



Richard Matthams
Development Planning Team Leader
Communities Directorate
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

25 June 2018

Dear Richard,

**Bridgend County Borough Council: Delivery Agreement 1st Replacement Plan
The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales)
(Amendment) Regulations 2015**

Thank you for your email of 21st June, requesting the agreement of the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs to a proposed Delivery Agreement (DA) timetable for your replacement Local Development Plan (LDP). This DA comes as a result of concluding the review process (Regulation 41) of your Local Development Plan (LDP) which was adopted in September 2013.

A priority of the Welsh Government is for an up to date plan-led planning system based on planning outcomes and deliverable plans. In accordance with the LDP Manual (paragraph 10.2.5), a replacement plan should be prepared in considerably less than 4-years. The Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs recently wrote to your authority (29 March 2018) setting out the expectation for LDPs to be prepared within 3.5 years from formal commencement of the process, with a single additional slippage period of 3 months.

Preparation of a LDP is not only a statutory duty placed on each Local Planning Authority across Wales, but also a corporate tool, a land use expression of the Local Planning Authority's priorities in dealing with local and national issues. As such the DA is a commitment to deliver on these key responsibilities. Effective project management and appropriate resources are essential to ensure there will be no slippage beyond the 3 months and the plan can be adopted in accordance with the timetable set out in section 3.9 of the proposed DA.

The Welsh Government acknowledges the work undertaken to date on the review process and welcomes the commitment shown by Bridgend County Borough Council to prepare a replacement plan. Your submitted DA contains an indicative adoption date of August/ September 2021, with an allowance for a 3 month slippage period.

This positive response in adhering to the Cabinet Secretary's expectations is welcomed, particularly reflecting on your Council's corporate commitment to fully resource the plan, both in terms of staffing and finance.

As such, on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs, I am able to confirm agreement to the timetable 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) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

The published version of the DA should now be made publically available in accordance with the requirements indicated in Regulation 10. Please note that notwithstanding the requirements of the regulations, you provide one hard copy of the agreement to the Planning Division of the Welsh Government.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Newey', written in a cursive style.

Mark Newey
Head of Plans Branch
Planning Directorate

By e-mail and post