

Committee: **Council**

Date of Meeting: **10<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Report Subject: **Strategic Development Plan - Cardiff Capital Region Area**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr D Davies**  
**Executive Member – Regeneration & Economic Development**

Report Submitted by: **Richard Crook**  
**Director of Regeneration and Community Services**  
**Steve Smith**  
**Service Manager – Development & Estates**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	10.09.19				23.09.19		10.10.19	

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To consider whether Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council joins the other nine neighbouring authorities in South East Wales to prepare a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) covering the Cardiff Capital Region area.

## 2.0 Scope and Background

2.1 The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 sets out the process for preparing a SDP. Welsh Government has invited Local Planning Authorities to submit proposals for SDP's. They state that SDP's are necessary to provide a robust framework for the delivery of the land use implications of existing City Deal proposals. It allows for larger than local issues such as housing, employment and infrastructure which cut across council boundaries to be considered in an integrated and comprehensive way.

2.2 In 2018, work commenced by the councils comprising the Cardiff Capital Region ('CCR') to look at the potential for a SDP. Since then, work has been ongoing to establish key areas of agreement to enable the project to proceed. At this stage, the guidance and regulations for SDP's have not been issued by Welsh Government. The region is therefore in a position to influence how the process evolves and managed. Welsh Government officials have met with CCR and are keen to work with the Region to progress the SDP.

2.3 The CCR Cabinet have held workshops attended by the Leaders, Chief Executives, Lead Cabinet Members for Planning and Chief Planning Officers of the 10 South East Wales Authorities to discuss the key issues of:

- Strategic Planning Area Boundary
- Governance
- Scope, Content and Plan Period

2.4 At these workshops and subsequent discussions, a preferred way forward has been identified in respect of these issues. These considerations are set out below and have informed the recommendations in this report.

### 3.0 **Key Issues for Consideration**

#### **Benefits of a Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Development Plan**

3.1 There is a need for joined-up strategic planning for the region to provide an enabling tool for economic growth, transport/connectivity and other related ambitions. The best way of achieving this is via a statutory development plan in the form of an SDP in order to:

- Provide a regional spatial framework for the future development and use of land;
- Achieve truly transformational change in the region;
- Provide the mechanism for consensus to be reached on significant strategic and cross boundary land use issues;
- Provide certainty, transparency and democratic accountability for decision making on land-use planning matters at a strategic level;
- Guide strategic public and private investment decisions, including those made under the City Deal initiative and beyond; and
- Enable true collaboration between LPA's working together on a Development Plan framework for the region, with associated benefits such as shared resources, resilience and savings.

3.2 The City Deal Agreement gave a commitment to prepare a SDP and to work collaboratively on strategic transport and strategic planning issues. This reflects the recommendation from the Growth Commission's report.

3.3 A statutory SDP provides certainty to developers, investors and our communities that key strategic decisions around housing, transport, employment and infrastructure provision are being taken at an appropriate regional level, whilst still allowing key decisions on planning proposals to be taken locally through Local Development Plan allocations and policies and thereafter in development management decisions.

3.4 A proposal to proceed with an SDP for the Cardiff Capital Region can only be put forward to Welsh Government by an agreed "Responsible Authority". Only then will Welsh Government start preparing the necessary regulations. It is expected that the Cardiff Capital Region will be the first in Wales to submit a proposal. CCR have the ability to influence these regulations and establish a process that works best for this region. WG officials have confirmed that they are willing to assist us to achieve this.

#### **Responsible Authority**

3.5 The region needs to identify a 'Responsible Authority' to act as the main point of contact for the SDP during the setting up stages.

- 3.6 The role of the responsible authority is purely administrative. It would be the sole point of contact between the Welsh Government and the 10 Councils. The background work, including all technical papers and consultation e.g. identifying the strategic planning boundary will be done on a collective basis. The role of the Responsible Authority would be to formally submit the proposal on behalf of the whole region to Welsh Government.
- 3.7 The decision on who becomes the Responsible Authority must be agreed by all 10 Councils. A paper setting out the relevant issues on this matter is attached at Appendix D. The Vale of Glamorgan Council (VoG) has been acting as the “Interim Responsible Authority” to this point. The Leader of VoG is the Theme Lead for Planning under the City Deal arrangements.
- 3.8 It is necessary to nominate the permanent Responsible Authority. It is proposed that the Vale of Glamorgan undertake this role. This complements the role of their Leader at CCR and I am confident they have the necessary capacity and expertise at officer level to fulfil this administrative role.

