

Newport Local Development Plan 2011 - 2026

Report on Initial Consultation on Development of Visions and Objectives

Introduction

Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires each local planning authority in Wales to prepare a local development plan (LDP) for its area. When completed, the LDP will supersede the existing Unitary Development Plan adopted by the Council in May 2006.

The LDP Delivery Agreement (approved by the Welsh Assembly Government in May 2008) sets out a commitment to work on producing a vision and objectives for the LDP between May and December 2008. The Community Involvement Scheme states that the Authority will carry out mainstream consultation techniques including workshops during this stage.

The Local Development Plan Manual produced by the Welsh Assembly Government (June 2006) advises that the vision and objectives of the LDP will flow from having a clear view of what type of place the authority wants to become. In addition to this, Local Development Plans Wales, 2005 advises that community strategies provide the overarching strategic framework for all other plans and strategies that the local authority has to produce. LDPs should therefore express those elements of the community strategy that relate to the development and use of land.

The Community Strategy for Newport and its vision were the culmination of a robust period of consultation¹ which included consultation events and citizens panel surveys in 2005.

The Community Strategy vision (2005 - 2015) was written by Newport Local Strategic Partnership², which comprises members from public, private and voluntary sectors, and is for Newport to be:

*“A Prosperous city known for the skills of its people.
A city where health, quality of life and opportunity is not determined by where you live or the colour of your skin.
A place where communities are at ease with each other and enjoy a good environment and some of the best public services in Wales.
A city that knows where it is going and will take the right steps to get there.
A dynamic city that celebrates progress and where decisions of today will benefit the generations of tomorrow.”*

The Community Strategy priorities are:

1. An accessible city
2. An attractive city
3. An enterprising city
4. A greener city

¹ The Community Strategy Consultation Report is a publicly available document and is available on request from the Planning Policy or Corporate Policy Sections of Newport City Council.

² <http://citypartners.newport.ac.uk>

5. A healthy city
6. An inclusive city
7. A learning city
8. A safer city

Parts of the Community Strategy vision that could relate to the LDP are:

- A prosperous city known for the skills of its people
- Enjoyment of a good environment
- A dynamic city that celebrates progress and where decisions of today will benefit the generations of tomorrow

The priorities that have particular implications for the LDP are:

- An attractive city
- An enterprising city
- A greener city
- An inclusive city

The Wales Spatial Plan suggests that Newport should be a social and economic hub with sustainable transport links. Newport is seen as the gateway to Wales where there is high quality landscape and countryside and there is a need to build on the history and culture.

The vision and objectives of the LDP will incorporate the land use aspects of the Community Strategy vision and also the priorities of the Wales Spatial Plan. In consulting with the community and stakeholders on their aspirations, issues and priorities, they were briefed about these commitments.

Questions that assisted in building the LDP vision and objectives

How can Newport remain successful in its own right?

How can we make Newport more distinctive?

What sort of place do we want Newport to be in the future?

What are the main issues and priorities?

Sustainability issues considered during consultation

The LDP is subject to a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment³ (referred to hereafter as SA). The Draft Scoping Report of the SA (September 2008) takes on board the need for the LDP to be consistent with other plans and strategies. This being the case a comprehensive review of all relevant plans, policies and programmes was carried out as part of the SA scoping process. The following key issues were reported to those at the Visions and Objectives consultation events before they were given the opportunity to discuss their own aspirations, issues and priorities.

³ SEA is a legally enforced European assessment procedure required by Directive 2001/42/EC (known as the SEA Directive). Information on its application in Wales can be found at <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/sea/SEAinWales/?lang=en>

Economic

- Lack of employment opportunities
- Loss of employment land to other uses
- 4 of Newport's wards feature in the 100 most deprived in Wales
- Heritage and leisure in Newport need to be sustained and improved.
- Significant potential retail capacity for the city centre to attract more development up to 2016 and beyond

Social

- Crime and fear of crime
- Make more of cultural heritage
- Health problems and lack of physical activity
- No current permanent gypsy and traveller site

Environmental

- Poor air quality
- Areas of flood risk
- Contaminated land

Consultation Timetable

The production of the LDP is a frontloaded process. Gaining the thoughts and ideas of members of the community and stakeholders has needed to be carried out in earnest from the very start of the process, as detailed in the approved LDP Delivery Agreement. With this in mind, the development of the visions and objectives of the LDP has needed to take into account the aspirations of members of the community, stakeholders and elected Members.

