



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

TUESDAY 18th JUNE 2019

PROPOSALS FOR A STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING, COUNCILLOR ROBERT BEVAN

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1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- Recommend that necessary agreements are made and authorisations given by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council (RCT) to enable the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital Region.
- Set out the details of the proposed governance arrangements for the SDP and the proposed methods of preparation and delivery of the plan.
- Give a background to the principle of the SDP, including its planning status and overarching benefits for RCT and the region.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

2.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf Council endorse the content of the report and agree that the Responsible Authority be authorised to submit the Proposal for a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital Region to the Minister on behalf of the 10 Local Planning Authorities in the region.

2.2 That Rhondda Cynon Taf Council endorse the Vale of Glamorgan Council as the Responsible Authority for the Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Development Plan.

- 2.3 That Rhondda Cynon Taf Council endorse that the strategic planning area should comprise the 10 local planning authority areas within the Cardiff Capital Region as shown on the map at **Appendix A**.
- 2.4 That Rhondda Cynon Taf Council authorise relevant officers to engage with the Welsh Government in drafting the Strategic Development Plan Regulations to establish the governance arrangements for the SDP and Strategic Planning Panel (SPP) as set out in paragraphs 5.10 to 5.24 of this report.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 That the cost of preparing the SDP is shared across the 10 Authorities on a proportional cost based on the voting representation on the Strategic Planning Panel, to be reviewed on an annual basis. This would mean an initial contribution of £6,520 by Rhondda Cynon Taf towards a collective £50,005 to cover the start-up costs likely to be incurred in this financial year 2019/20. Details of these costs and the further annual costs are set out in paragraphs 5.30 to 5.40 of this report.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Welsh Government have invited all Local Planning Authorities to submit proposals for SDPs, stating that the ability to plan strategically to support the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) will be essential to ensure that key economic, social and environmental outcomes are achieved in a cohesive and evidence based approach, across the wider region.
- 3.2 The City Deal Agreement gave a commitment to prepare a Strategic Development Plan for the region 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 (CCR) can only be put forward to Welsh Government, by an identified Responsible Authority, once all Councils have formally given approval.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 sets out the process for establishing and preparing a Strategic Development Plan (SDP). Welsh Government have invited all Local Planning Authorities to submit proposals for SDPs, stating that the ability to plan strategically to support the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) will be essential to ensure that key economic, social and environmental outcomes are achieved in a cohesive and evidence based approach, across the wider region (see letter from Lesley Griffiths, the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs to all Leaders and Chief Executives dated 13.12.17 at **Appendix B**).
- 4.2 In 2018 and on the basis that the way forward would be subject to decision by each authority, work commenced by the ten authorities comprising the Cardiff Capital Region ('CCR') to look at the potential for a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the 10 Local Authorities in the region.
- 4.3 Since then, work has been ongoing to establish some key areas of agreement to enable the project to proceed. At this stage the guidance and regulations for the SDP have not been made and the region is therefore in a position to influence how the process can be managed and a successful SDP delivered. Welsh Government officials have met with Lead Members and officers and are keen to work with the Region to progress the SDP.
- 4.4 The Cardiff Capital Region Cabinet have held workshops attended by the Leaders, Chief Executives, Lead Cabinet Members for Planning and Chief Planning Officers of the 10 Cardiff Capital Region Authorities to discuss the key issues of:
- Strategic Planning Area Boundary
 - Governance
 - Scope, Content and Plan Period
- 4.5 At these workshops and at 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.

5.0 KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Benefits of a Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Development Plan

- 5.1 There is a need for joined-up strategic planning for the Cardiff Capital Region, providing an enabling tool for the region's economic growth, transport/connectivity and other ambitions. The best way of achieving this is via a statutory Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region in order to:
- Provide a regional spatial framework for the future development and use of land in the Cardiff Capital Region;
 - 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/regional level;
 - Guide strategic public and private investment decisions, including those made under the City Deal initiative and beyond; and;
 - Enable true collaboration between LPAs working together on a Development Plan framework for the region, with associated benefits such as shared resources, resilience and savings.
- 5.2 The City Deal Agreement gave a commitment to prepare a Strategic Development Plan for the region and to work collaboratively on strategic transport and strategic planning issues. This reflects the recommendation from the Growth Commission's report.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 A proposal to proceed with an SDP for the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) can only be put forward to Welsh Government, by an identified Responsible Authority, once all Councils have formally given approval. Following this Welsh Government can start preparing the necessary regulations setting out how the SDP should be prepared. Until now, they have not done so because no SDP proposals have been formally submitted. It is expected that the Cardiff Capital Region will be the first to do so. Therefore, the CCR have the ability to influence these regulations and establish a process that works best for this region. Welsh Government officials have confirmed that they are willing to assist Rhondda Cynon Taf to achieve this.