### **Strategic Planning Area Boundary**

- 3.9 The SDP must clearly define the land area it covers. This is known as the Strategic Planning Area. The submission to Welsh Government must include justification for the strategic planning area. Economic factors such as commuting flow patterns will need to be considered, along with data on daytime and night-time populations together with other physical or social factors. However, the most significant factors in drawing a boundary are likely to be the vision, desired outcomes, and political consideration of what is already in place in terms of administrative boundaries and the important work already achieved with regard to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.
- 3.10 The CCR covers 10 unitary authorities but 11 planning authorities. Brecon Beacons National Park is a local planning authority and overlaps with areas of a number of Councils, including Blaenau Gwent. At the CCR SDP workshops held in July 2018, it was considered whether the National Park area should be i) within the area ii) partially within it, or iii) wholly outside it.
- 3.11 Consensus was reached that the strategic planning area should consist of the 10 local planning authority areas within the Cardiff Capital Region as shown on the map at Appendix A which excludes those parts of the Brecon Beacons National Park that overlap with other administrative areas. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority has agreed with this approach; it does not wish to be part of the Strategic Planning Area.

### **Governance and Strategic Planning Panel**

- 3.12 The SDP governance model outlined in the Act represents a transfer of strategic planning powers from Local Authorities to a Strategic Planning Panel (SPP).

- 3.13 Once the Responsible Authority has submitted a proposal and the Strategic Planning Area has been formally designated by the Welsh Government, a Strategic Planning Panel must then be formed and charged with the responsibility for preparing a SDP for the strategic planning area.
- 3.14 The panel will consist of at least one elected member from each authority, plus other non-local authority nominated members. The elected members will contribute two thirds of the makeup of the panel, with the other nominated members accounting for the remaining third. Only the local authority elected members will have voting rights.
- 3.15 It is important to emphasise that the strategic planning panel will be the decision making body with regard to all aspects of the SDP, not the responsible authority or the individual constituent Councils.
- 3.16 Councils will be statutory consultees on all stages of the SDP and representations will be duly considered (see Figure 1). However, as noted, the Panel will be the decision making body.
- 3.17 Further detail on the working arrangements of the SPP will be set out in future regulations after the Responsible Authority has reported back to the Minister. Some of these issues are of fundamental significance in terms of governance and go to the heart of how the SDP will be managed and decisions are taken. Examples include uncertainties concerning voting rights, how many Members would sit on the Panel and how the gender composition requirements of 40-60% female representation could be met. Furthermore, the absence of regulations means that the SPP cannot be established immediately. There is a need to consider appropriate interim governance arrangements as the initial stages of the SDP is progressed.
- 3.18 The issue of governance has therefore been given significant consideration at Workshops and subsequent Cardiff Capital Region Cabinet discussions. The focus of these discussions has been around the appropriate representation of voting Members on the Panel from each constituent Council, how each Council can be effectively engaged in the decision making process and what voting arrangements would enable decisions to be made fairly. As a result of these discussions, a preferred governance structure is outlined below.

### **Representation on the Strategic Planning Panel (SPP)**

- 3.19 Votes cast by members of the SPP will be weighted having regard not only to the size of the population of the constituent authorities, but also having regard to the geographical area of the authority. This acknowledges that the SDP will be a land use plan. This has been set out as follows with a total number equivalent to 23 voting Members of the Panel:

Local Authority	No. of Members on the Strategic Planning Panel	Weighting of Vote for constituent LA
Blaenau Gwent	1	1
Merthyr Tydfil	1	1
Torfaen	1	1
Bridgend	1	2
Newport	1	2
Vale of Glamorgan	1	2
Caerphilly	1	3
Monmouthshire	1	3
Rhondda Cynon Taff	1	3
Cardiff	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>
Nominated non-voting panel members	5	N/A

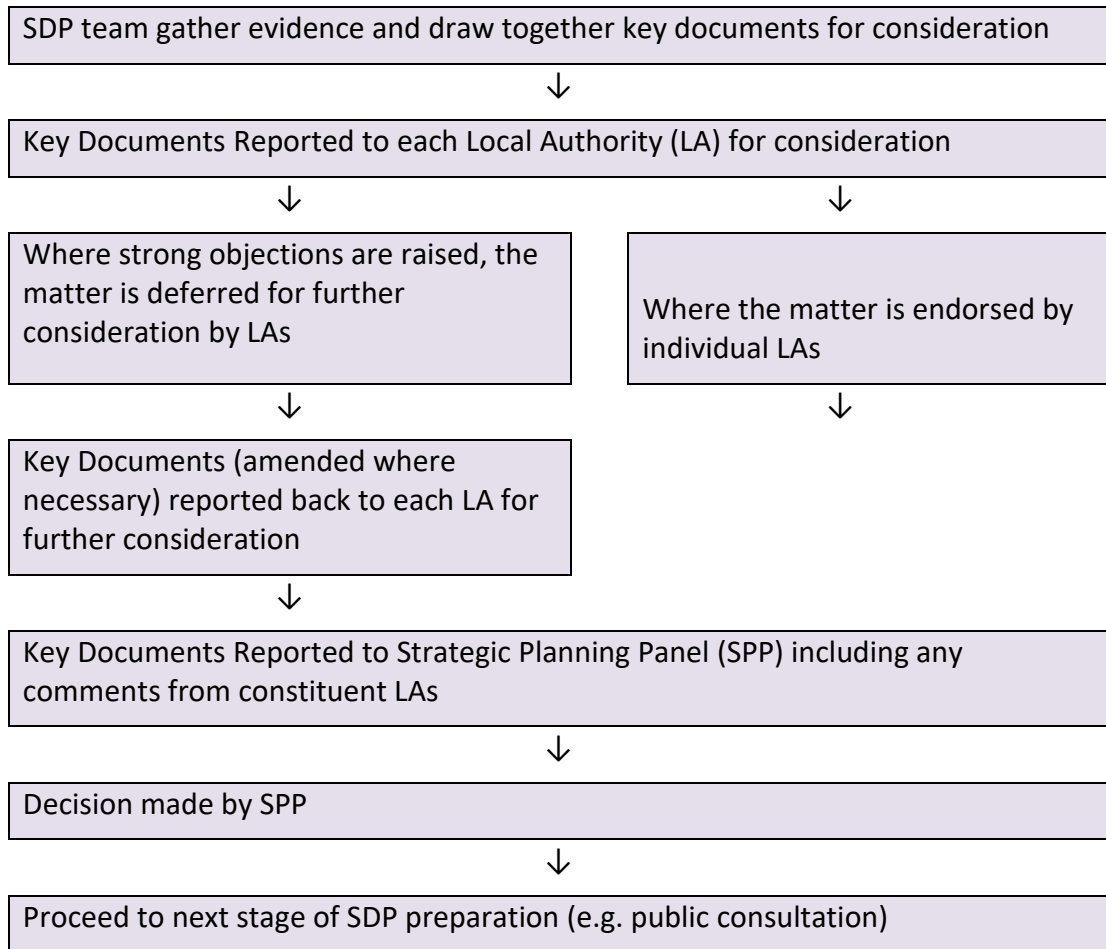
- 3.20 To ensure meetings are manageable and that each Council can resource the Panel with appropriate Members, it is recommended that the Panel comprises 1 Member from each constituent Council. These representatives are nominated to represent their Council and their vote is weighted. For example, a Member's vote from Cardiff has the weight of 5 votes. This will need to be set out by Welsh Government in the Regulations establishing the Panel or in the Panel's constitution.
- 3.21 The Act requires the voting members of the Panel to comply with the Strategic Planning (Composition of Panels and Qualifying Expenditure) (Wales) Regulations 2016. A specific requirement is that the SPP is to have a gender balance with no more than 60% comprising one gender. The requirement may be set aside where the make-up of constituent local planning authorities makes the gender balance unachievable.
- 3.22 WG officials have advised they will take a pragmatic stance on this and that the LPA members of the panel should comprise the most appropriate members in terms of their role within the constituent Councils, alongside relevant knowledge and experience.
- 3.23 The Panel will consist of LPA members as set out above, and other (non-elected) members. The panel requests and appoints non-elected nominated members (e.g. representatives from Business / Industry, Environmentalists, Transport specialists etc.) Non-elected reps do not have voting rights on the Panel. Local Authority members will make up two thirds of the Panel; with 10 LA members there would be 5 non-elected members making the total SPP 15 representatives.

### **Engagement with Constituent Councils**

- 3.24 To ensure that the constituent Councils are effectively engaged in the process, there will be formal stages of consultation in addition to continuous informal involvement throughout the plan preparation.

- 3.25 Potential options for 'a prior consent approach' or 'a consultation approach' to involve each Council in the process prior to the SPP making a formal decision have been considered. Counsel opinion was sought regarding the legalities of the various approaches and whether there were alternatives not yet considered.
- 3.26 Counsel did not consider that a unanimous vote of all LPA Members on the SPP was a realistic prospect. Nevertheless, Members on the Panel need to have an effective mechanism to gauge and reflect the views of their Councils. The aim is that the SDP is prepared and progressed on the basis of everyone working to achieve unanimous support in advance of decisions being made by the SPP.
- 3.27 Assuming the process mirrors that of Local Development Plan preparation, the key stages of reporting / decision making (noting stages 2 and 3 can be combined) will be:
1. Delivery Agreement
  2. Vision
  3. Preferred Strategy
  4. Deposit SDP
  5. Focussed Changes to SDP (if relevant)
  6. Submission of SDP to Welsh Government
  7. Inspector's Report and Adoption
- 3.28 When preparing Local Development Plans, Members are engaged in a variety of ways e.g. Community Engagement workshops; Visioning workshops; formal and informal Member briefing sessions with Full Council, the Cabinet or Executive, Political Groups or individual ward Members; formal reporting at key stages of development plan preparation; and during open public consultation at key stages of development plan preparation.
- 3.29 It is anticipated that the same engagement will take place in the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan. In addition Welsh Government officials envisage that the SPP could be supported by a number of sub-committees focussing on key theme areas like Housing, Employment, and Transport. Other LA Members could be on these Committees.
- 3.30 Figure 1 illustrates how a 'Prior Consultation' approach could work at each of the stages in plan preparation. In addition to the reporting stages above, Members of Councils will be involved in the process throughout.

Figure 1: Suggested Prior Consultation Reporting Process



### **Voting**

- 3.31 Part 2(14) of the Planning Act states the SPP must make standing orders regulating its procedure and these must specify a quorum for meeting of the panel, which must include at least half of the Local Planning Authority Members. Consideration has been given to the decision making framework for the Strategic Planning Panel.
- 3.32 It is recommended that decisions made on the SDP by the SPP shall require a 70% quorum of voting Members on the Panel and decisions shall require a 70% majority vote of a quorate meeting.

### **Interim Governance Prior to Establishment of SPP**

- 3.33 Finally, in respect of governance, it must be recognised that there will be a delay of several months before the WG lays regulations and formally establishes the Strategic Planning Panel. It is recommended that an interim SPP is set up to steer the process and to enable preparatory work to be undertaken in the intervening period.

- 3.34 It is recommended that each Council nominate a Member to represent them on an Interim Strategic Planning Panel with delegated authority to take initial decisions on the preparation of the SDP. The Interim Panel would have responsibility for oversight of the initial tasks to proceed with the SDP. These will include: preparation and formal submission of SDP Proposal to the Minister including justification for the Strategic Planning Area, liaison with Welsh Government on draft regulations and guidance, recruitment of the SDP Team, and procurement of goods and services as required.
- 3.35 It is likely that the Interim Panel will need to meet every 1-2 months during the initial period prior to the establishment of the Strategic Planning Panel.
- 3.36 Having regard to the role of the Interim Strategic Planning Panel in making these initial decisions, Cllr M. Moore is suggested to represent this Council. The role is closely related to her position as Vice Chair of Planning Committee.
- 3.37 It is recommended that Cllr. Moore thereafter represents the Council on the Strategic Planning Panel. Further, that delegated authority be given to the Leader of the Council to nominate future representatives on the Panel to replace the Council rep as appropriate.

### **Scope, Content and Plan Period of the SDP**

- 3.38 In the absence of SDP regulations/guidance, officers have sought advice from Welsh Government officials about the likely scope, content and plan period of the SDP.
- 3.39 Officers consider a 20 year plan period (e.g. 2020-2040) is most appropriate but further discussion can address this matter alongside plan content. The emerging NDF would run to 2040.
- 3.40 The scope and content of the SDP is also open to debate. This requires further consideration taking into account other development plans in the hierarchy i.e. the National Development Framework (NDF) and Local Development Plans (LDPs). Only those matters that have a regional significance should be included in the SDP. The scope needs to ensure that the preparation of the SDP is both manageable and effective.
- 3.41 This issue was given some consideration at the CCR SDP workshop in July 2018. At this stage, it would be premature to be prescriptive about the scope and content of the Plan. This will be informed to a large extent by the evidence and the guidance to follow. At this stage, it is expected that the plan will include the following:
- Objectives
  - A Vision for the Cardiff Capital Region
  - A Spatial Strategy that acknowledges the diversity of the region and its opportunities
  - Strategic policies and proposals



- 3.42 It is expected there will be core issues and topics that must be covered by the SDP including:
- Housing need & supply – whole region, by LPA or Housing Market Areas
  - Employment need & supply
  - Strategic sites and new settlements
  - Strategic Infrastructure e.g. Transport
  - Green Infrastructure e.g. Green Belt
  - Strategic Policies / Development Management Policies
- 3.43 To maximise the benefits of preparing an SDP for the region, there may be other subject areas if there was a willingness and / or need to do so, These could include:
- Decarbonisation and climate change mitigation
  - Minerals
  - Waste
  - Gypsy and Traveller need and provision
  - Renewable Energy
  - Retail
  - Tourism
  - Air Quality
  - Health Agenda
  - Others
- 3.44 Whilst there remains some uncertainty on some details, the governance framework recommended above will ensure that the scope and content of the Plan is evidence based and relevant to the constituent Councils of the Strategic Planning Area who will be engaged throughout the process of plan preparation.

### **Officer and Financial Resources**

- 3.45 The SDP will require a new way of working by Local Planning Authorities across the region. At present, planning policy in the region is undertaken at Local Planning Authority level. There is a degree of collaboration and joint procurement of services at a regional or sub-regional level undertaken on an informal basis.
- 3.46 The region already benefits from a strong degree of communication in this field through the South East Wales Strategic Planning Group (SEWSPG).
- 3.47 The delivery of the SDP will require focus and commitment and significant staff time. There are several ways in which this could be achieved, which need to be considered further. Potential options include:
- a. Informal collaboration with a Lead Authority
  - b. Procure consultancy services to prepare the SDP on behalf of the region

- c. One or more LPAs prepare the SDP on behalf of the region
- d. Regional SDP team established with appropriate personnel appointed which could include seconded officers from across the region
- e. Formal reorganisation of regional strategic planning to cover all planning policy functions including Local Development Plans and associated work

3.48 An evaluation of the various options is set out in the 'Staff Resources' paper at Appendix E. SEWPOS (South East Wales Chief Planning Officers Society) have given this matter some consideration and recommend that option 'd' is preferred. It offers the best solution in terms of cost efficiency, ensuring that the project is given sufficient focus and enough resource to ensure it is delivered in a timely manner.

3.49 The cost of preparing the SDP will depend on which option is pursued for resourcing the project. Other factors such as the duration of the plan period, and scope/content of the SDP will also have a bearing. It is expected that the overall cost of preparing an SDP, followed by a 'light touch' Local Development Plan (LDP) will be less than the cost of preparing 10 individual LDPs.

3.50 The costs of introducing an SDP will include the following:

- Staff costs (including on-costs);
- Governance costs including the cost of the Panel (including members and stakeholders) and their running costs;
- A proportion of the time spent by specialist staff who input to the development plan system e.g. GIS, ecologist, landscape architect, highways, legal, leisure, education, social services, press/communications, development management, housing, property/estates and archaeology / heritage);
- Specific consultation bodies such as Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water;
- Gathering an evidence base. This includes; sustainability appraisal/strategic environmental assessment, an assessment of impacts on the use of the Welsh language; habitats regulation assessment; strategic housing market assessment and gypsy and travellers assessment; employment sites and market appraisal; retail assessment; renewable energy assessment; landscape appraisal; recreation and open space assessment; strategic flood consequences assessment; minerals and waste study and transport modelling;
- Examination costs such as the cost of the Planning Inspectorate, programme officer, expert evidence and accommodation costs);
- Printing costs, translation costs and cost of adverts; and
- IT consultation database, maintenance and ICT support.

3.51 Analysis of the cost of preparing an SDP with a designated team is attached at Appendix F. This report concludes that the estimated SDP cost for the Cardiff Capital Region will be circa £3.14m over 5 years.

- 3.52 By way of background, the preparation of individual Local Development Plans across the region cost between £1.4m and £2.2m depending on the complexity of local circumstances.
- 3.53 It is expected that the cost of preparing future LDP “Lites” will be significantly reduced as some of the contentious issues that require significant Plan Examination time and expenditure will have been agreed at the SDP stage where the costs will be shared and significantly reduced by doing so once rather than 10 times.
- 3.54 The overall cost of the SDP based on a 5 year delivery programme is estimated to be £3,141,101 – broken up as follows:
- Initial project set up costs £50,000
  - SDP Team Staff costs £1,812,036
  - Strategic Planning Panel £26,400 plus existing budget for LPA Members
  - Additional costs associated with SPP £34,290
  - Additional staff within local authority – existing budget
  - Evidence base £795,000
  - Examination £283,180
  - Printing costs £55,000
  - Translation costs £55,195
  - Cost of adverts – None
  - IT Support - £30,000
- 3.55 It is recommended that the cost of preparing the SDP is shared across the 10 Authorities on a proportional contribution based on the vote weighting for the Strategic Planning Panel which reflects population size and geographical area<sup>1</sup>. This will be reviewed annually. Based on the proportional split of funding recommended the estimated cost would be shared between the constituent Councils as follows:

---

<sup>1</sup> Note the legal provisions in Schedule 2A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015) relating to the financial arrangements for Strategic Planning Panels

Local Authority	% cost based on SPP Member votes	Total cost (£)	Annual cost (£)
Blaenau Gwent	4.35	136,590	27,318
Bridgend	8.70	273,180	54,636
Caerphilly	13.04	409,456	81,891
Cardiff	21.74	682,636	136,527
Merthyr Tydfil	4.35	136,590	27,318
Monmouthshire	13.04	409,456	81,891
Newport	8.70	273,180	54,636
Rhondda Cynon Taf	13.04	409,456	81,891
Torfaen	4.35	136,590	27,318
Vale of Glamorgan	8.70	273,180	54,636
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.01%</b>	<b>3,140,314</b>	<b>628,062</b>

3.56 Welsh Government officials have agreed to contribute £50,000 towards the set up costs for the SDP. There will therefore be no set up costs for the constituent authorities in the first financial year 2019/20.

3.57 In addition, Local Authorities will need to consider the cost of their own LDP work that will vary between Authorities depending on the stage they are at.

### **Provisional Timeline for Preparation of SDP**

3.58 To proceed, all 10 Councils must first agree to prepare a Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region.

3.59 Assuming this is agreed in Autumn 2019, a provisional timeline for the preparation of the SDP is set out at Appendix C. This includes starting work on the evidence base as soon as possible, publishing a Preferred Strategy in 2022, a Deposit Plan in 2023 and Examination then Adoption in 2024/25.

## **4.0 Options for Recommendation**

### **4.1 Option 1: Prepare a SDP for the Cardiff Capital Region (Preferred Option)**

1. Blaenau Gwent CBC to agree the Vale of Glamorgan Council as the Responsible Authority for the purposes of preparing the Strategic Development Plan for Cardiff Capital Region.
2. Blaenau Gwent CBC to agree that the Responsible Authority be authorised to submit the Proposal for SDP for the Cardiff Capital Region to the Minister on behalf of the 10 Local Planning Authorities in the region.
3. Blaenau Gwent CBC to agree the strategic planning area as being comprised of the 10 local planning authority areas within the Cardiff Capital Region as shown on the map at Appendix A.
4. Blaenau Gwent to agree that relevant officers engage with the Welsh Government in drafting the Strategic Development Plan Regulations to deliver the following governance arrangements for the SDP and Strategic Planning Panel (SPP):

- i. That the Strategic Planning Panel will be comprised of 10 Members: 1 from each Local Authority with the weighting of votes for each Local Authority based on its population and geographical area as follows:

Local Authority	No. of Members on the Strategic Planning Panel	Weighting of Vote for constituent LA
Blaenau Gwent	1	1
Bridgend	1	2
Caerphilly	1	3
Cardiff	1	5
Merthyr Tydfil	1	1
Monmouthshire	1	3
Newport	1	2
Rhondda Cynon Taff	1	3
Torfaen	1	1
Vale of Glamorgan	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>
Nominated non-voting panel members	5	NA

- ii. That constituent Councils will be engaged through a prior consultation process as set out in Figure 1 and the SPP shall have full regard to the comments of constituent Councils.
- iii. That decisions made by the SPP shall require a 70% quorum of voting Members on the Panel and decisions shall require a 70% majority vote of a quorate meeting.
5. Blaenau Gwent to agree the setting up of an Interim SPP prior to the formal establishment of the SPP. The nominated Member for this Council is **Cllr Mandy Moore (Vice Chair of Planning Committee)** on the Interim Strategic Planning Panel. She has delegated authority to take initial decisions on the preparation of the SDP (with a vote weighted in accordance with the table at Recommendation 4(i)) and thereafter on the Strategic Planning Panel.
6. In the event that Member is no longer able to sit on Interim Strategic Planning Panel, give delegated authority to the Leader of the Council to nominate a new Member to represent to Council on the Interim Strategic Planning Panel and Strategic Planning Panel.
7. That a Regional SDP officer team is established to progress the preparation of the SDP to be appointed by representatives of Interim Strategic Planning Panel, with appropriate human resource support from the Responsible Authority.

### Reason for Recommendations

1. To agree the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for

the Cardiff Capital Region, providing clarity of intent and to allow work to commence.

2. To agree the Vale of Glamorgan Council as the Theme Lead under the existing City Deal arrangements as the Responsible Authority to administer the SDP. The Regulations require that a Responsible Authority be identified to coordinate administrative and HR matters.
3. To identify the strategic planning area as the 10 local planning authority areas within the Cardiff Capital Region, having regard to the environmental, economic, social and administrative functions of the Cardiff Capital Region. The Regulations require that, when notifying the Welsh Government of the intention to proceed with a SDP, the strategic planning area is identified.
4. To ensure the Strategic Development Plan Regulations deliver appropriate governance arrangements for the SDP and Strategic Planning Panel (SPP).
5. To set up an Interim Strategic Planning Panel prior to the formal establishment of the SPP with the nominated Member(s) representing the Council on the Interim Strategic Planning Panel with delegated authority to take initial decisions on the preparation of the SDP including the appointment of the SDP Team. That that Member is also nominated to represent the Council on the Strategic Planning Panel in due course.
6. To establish a Regional SDP team to progress the preparation of the SDP to ensure adequate time and expertise is secured to ensure the successful delivery of a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital Region.
7. To ensure that the cost of preparing the SDP is shared across the 10 Authorities on a proportional cost based on SPP voting arrangements, which is reviewed annually.

#### **Option 2: Do not be part of the preparation of a SDP for the Cardiff Capital Region**

- 4.2 Theoretically this option would give us the power to identify how much housing and employment growth we should be providing but in reality this would not be the case as the National Development Framework makes it clear that we are part of the South East Wales region and are required to work together to deliver housing. This means that we would be told by them how much growth we should identify and we would have no say in it. There would also be a reputational risk to the Council as we would be saying that we do not see ourselves as part of the Cardiff Capital Region and hence all the other benefits that should come with the City Deal.

## 5.0 Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Stat Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan

5.1 The SDP will provide a strategic land use document for the Cardiff Capital Region, setting out how and where sustainable development will be delivered. It is a cross-cutting plan that considers issues around housing, employment, transport, infrastructure, community facilities, education facilities, leisure and tourism, heritage and environmental assets. Therefore it will set a framework to deliver against all of the Council's well-being objectives as follows:

- Blaenau Gwent wants everyone to have the best start in life...
- Blaenau Gwent wants safe and friendly communities...
- Blaenau Gwent wants to look after and protect its natural environment...
- Blaenau Gwent wants to forge new pathways to prosperity...
- Blaenau Gwent wants to encourage and enable people to make health lifestyle choices in the places that they live, learn, work and play...

## 6.0 Implications Against Each Option

### 6.1 *Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)*

#### **Option 1: Prepare a SDP for the Cardiff Capital Region**

##### **Short Term impact**

There will be an initial contribution of **£2,175** to cover the start-up costs likely to be incurred in this financial year 2019/20.

