees to ensure that all aspects affected by the RLDP could be considered. The Inquiry met from November 2021 – March 2022, with the task group consisting of:

Councillor Ramesh Patel (*Chair*)
Karen Dell'Armi – CYP Co-optee
Councillor John Lancaster
Councillor Sue Lent
Councillor Norma Mackie

Councillor Adrian Robson
Councillor Emma Sandrey
Councillor Joel Williams
Councillor Peter Wong

M2. Members received evidence from the following internal stakeholders, who attended question & answer sessions and contributed to a panel discussion:

- Cllr Caro Wild, Cabinet Member – Strategic Planning & Transport
- Simon Gilbert – Head of Planning
- Stuart Williams – Group Leader – Policy - Planning.

M3. Members also received evidence from the following external stakeholders, who attended question & answer sessions and contributed to a panel discussion:

- Cardiff Third Sector Council – Sheila Hendrickson-Brown
- Edge Analytics – Andrew Fowler, Grace Boden
- For Cardiff – Adrian Field
- Hardisty Jones Associates – Stuart Hardisty
- Natural Resources Wales – Andy Robinson, Geoff Hobbs
- The Alzheimer's Society – Huw Owen
- United Welsh Housing Association – Richard Mann

M4. The Task Group assigned the Principal Scrutiny Research Officer to undertake a 'Call for Evidence' to seek the views of stakeholders on the suitability and robustness of the Council's approach in consulting the public and stakeholders, as well as their views on the scope and subject of the RLDP's Strategic and Delivery Options. It also sought comments on the importance of accessibility, inclusivity, and environmental sustainability in shaping future developments in Cardiff. This

'*Call for Evidence*' received 18 responses from a range of stakeholders and representative groups as detailed below:

Adventure Travel	For Cardiff
Cardiff Civic Society	Glamorgan and Gwent
Cardiff Community Housing Association (CCHA)	Archaeological Trust
Cardiff People First	Home Builders Federation
Cardiff Rivers Group	Natural Resources Wales
Cardiff Third Sector Council	Play Wales
Dŵr Cymru	RSPB
First Bus South and West Wales	Sustrans
	3 Anonymous

- M5. Two summaries of the *Call for Evidence* findings, one focused on the consultation process and one on the strategic options, were presented to the Inquiry by Scrutiny Research, highlighting key findings from the responses.
- M6. At their final evidence gathering meeting, on 31 January 2022, the Task and Finish Group were informed that the scrutiny officer supporting the Inquiry was leaving the authority mid-February 2022 and that therefore there was limited resource to complete the usual Inquiry Report. The Task and Finish Group considered the next stages of the Inquiry and decided it was best for the scrutiny officer to:
- focus on capturing the key findings for the Inquiry and to formulate these into matrices, indicating the evidence supporting the findings
 - draft a letter to Cllr Wild, highlighting the headline findings and including the recommendations sent earlier regarding the consultation process. In addition, the matrices would be shared as attachments to evidence these findings and recommendations
 - share the non-confidential Call for Evidence submissions with planning officers, to enable them to be counted and considered as consultation responses on the Strategic Options.
- M7. The Task and Finish Group used the evidence gathered to identify suitable findings from the Inquiry. These were captured in a letter to Councillor Caro Wild, with appendices capturing the evidence matrices for consultation, strategic options and delivery, accessibility, inclusivity and environmental sustainability, and further findings, observations, and future scrutiny.

FINDINGS

Given the time constraints surrounding this Inquiry and a temporary reduction in Scrutiny staffing resources, the Task Group determined to present the findings of the Inquiry via an extended letter that incorporates these findings relating to the various areas explored by the Inquiry:

- Consultation – Further Key Findings
- Strategic and Delivery Options – Key Findings
- Accessibility, Inclusivity and Environmental Sustainability – Key Findings
- Further findings, Observations and Future Scrutiny.

The letter identifies the headline findings from the evidence gathered throughout the Inquiry, which is captured and further detailed in the evidence matrices attached as appendices to the letter.

The letter can be viewed in full at:

[Agenda for Environmental Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday, 16th March, 2022, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following their meeting in November 2021 to consider the consultation process, the Task and Finish Group sent a letter to Cllr Wild, Cabinet Member – Strategic Planning and Transport, setting out the following recommendations aimed at improving the ongoing consultation on the Strategic Growth and Delivery Options.

November 2021

- R1. That a 'user friendly' summary be developed in addition to the consultation document, providing more explanation on what the consultation is about, a clear rationale behind the various options being presented and what the various options represent, in order that they can be compared appropriately.
- R2. That this summary also provide clear guidance to respondents on why their views are being sought, what exactly they are being asked to provide as a response, how they can respond appropriately, and how their views will be used to inform the development of the Preferred Strategy. It is suggested that the latter will also require further explanation.
- R3. That consideration be given to presenting a visual representation of the options, in their widest sense, appreciating that exact sites have not yet been determined. Officers agreed that whilst a map of sites would not be possible at this stage, spatial infographics could be provided.
- R4. That further details be incorporated into the summary paper of what types of houses might be included in the options presented, such as affordable or social housing, housing for older people etc. Likewise, broad details be included of what types of jobs might be considered and how they meet the assessed needs of Cardiff and its residents. This information will assist the public to understand the implications of the options presented and help provide practical comparators for respondents.
- R5. That a glossary of terms be provided alongside the consultation paper.
- R6. On the subject of hard-to-reach or under-represented groups, specifically those from a BAME background or those with disabilities, future engagement looks to engage with Council Members who are from these backgrounds and utilise their knowledge of these communities to assist with identifying representatives and groups to engage with.

A response to this letter was received, accepting all the recommendations bar R3, which was partially accepted.

March 2022

The task group made the following recommendations following consideration of all the evidence gathered throughout the Inquiry.

- R1. The evidence and key findings in relation to the **Corporate consultation process** for the Strategic and Delivery Options contained within this letter and the attached matrix (*Appendix F*) are used to inform and develop the consultation process for the Preferred Strategy and all other consultation processes for future stages of the RLDP.
- R2. The evidence and key findings on the **Strategic and Delivery Options** contained within this letter and the attached matrix (*Appendix G*) are incorporated as formal responses and given equal weighting to those from the Corporate consultation process.
- R3. The evidence and key findings in relation to **accessibility, inclusivity and environmental sustainability** contained within this letter and the attached matrix (*Appendix H*) are incorporated as formal responses and given equal weighting to those from the Corporate consultation process in relation to the Strategic and Delivery Options.
- R4. The evidence and key findings in relation to **accessibility, inclusivity and environmental sustainability** contained within this letter and the attached matrix (*Appendix H*) are used to inform the development of the Preferred Strategy for the RLDP as part of addressing and meeting the needs of the individuals and communities in Cardiff as well as the Council's environmental responsibilities.
- R5. That **Scrutiny be prioritised** in future stages of the RLDP, with early sight of RLDP consultation documents to enable their feedback to be considered prior to them being finalised for publication.
- R6. That **all political groups** are provided with an early draft of RLDP consultation documents for consideration before being finalised so that they can also provide comment and suggest amendments for incorporation

Scrutiny Committee Membership



Cllr Ramesh Patel
(Chairperson)



Cllr Bob Derbyshire



Cllr Owen Jones



Cllr John Lancaster



Cllr Jacqueline Parry



Cllr Thomas Parkhill



Cllr Oliver Owen



Cllr Emma Sandrey



Cllr Peter Wong

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