Responsible Authority

- 5.5 The Act sets out some initial stages of preparing an SDP, including identifying an area to be designated as a strategic planning area and consulting on this proposal, submitting the proposal and a report describing the rationale, consultation and responses received to the Welsh Government. To do this, the region needs to identify a 'Responsible Authority' to act as the main point of contact for the SDP during the setting up stages.
- 5.6 It must be stressed that the role of the responsible authority is purely administrative, acting in support of the work of the 10 local authorities and as the sole point of contact between the Welsh Government and the 10 local authorities. The background work, including all technical work and consultation, e.g. identifying the strategic planning boundary, would be done on a collective basis by officers from all 10 Local Authorities. The role of the Responsible Authority would be to formally submit the proposal on behalf of the whole region to Welsh Government.
- 5.7 The decision on who is identified as the Responsible Authority needs to be agreed by all 10 Local Authorities. A paper setting out the relevant issues on this matter is attached at **Appendix D**. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has been acting as the Interim Responsible Authority for the SDP, being the main point of contact and coordinator on the SDP project in the short term, in view of their Leader being the Theme Lead for planning under the City Deal arrangements. It is considered necessary, at this stage, to identify the nominated Responsible Authority for endorsement and it is proposed that the Vale of Glamorgan Council undertake this role following on from its temporary role as the Interim Responsible Authority.

Strategic Planning Area Boundary

- 5.8 The SDP needs to be clear about what land area it covers as a land use plan, and 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 for example, plus 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.
- 5.9 The Cardiff Capital Region covers 10 unitary authorities, but 11 local planning authorities. Areas of the Brecon Beacons National Park, which is its own local planning authority, overlap with areas of Monmouthshire and the Valleys. At the CCR SDP workshops held in

July 2018, discussions mainly considered whether the Brecon Beacons National Park area should be within the area, partially within it, or wholly outside it. Considering the advantages and disadvantages of each option, consensus was reached that the strategic planning area should be limited to the 10 local planning authority areas within the Cardiff Capital Region as shown on the map at **Appendix A** that excludes those parts of the Brecon Beacons National Park that overlap with areas of Monmouthshire and the Valleys. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority has indicated that it agrees with this approach and does not wish to be part of the Strategic Planning Area or covered by the SDP.

Governance and Strategic Planning Panel

- 5.10 The SDP governance model outlined in the Act represents a transfer of strategic planning powers from Local Authorities to a Strategic Planning Panel (SPP). 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 will then be formed and charged with the responsibility for preparing a SDP for the strategic planning area. 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. It is important to emphasise that the strategic planning panel will be the decision making body with regard to all aspects of the SDP, and not the responsible authority or the individual constituent Councils. Individual Councils will be statutory consultees on all stages of the SDP and representations will be duly considered (see Figure 1 below), however, as noted, the Panel will be the decision making body.
- 5.11 It should be noted that further detail on the working arrangements of the SPP will be set out through 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 right 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 of Elected Members could be met. Furthermore, given that the regulations mean that the SPP cannot be established immediately, there is a need to consider the most appropriate interim governance arrangements as the initial stages of the SDP is progressed.
- 5.12 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)

5.13 Voting of the SPP will be weighted having regard not only to the size of the population of the constituent authorities, but also weighted to have regard to the geographical area of the authority, given that the SDP will be a land use plan. This has been set out as follows with a total 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
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
Total	10	23
Nominated non-voting panel members	5	NA

5.14 To ensure meetings are manageable and that Councils can resource the Panel with appropriate Members, it is recommended that the Panel comprises 1 Member from each constituent Council who are nominated to represent their Council and their vote is weighted

accordingly. For example: 1 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.

- 5.15 The Act requires the voting members of the Panel to comply with the Strategic Planning (Composition of Panels and Qualifying Expenditure) (Wales) Regulations 2016 which the local planning authority representatives to have a gender balance with no more than 60% of the Panel comprising one gender, except where the make-up of constituent local planning authorities makes the composition requirements unachievable. Welsh Government officials have advised they will take a pragmatic stance on this and that the Local Planning Authority (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.
- 5.16 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.) but they do not have voting rights on the Panel. Local Authority members will make up 2/3rds of the Panel, therefore with 10 LA members there would be 5 non-elected members and a total panel of 15.

Engagement with Constituent Councils

- 5.17 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 preparation of the SDP. 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 and Counsel Opinion was sought about the legalities of the various approaches and whether there were alternatives not yet considered. 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 being that the SDP is prepared and progressed on the basis of working to achieve unanimous support for its proposals in advance of decisions being made by the SPP.
- 5.18 Assuming the process mirrors that of Local Development Plan preparation, it is considered that the key stages of reporting / decision making (noting stages ii and iii can be combined) will be:
- i. Delivery Agreement
 - ii. Vision
 - iii. Preferred Strategy

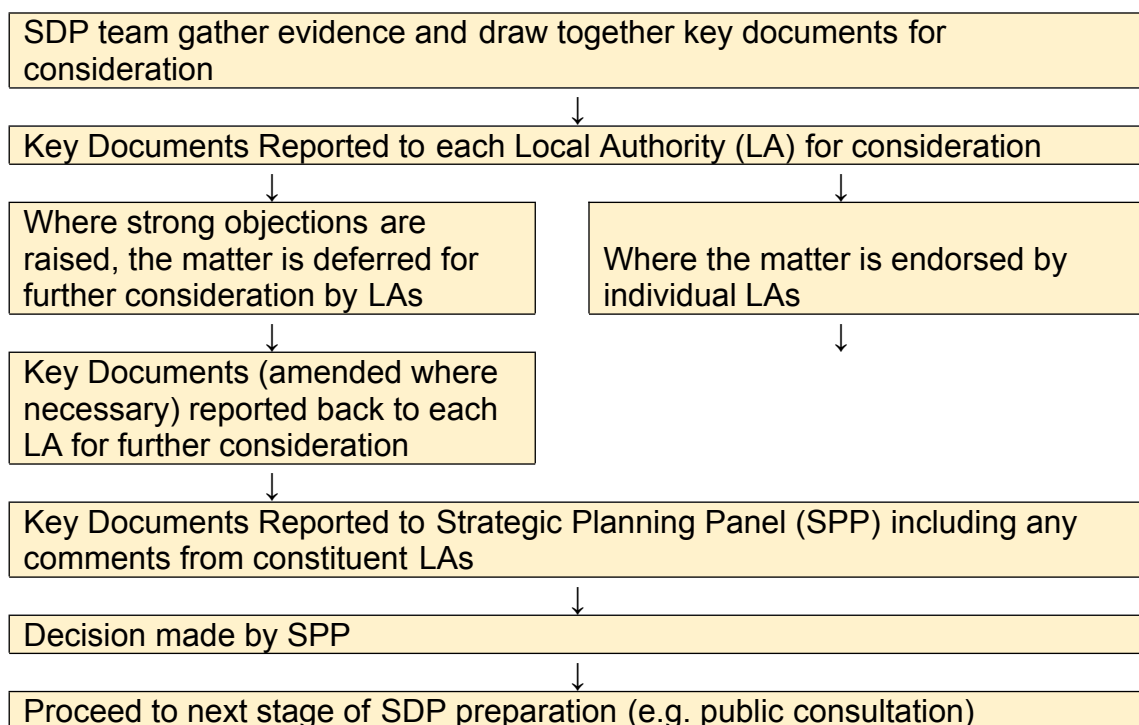
- iv. Deposit SDP
- v. Focussed Changes to SDP (if relevant)
- vi. Submission of SDP to Welsh Government
- vii. Inspectors Report and Adoption

5.19 At present, when preparing Local Development Plans, Members are engaged in a variety of ways, for example: 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.

5.20 It is anticipated that the same engagement will take place in the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan. In addition, Welsh Government officials envisaged that the SPP could be supported by a number of sub-committees focussing on key theme areas like Housing, Employment, and Transport and other LA Members could be on these Committees.

5.21 Figure 1 shows how a 'Prior Consultation' approach should work at each of the key stages in plan preparation. In addition to the formal reporting stages above, Members of constituent Councils will be involved in the process throughout.

Figure 1: Suggested Prior Consultation Reporting Process



Voting

- 5.22 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.
- 5.23 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

- 5.24 Finally, in respect of governance, it must be recognised that there will be a delay of several months before WG lays regulations and formally establishes the Strategic Planning Panel. Therefore, it is recommended that an interim SPP is set up to steer the process between now and then and to enable preparatory work to be undertaken in the intervening period. It is recommended that each Council nominate 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 (60E of the Planning Act), liaison with Welsh Government on SDP draft regulations and guidance, recruitment of the SDP Team, and procurement of goods and services as required. It is likely that the Interim Panel will need to meet every 1-2 months during this initial period prior to the formal establishment of the Strategic Planning Panel.

