



## **CABINET – 14TH MARCH 2018**

**SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH DRAFT REGENERATION STRATEGY – A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS 2018-2023 SUPPLEMENTED BY THE DRAFT CAERPHILLY BASIN MASTERPLAN**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER**

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- 1.1 The attached report, which was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 13th February 2018, sought Members' views on the Draft Regeneration Strategy entitled 'A Foundation for Success 2018-2023' and the Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan, prior to presentation of these documents to Cabinet for approval to carry out a public consultation exercise.
- 1.2 Members were advised that in order to benefit from the transformative change in the wider Cardiff Capital Region with the investment of City Deal, the Valleys Taskforce and further funding streams, it is necessary to set out the strategic priorities for the regeneration and enhancement of Caerphilly County Borough. This involves identifying opportunities that will make it more prosperous, healthier, resilient and equal, setting priorities that align and enhance regional work and are readily capable of being realised.
- 1.3 The Draft Regeneration Strategy has been developed as an overarching document to set out and achieve these aims and will be underpinned by a number of other documents, including the Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan, which sets out the future development and regeneration opportunities proposed for the Caerphilly town centre within the context of the wider Caerphilly Basin.
- 1.4 The Draft Regeneration Strategy concentrates on 4 strategic themes (Supporting People, Supporting Business, Supporting Quality of Life, and Connecting People and Places) which set out the broad principles for regeneration and the strategic priorities to be tackled. Officers outlined examples of how these could be achieved. The Draft Regeneration Strategy also acknowledges the challenges that face the County Borough, seeks to identify the actions and delivery mechanisms required to address key issues, and places an emphasis on partnership working.
- 1.5 Members noted that subject to Cabinet endorsement, it was intended to undertake a 4-week public consultation exercise on the Draft Regeneration Strategy and Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan (from 26th March 2018 to 24th April 2018). A copy of both documents were appended to the report.
- 1.6 Detailed discussion took place on the contents of the Draft Regeneration Strategy and it was agreed that Officers would respond to Members directly on a number of in-depth queries following the meeting. Members referenced a need to improve educational achievement and highway infrastructure across the county borough and sought clarification on the intended lead agencies for these areas. Officers explained that the Draft Regeneration Strategy places a focus on multi-sector working and for agencies to work together to implement such improvements. Officers responded to queries regarding similar strategies in the past and the outcomes and actions that have been generated as a result. It was explained that the new

Regeneration Strategy is intended to fill the identified gaps and take a partnership approach towards meeting these aims, including the proposed establishment of a Board to co-ordinate and take forward the actions identified in the Draft Strategy.

- 1.7 Concerns were expressed that some proposals contained within the Draft Regeneration Strategy (such as the development of a Caerphilly South East Bypass) could potentially conflict with the Draft Outline Regional Transport Strategy, the Council's Local Development Plan and Air Quality Action Plan. It was emphasised that the Draft Outline Regional Transport Strategy represents a regional approach whereas the Draft Regeneration Strategy concentrates on a more county-wide approach. It was also explained to Members that the Draft Regeneration Strategy reflects the current adopted Local Development Plan and Air Quality Action Plan and that a number of proposals contained within the Draft Strategy may be reconsidered moving forward.
- 1.8 Discussion also took place regarding the Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan, and Officers outlined the series of Strategic Objectives which will drive the delivery for the vision of the town and translate directly into a series of projects and actions. In response to Members' queries, it was explained that the Draft Masterplan seeks to harness the opportunities arising from the City Deal Investment Fund and will also incorporate the areas surrounding Caerphilly. It was explained that the Masterplan will be complemented by a number of other strategies, such as the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and future regional Strategic Development Plan, and Officers also provided further information on how potential City Deal funding could potentially be utilised in order to help deliver some of the proposals contained within the document.
- 1.9 Reference was made to the consultation process and Officers confirmed that following ratification by Cabinet and a period of public consultation, the proposals within both the Draft Regeneration Strategy and Draft Masterplan would be revised to take into account comments received and reported to Council. Members expressed concerns that a 4-week consultation period might not be sufficient for interested parties to fully examine the sizeable draft documents.
- 1.10 Following discussion on this matter, it was moved and seconded and unanimously agreed that it be recommended to Cabinet for the consultation period for both documents to be extended from 4 weeks to 6 weeks.
- 1.11 Following consideration of the report and subject to the foregoing amendment, the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee took each of the recommendations in turn.
- 1.12 By a show of hands and the majority present (and in noting there were 3 against with 1 abstention), it was recommended to Cabinet that the Draft Regeneration Strategy 'A Foundation for Success 2018-2023' be endorsed as the basis for a public consultation exercise commencing 26th March 2018 for a period of 6 weeks.
- 1.13 By a show of hands (and in noting there were 4 against with 1 abstention) and following the casting vote of the Chair it was recommended to Cabinet that the Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan be endorsed as the basis for a public consultation exercise commencing 26th March 2018 for a period of 6 weeks.
- 1.14 Cabinet are asked to consider the recommendations.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 13th February 2018 – Agenda Item 12