

## **ADVISORY PANEL MEETING – 17/12/08**

### **Local Development Plan Key Stakeholder Forum**

#### **Background**

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

The Key Stakeholder Forum (KSF) is an important way for the local community to have its say on the LDP vision, key objectives and strategic context. These are all things which will shape the future use of land within the County. In accordance with the Delivery Agreement, the business transacted at the KSF will be fed back to the Advisory Panel. In the event that any conflict arises within the KSF, then the Advisory Panel will be asked to take on the role of mediator.

The first KSF was held in the Gwenllian Court Hotel in Kidwelly on the 28 October 2008 and was attended by 23 delegates from the organisations that were identified within the Delivery Agreement. There were also 6 representatives from the Authority's Forward Planning Section (who acted as facilitators) along with 2 representatives from Planning Aid Wales. The event was run in a bi lingual manner and simultaneous translation was provided. In order to evaluate the success of the day, an evaluation feedback form was provided to each attendee. The feedback received with regards to the format of the day has been positive.

The first KSF was designed to be informal, with the emphasis primarily placed on participation and sharing ideas. Delegate Packs were provided by the Authority and these contained the day's itinerary along with a range of relevant background information. An important role for Key Stakeholders within the LDP plan making process is their participation in early discussions in respect of some key strategic issues for the Plan (including sustainable development, spatial strategies and a settlement framework)

At the first KSF, Stakeholders were aiming to firstly discuss visioning elements before proceeding to identify and agree on some key objectives. Stakeholders scoped out a range of realistic strategy options as an attempt to evaluate how the agreed plan objectives could be delivered. A second KSF will be convened in the new year and this will consider and debate which of the identified strategic options, or mix of options, should be used to shape the Preferred Strategy.

Officers have prepared a Consultation Report in order to summarise the business transacted at the first KSF. Copies of the Executive Summary and the full Consultation Report are available for viewing on the corporate website: <http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/english/environment/planning/planning%20policy%20and%20development%20plans/local%20development%20plan/pages/consultationreports.aspx> The purpose of the Consultation Report is to provide a means for noting the views expressed/consensus reached at the 1<sup>st</sup> Forum meeting whilst also providing the platform for an interactive and collaborative approach towards engagement to be taken forward. It also provides a basis for the Authority's LDP Advisory Panel to be fully briefed as to the deliberations of the KSF

The KSF communication and feedback loop is providing KSF members and the general public with sufficient contextual information to develop an understanding of the process and also assists in facilitating their ongoing participation in the LDP strategy-setting process. KSF members have been asked to consider the contents of this report and disseminate it as appropriate in order to feedback the views of their organisation to the Council by the 20 December 2008. The Council is seeking the views of the Stakeholders relating to the workshop outputs presented in the Consultation Report in terms of:

- The understanding of the role of the stakeholders
- The agreed elements of vision developed
- The relevance of the topic areas discussed on the day
- The agreed strategic objectives for the plan
- The strategic options developed and the sustainability testing of 3 strategic option scenarios
- The understanding of the underpinning role of the Sustainability Appraisal
- Any other relevant information

Following the evaluation of any feedback received with regards to the KSF1 Consultation Report, officers will duly progress with the LDP consultation process in the New Year. This will include consulting with all Community and Town Councils within Carmarthenshire via an innovative partnership event with One Voice Wales and through a series of seminars. Officers will also convene the 2<sup>nd</sup> KSF in due course and will report back to the Advisory Panel accordingly.

### **Recommendations**

- (1) That this report be noted and accepted
- (2) That a further report be forwarded to the Advisory Panel in due course outlining the business transacted at the second KSF