Three targeted consultation events were therefore undertaken to ascertain people's issues and priorities:

16th June 2008 – Community consultation event at Newport Centre

29th July 2008 – Professional stakeholder consultation event at Tredegar House

2nd September 2008 – Elected Members consultation event at the Civic Centre

A questionnaire was also distributed at the community consultation event and a young people's questionnaire was carried out at after school clubs across the city and in the Classroom at Hartidge High School.

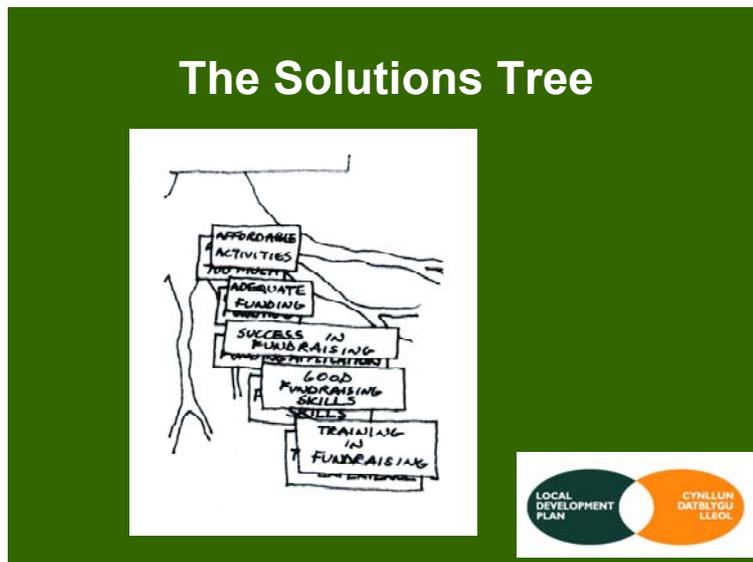
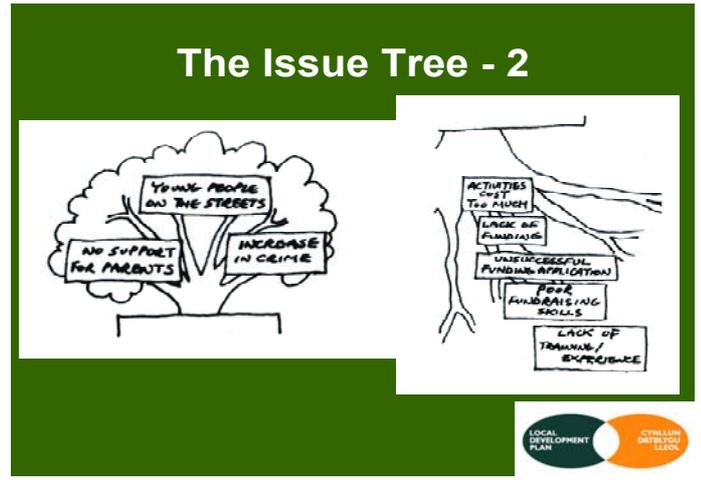
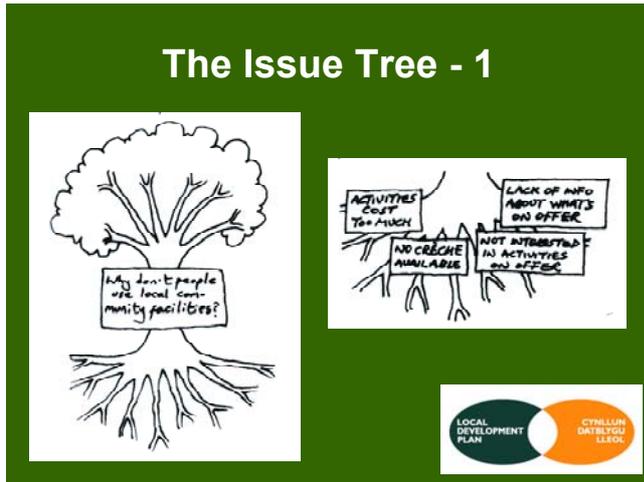
<u>Event date</u>	<u>Who attended</u>	<u>What we asked</u>
16 th June 2008	52 members of the community	<u>Scenarios for group discussion</u> <u>Group A</u> - Your new local councillor wants to make sure that instead of encouraging new private housing developments s/he wants to encourage refurbishing and reusing of the existing underused buildings. How might this be achieved? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this idea? <u>Group B</u> - All Councils in Wales need to provide sites for travellers in their local development plans. Where would you locate traveller sites in Newport and/or how might the new use be best