The overall cost of preparing the Strategic Development Plan for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is £136,590 which equates to £27,318 per annum for five years (from 2020/21).

##### **Long Term impact**

There will be a saving in the long-term as the cost of preparing future Local Development Plans will be reduced. The existence of a regional tier of development plan will allow for LDP Lite's to be prepared which will be less costly than the current LDP as many of the issues contained in existing LDP will already have been determined at the SDP level.

It should be noted that the existing Development Plan budget of £7,080 per annum is not sufficient to cover the preparation of the LDP and SDP. As a result the £136,590 cost (£27,318 per annum for the period 2020/21 to 2024/5) will be a further budget pressure to that already identified for the Replacement LDP (**£132,388**). Funding will need to be identified during 2020/21 to address this cost pressure.

#### **Option 2**

There will be no further budget pressure in the short-term. However, possible long-term savings as a result of being able to prepare LDP 'lites' rather than LDPs, which are less costly to prepare would be lost.

## 6.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

### **Option 1**

- There is a risk that not all authorities will agree to prepare a SDP. Political support has been sought from the Leaders of each Local Authority.

- There is a risk that the SDP will take longer to prepare than anticipated. A delivery agreement will be prepared and monitored and any deviation must be agreed with Welsh Government.

- There is a risk that when prepared, the Panel will not be able to reach agreement on the SDP.

Significant work has already been undertaken to ensure that this should not happen. The Prior consultation Reporting process should mean that there will be agreement.

- There is a risk that the Inspector will find the Plan unsound. This will be mitigated through close working with Welsh Government in the preparation of the SDP.

### **Option 2**

- In the event that this Council goes for option 2 and does not form part of the SDP area there is a risk that the Council will be told what level of growth to accommodate without having a say.

This can only be mitigated by being part of the SDP.

- There is a reputational risk if the Council did not agree to prepare a SDP. Work has been undertaken with Leaders of each of the Council to gain support for the principle of preparing a SDP.

## 6.3 ***Legal***

The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 sets out the process for establishing and preparing SDP and is supplemented by the Strategic Planning (Composition of Panels and Qualifying Expenditure) (Wales) Regulations 2016. The preparation of the SDP will be undertaken in accordance with this and all other relevant legislation.

## 6.4 ***Human Resources***

There will be pressure on staff resources both from the risk of losing staff to the Strategic Development Plan Team and in terms of extra workload as a result of supporting the work of the Strategic Development Plan at the same time as preparing a LDP.

## 7.0 ***Supporting Evidence***

### 7.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

N/A

### 7.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

A joined-up strategic plan for the Cardiff Capital Region that will be an enabling tool for the region's economic growth and transport / connectivity ambitions.



7.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

Preparation of the SDP will provide numerous opportunities to engage with our stakeholders, residents and customers, including the business community and ensuring that we are listening to a wide range of views to inform the plan and decision making process.

7.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

The SDP will be all about planning for the future and taking a strategic approach to ensure the Cardiff Capital Region is sustainable and that we understand the future need and demand for sustainable development in the region and how that is best met.

7.5 ***Preventative focus***

The SDP provides an opportunity to understand the root causes of issues and preventing them by being proactive in our thinking and understanding the need to tackle problems at source for example by undertaking needs assessments to inform our priorities.

7.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The SDP will be a key collaboration project for the region enabling the 10 Local Planning Authorities to work together to form a Plan for the region.

7.7 ***Integration(across service areas)***

The preparation of the SDP will bring together all land use planning issues relevant at a strategic level across the Cardiff Capital Region, involving our partners, residents, visitors, employers and service providers in the formulation of the Plan.

7.8 ***EqIA(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)***

The SDP will be subject to an EQIA.

8.0 **Monitoring Arrangements**

8.1 N/A

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

Planning (Wales) Act 2015

The Strategic Planning (Composition of Panels and Qualifying Expenditure) (Wales) Regulations 2016

- Appendix A - Proposed Strategic Planning Area Boundary Map
- Appendix B - Letter from Lesley Griffiths (then Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs) to all Leaders and Chief Executives dated 13.12.17
- Appendix C – SDP Timeline
- Appendix D - Responsible Authority - Options Paper
- Appendix E - Staff Resources
- Appendix F - Cost Analysis (June 2019)