Scope, Content and Plan Period of the SDP

- 5.25 In the absence of regulations or guidance on SDPs, officers have sought advice from Welsh Government officials about the likely scope, content and plan period of the SDP. 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 scope and content of the SDP is also open to debate and further consideration taking into account the scope and content of 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 and the scope needs to ensure that the preparation of the SDP is both manageable and effective. The emerging NDF would run to 2040.

5.26 This issue was given some consideration at the CCR SDP workshop in July 2018. At this stage, it would be premature to be explicit about the scope and content of the Plan and this will be informed to a large extent by the evidence and the guidance to follow. However, 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

5.27 It is expected there will be core issues / 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

5.28 There may be other matters that could be covered if there was a willingness and / or need to do so, to maximise the benefits of preparing an SDP for the region. These could include: Decarbonisation and climate change mitigation, Minerals, Waste, Gypsy and Traveller need and provision, Renewable Energy, Retail, Tourism, Air Quality, Health Agenda and so on.

5.29 Whilst there remains some uncertainty on these matters, 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

5.30 The SDP will require a new way of working by Local Planning Authorities across the region. At present, planning policy in the region is generally undertaken at individual Local Planning Authority level, with a limited degree of collaboration and joint procurement of services at a regional or sub-regional level (undertaken on an informal footing). However, the region already benefits from a strong degree of communication in this field through the South East Wales Strategic Planning Group (SEWSPG).

5.31 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:

1. Informal collaboration with a Lead Authority.
2. Procure consultancy services to undertake the SDP on behalf of the region.
3. One or more LPAs prepare the SDP on behalf of the region.
4. Regional SDP team established with appropriate personnel appointed which could include seconded officers from across the region.
5. Formal reorganisation of regional strategic planning to cover all planning policy functions including Local Development Plans and associated work.

5.32 **Appendix E** sets out the considerations relating to staff resources and SDP preparation process options in greater detail. Chief Planning Officers have given this matter some consideration and recommend that **option '4'** is the preferred way forward in terms of cost efficiency and ensuring that the project is given sufficient focus and resource to ensure it is delivered in a timely manner.

5.33 Depending on which option is pursued for resourcing the project, and what the plan period, scope and content of the SDP will influence the cost of preparing the SDP. 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.

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

- Staff costs (including an on-costs);
- Governance costs which include 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 engineer, legal, leisure, education, social services, press/communications, development management, housing, property/estates and archaeology / heritage);
- Specific consultation bodies (Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water);
- Gathering an evidence base (this takes into account; sustainability appraisal/strategic environmental assessment, including 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 (taking into account the cost of the Planning Inspector, programme officer, expert evidence and accommodation costs);
- Printing costs, translation costs and cost of adverts; and;
- IT consultation database, maintenance and ICT Support.

5.35 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 **£3.14m** over **5 years**. 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. It is expected that the cost of preparing future LDP Lites will be significantly reduced as some of the key 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.

5.36 The overall cost of the SDP based on a 5 year delivery programme is estimated to be £3,141,101 as follows:

- Initial project set up costs £50,005
- 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

5.37 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. 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:

Table 2: SDP Costs per Local Authority

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
Total	100.01%	3,140,314	628,062

- 5.38 Each constituent Council will need to agree to an initial contribution to cover the start-up costs likely to be incurred in this financial year 2019/20, to be managed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council as the Responsible Authority. An initial contribution of **£50,005** is recommended to cover the start-up costs likely to be incurred in this financial year 2019/20, divided as follows:

Local Authority	% cost based on SSP votes	£
Blaenau Gwent	4.35	2,175
Bridgend	8.7	4,350
Caerphilly	13.04	6,520
Cardiff	21.74	10,870
Merthyr Tydfil	4.35	2,175
Monmouthshire	13.04	6,520
Newport	8.7	4,350
Rhondda Cynon Taff	13.04	6,520
Torfaen	4.35	2,175
Vale of Glamorgan	8.7	4,350
Total	100.01	50,005

- 5.39 Welsh Government officials have also indicated they may be able to provide some financial support for the SDP and this is being actively pursued at the time of writing this report.

