

## **Blaenau Gwent Replacement Local Development Plan**

# **Revised Delivery Agreement an easy-read guide**

**February 2023**



# What is the Delivery Agreement?

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is required to produce a Local Development Plan (LDP) to guide the use of land and development in Blaenau Gwent.

The current Blaenau Gwent LDP covers the period 2006-2021. WG have decided to remove the 2021 end date so it remains the plan in which planning applications will be determined against.

The replacement plan we are preparing will set out guidelines for the development and use of land in Blaenau Gwent until 2033.

Since the Revised Delivery Agreement (DA) was approved (2020), the planning policy team have experienced a number of unforeseen delays meaning that an update to the DA was required.

The Welsh Government have agreed a revised Delivery Agreement (February 2023) which includes a timetable for the preparation of the Plan and a community involvement scheme.

This document is an easy to read version of the Delivery Agreement. It tells you how and when the Council is going to prepare the replacement LDP and how you can have your say.

## **In this guide you can find information about:**

The timetable and opportunities for you to have your say

- Information on the Community Involvement Scheme and how people can get involved in developing the Plan
- How we will involve you

You can read the full version of the Delivery Agreement on our website:

**[www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/](http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/)**

# The Timetable

A timetable has been prepared showing the main stages of plan preparation.



This symbol shows the stages where people can get involved and have their say.

## 1. Prepare, submit and approve the Delivery Agreement May 2018 - October 2018

## 2. Review and update the evidence that will be used to inform the Plan October 2018 - October 2019.

The LDP has to be informed by a lot of information on the social, environmental, economic and cultural issues that face the Borough. This information is called the 'evidence base'.

## 3. Call for Candidate Sites

A Candidate Site is an area of land that someone wants to be considered for inclusion in the Plan. This may be to protect the site or put it forward for development.

The first call for candidate sites will be **November - December 2018**.



There will be a further call for candidate sites following the publication of the Preferred Strategy in **March - May 2021**.

## 4. Identification of the LDP Vision, Objectives and Options



At this stage we will consider what the replacement Plan's vision and objectives should be. We will also consider options for levels of growth (including population and housing) and where growth should go. **April - June 2019**.

## 5. The Preferred Strategy

The Preferred Strategy will set out how much new development we think is appropriate and broadly where we think it should go. It will set out the 'strategy' of the replacement LDP. It will also protect against any inappropriate development in the wrong areas.



Consultation on the Preferred Strategy will be a key opportunity for people to have their say on the preferred level of growth and where growth will happen. **November - December 2019**.

# The Timetable continued...

## 6. The Deposit Plan

This is the first full draft of the emerging replacement LDP. It will set out a vision, strategy and strategic policies. It will identify and allocate land for different uses, such as housing and employment, and indicates where these uses will be allowed. It will also identify areas that will be protected from inappropriate development.



Consultation on the Deposit Plan will be a key opportunity for people to have their say on the proposed final Plan. **July - September 2023**

## 7. Submission of the Deposit Plan to Welsh Government May - June 2024

## 8. Examination of the Plan

The Plan will be examined by an independent inspector. **July - September 2024.**

## 9. Inspector's Report

Following the Examination of the Plan, the Inspector will prepare a report setting out what changes the Council should make to the Plan and why. The recommendations contained in the report will be binding – this means that the Council must accept the changes recommended by the Inspector. **Winter 2024**

## 10. Adoption of the Local Development Plan

The Council will be required to adopt the final Plan within 8 weeks of receipt of the Inspector's Report. **Early 2025**

# Community Involvement Scheme

**The Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) outlines how we will engage with local communities when developing the replacement Local Development Plan.**

One of the key aims in preparing the Plan is to improve the way in which the community and public are involved in its preparation.

This means at early stages, we will ask communities for their views on important issues and work together to find common goals.



## The Community Involvement Scheme is based on the following objectives:

### Engagement

- We will engage and encourage involvement in the preparation of the Plan by providing clear opportunities for people to take part and make their views known, and by showing that people's views can shape the Plan.

### Accessibility

- We will make the plan preparation process accessible to all, remove barriers that make it difficult for people to get involved and ensure we contact groups that have been less engaged in the past.

### Decision Making

- We will ensure that we involve people in the process before decisions are made and ensure that decisions are made in an open manner. We will provide people with feedback about the Plans' progress and what will happen as a result of decisions being taken.

# How we will involve you?

**We are encouraging people to have their say on the preparation of the replacement Plan. We will publish the latest version of the Plan each time there are any changes or updates and will ensure that you can have your say in a range of ways.**

## **This will be done by:**

- Directly contacting people (by letter or email)
- Providing information on social media such as Facebook and Twitter
- Engaging with your local councillors
- Making sure our website is user friendly and up to date with the latest information and documents at: [www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/](http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/)
- Making sure LDP documents and information are available at the Council's main office buildings and local libraries in the County Borough if possible.
- Providing press releases with important information and dates where appropriate.
- Providing regular email updates that describe progress on the replacement LDP
- Holding public information exhibitions, drop in sessions and meetings when appropriate and in accessible and neutral locations. Consultation venues with increased capacity for social distancing will be used.
- Displaying site notices at land allocations or if not possible sending out neighbour notification letters.
- Prearranged individual briefing session appointments will be available to avoid a high number of stakeholders at public information exhibitions.



## **Planning Policy Team**

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