

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 10th MARCH, 2021

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 21ST DECEMBER, 2020

“C430 RESPONSE TO THE WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2021 (LRPS) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

To report sought Cabinet endorsement of the Council's response to the Welsh Government (WG) Consultation on The Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

The WG consultation was seeking views on the policy approach for the subordinate legislation required to establish the procedure for Strategic Development Plans (“SDPs”) to be prepared across Wales by Corporate Joint Committees (“CJCs”) and associated matters. The Regulations would be called the Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021. The proposals replaced the previous framework for preparing an SDP with a Strategic Planning Panel that had been the subject of a previous report and endorsement by the Council on 29th July, 2019 (Minute Number 215 refers) which would become defunct.

The consultation document can be found by following the link:

<https://gov.wales/establishing-town-and-country-planning-strategic-development-plan-wales-regulations-2021>. The consultation included a set of specific questions to be submitted on or before 4th January, 2021. The draft response on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Council was attached at Appendix A to the report.

The key issues raised in the response were:

- the implications for resources of preparing a SDP in addition to the Local Development Plan (LDP);
- the governance arrangements for SDPs, CJCs and consultation with individual Local Authorities;
- concerns over the WG's expectation that the SDP could be prepared in the same manner and timeframe as the LDP; and
- the missed opportunity to gain certainty and remove risk as the SDP was prepared (i.e. endorsement of a 2-stage Examination).

The Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services noted the use of the urgency procedure in order to meet Welsh Government response deadline of 4th January, 2021, and that the report would be referred to Scrutiny Committee and any further comments would be sent as an addendum to Welsh Government even though the response deadline would have passed.

It was further noted that staff had completed a considerable amount of work under difficult conditions during the pandemic and the Cabinet passed on their thanks to all those concerned.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Council's response to the Welsh Government Consultation on The Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021 at Appendix A to the report be endorsed.

(2) T H A T the report and appended consultation response be referred to the Corporate Performance and Resources and Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committees for consideration, with any additional recommendations reported to Cabinet for further consideration in advance of submission to Welsh Government as an addendum, if necessary and appropriate.

(3) T H A T the urgency procedure set out in section 14:14 of the Council's Constitution in respect of Recommendation (1) above be approved.

Reasons for decisions

(1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(2) To enable the matter to be considered by Corporate Performance and Resources and Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committees.

(3) The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution."