



Ein cyf/Our ref: qA1398341

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30/10/20

Monmouthshire County Council: Delivery Agreement 2nd Revision
The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005
(as amended)

Thank you for your e-mail of 22 October requesting agreement to amend your Delivery Agreement (DA) in light of the exceptional circumstances surrounding Covid-19.

The preparation of a Local Development Plan (LDP) is a statutory duty placed on all Local Planning Authorities (LPAs). The plan is a corporate tool and land-use expression of a LPAs priorities in dealing with national and local issues, one of which is recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. In the Ministerial letter (dated 7 July 2020), the Minister highlighted the importance of the planning system to help shape a better future for Wales as we move towards recovery. Having an up-to-date development plan in place underpins the very basis of the planning system and reinforces the Government's commitment to a plan-led system.

The Welsh Government has not commented on your evaluation of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on your evidence base at this time. Going forward, the LDP process provides the opportunity for all evidence, including the implications of the pandemic, to be scrutinised and considered in detail at each consultation stage. We will comment formally through that process should we have any concerns.

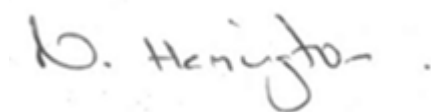
Your Council is proposing a formal extension to the currently agreed timetable, which results in a delay of 14 months to consult on the Preferred Strategy now scheduled in May 2021. Consultation on the Deposit plan is programmed for July 2022 with submission of the plan for examination in February 2023 and adoption anticipated end of 2023 (Table 1 and Appendix 2). The 14 month delay reflects the national restrictions imposed in response to the coronavirus pandemic and specifically, the inability of people and businesses to function as they once did before the crisis. Taking this into account, the Welsh Government considers that a single 3 month slippage period on this DA (as referred to in paragraph 2.19) builds a small amount of flexibility into the timetable before a formal revision is required.

A test of 'soundness' against which the plan will be considered through the examination is whether it adheres to the agreed DA including the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS). I note your DA received Council approval on 22 October 2020 and as such, the CIS has been adjusted to reflect the latest Government advice and social distancing requirements at that point in time. I also note you have identified that community and stakeholder engagement will need to be adapted for the remaining stages of plan preparation. This is considered a sensible approach in order to maximise engagement opportunities and adapt to restrictions as and when they are announced in line with Government regulations and guidance.

After considering your DA submission, I can **confirm agreement** to the amended timetable set out in Table 1 and Appendix 2 as provided for by Section 63(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 9 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended).

The published version of your DA should now be made publically available in accordance with the requirements set out in Regulation 10.

Yours sincerely,



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Chief Planner

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