- 5.40 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

- 5.41 To proceed all 10 Councils must first agree to embark on preparing a Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region. Assuming this is agreed in Autumn 2019, a provisional timeline for the preparation of the SDP is set out at **Appendix C**, which 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.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment screening exercise has been undertaken that indicates that there are no expected negative impacts on the protected characteristics and a full assessment is not required. However, the scope of the SDP will result in some of these matters being considered further, and if necessary will develop and incorporate policies that may have a positive impact on some of these characteristics.

7.0 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 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 preparation of the SDP.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 The overall cost of the SDP based on a 5-year delivery programme is estimated to be £3,144,101 which will be shared on a proportional basis by the constituent Councils. Full details are set out in the report paragraphs above, essentially indicating that Rhondda Cynon Taf would pay a total of **£409,456**, at a rate of **£81,891** per year over the 5-year period.
- 8.2 The initial contribution of **£6,520** for 2019/20 can be funded from existing resources within the Prosperity and Development service budget. Subject to any financial support being available from WG, funding for the remaining contributions over the 5-year period will be included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning updates.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 The following legislation will be the main legislation associated with the preparation of the SDP, although not being limited to this;

- Planning Policy Wales Edition 10 (December 2018)
- Town and Country Planning Wales (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
- Planning Act 2015
- Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015

10.0 LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

10.1 The production of a Strategic Development Plan will help to deliver the Council's three main corporate priorities of building a strong economy, promoting independence and positive lives for everyone and creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work. The production of this land-use plan will help to stimulate the local economy through market and social house building, as well as providing for employment and retail development across the Capital Region. Working together to shape our communities will instil a sense of pride and allow people to live and work independently, wherever they so choose. The SDP will also help to deliver the transport infrastructure that keeps the Cardiff Capital Region and Rhondda Cynon Taf working and moving, in a sustainable way that benefits current and future generations.

10.2 The Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Development Plan will be a key project demonstrating the 5 ways of working in action:

- Integration – 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.
- Collaboration - 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.
- Involvement – preparation of the SDP will provide numerous opportunities to engage with our 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.

- Prevention – 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.
- Long-term – 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.

10.3 The SDP will contribute to the seven well-being goals by working together with other public services and third sector organisations to improve the well-being of everybody in Wales. This new approach seeks to improve public services in a sustainable way, for the benefit of all. The SDP will help to ensure:

- A Prosperous Wales – The SDP will promote a productive, creative and low-carbon society that recognises the limits of our resources and global environment, by ensuring that our finite resources are used efficiently and proportionately. It will also help to develop a skilled, well-educated population to work within an economy that generates wealth and provides employment opportunities for all.
- A Resilient Wales – The SDP will help to ensure that the region maintains and enhances a bio-diverse natural environment with healthy, functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience with the ability to adapt to change.
- A Healthier Wales – The SDP aims to help build a society in which people's mental and physical well-being is maximised through access to green space, and helps to foster an understanding of choices and behaviours that benefit future health.
- A More Equal Wales – The SDP will seek to enable people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances. It also aims to help communities effectively tackle the loneliness and isolation that can often exist within many of them.
- A Wales of Cohesive Communities – The SDP, via the place-making principle, will help to foster attractive, safe, viable and well-connected communities that improve the well-being of all residents and visitors.
- A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language – The SDP will support a society that promotes and protects our culture, heritage and Welsh language, whilst encouraging people to participate in the arts, sport and recreation.
- A Globally Responsible Wales – The SDP will contribute towards Wales being a nation which, when doing anything to improve our economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being; will take account of whether doing such a thing makes a positive contribution to our global well-being.

10.4 The Planning Directorate in Welsh Government is working on the production of a National Development Framework (NDF), which will set out a 20-year land-use framework for Wales and replace the existing Wales Spatial Plan. Once the final NDF is published (anticipated September 2020), the Strategic Development Plan will need to be in general conformity with the aims and objectives of the NDF, which sits above the SDP in the development plan hierarchy within Wales.

11.0 CONCLUSION

11.1 This report has set out the necessary arrangements to enable the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital Region.

11.2 The Strategic Development Plan (SDP) will give the Cardiff Capital Region the ability to plan strategically to ensure that key economic, social and environmental outcomes are achieved in a cohesive and evidence based approach.

Other Information: -

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee

Contact Officer:

Simon Gale, Director of Prosperity and Development (01443 281114)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

TUESDAY 18th JUNE 2019

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN
DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENTERPRISE,
DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING, COUNCILLOR ROBERT BEVAN**

Item:

Background Papers

None

Officer to contact:

Simon Gale, Director of Prosperity and Development (01443 281114)