		<p>accommodated in its surroundings (How would it work?)</p> <p><u>Group C</u> - A private developer wants to locate a mixed use development in Newport. There would be some housing and some employment. What facilities would the development have and how would you like to see the scheme laid out? (What would it look like?)</p> <p><u>Group D</u> - What buildings or spaces would you like to see improved? What areas would you like to see protected and safeguarded from development?</p> <p><u>Group E</u> - What history and culture do you think Newport should make more of?</p> <p><u>Group F</u> - What communities and diversity should we take more account of in developing the next plan for Newport (LDP)?</p> <p><u>Group G</u> - What words or images help describe how you would like Newport to be in the future?</p> <p><u>Group H</u> - A new housing estate is being built close to your home. What would you like it to look like? What would make you feel safe walking through it?</p> <p><u>Group I</u> - How can we make sure new buildings are close to bus stops and train stations?</p> <p><u>Group J</u> - How can Newport remain successful in its own right? How can we encourage employment development and where should it go?</p> <p><u>Group K</u> - Newport has to have more houses. What areas of Newport do you think should grow?</p>
29 th July 2008	38 professionals including: landowners, developers, planning consultants, city council service areas, Assembly sponsored public bodies, adjoining local authorities	<p><u>Issues for discussion in the issues tree exercise</u></p> <p><u>Group 1</u> - There are not enough houses to meet the projected population for Newport.</p> <p><u>Group 2</u> - There is too much travelling by car</p> <p><u>Group 3</u> - There is a loss of employment land to other uses</p> <p><u>Group 4</u> - The City is not fully considering the needs of future generations</p> <p><u>Group 5</u> - There are increasing pressures on the countryside and its habitats</p> <p><u>Group 6</u> - Newport is not fully recognising its culture and heritage</p> <p><u>Group 7</u> - There is a fear of crime in public spaces</p>
2 nd August 2008	24 Elected Members	<p><u>Issues for discussion in the issues tree exercise</u></p> <p><u>Group 1</u> - There is too much travelling by car</p> <p><u>Group 2</u> - There are increasing pressures on the countryside and its habitats</p> <p><u>Group 3</u> - There is a fear of crime in public spaces</p> <p><u>Group 4</u> - Newport is not fully recognising its</p>

		culture and heritage

The Issues Tree Exercise (Facilitation of discussion)

The Issues listed in the table above were used in the following issues tree exercise in order to help facilitate discussion.



The groups were asked first to suggest root causes of the issue, then to identify effects, and finally to come up with possible solutions.

Issue results from the consultation events

History / culture / countryside

- Canals and riverfront including a focus on the Crindau gateway site
- Victorian heritage such as buildings, indoor market and the arcades
- Make more of Chartism

- A focus on Transporter Bridge
- Rural hinterland and Gwent levels
- Most people said that they visited the countryside and parks of Newport on a weekly basis
- Three most mentioned words children and young people said when asked how they would like Newport to be in the future – Tidy, Safe and Clean

Buildings

- Reuse old buildings
- Retention of open space in residential and town centre areas
- More open space to be provided with new buildings
- Westgate Hotel
- Commercial Street
- Most young people questioned at Hartidge High School between May and June 2008 thought it was important to see their local (district) shopping centre improved. Young people questioned across the city stated that they would like to see the unused buildings improved.

Gypsy and traveller site need

- Small pockets across the City needed
- Accommodation to be close to facilities and services
- Consultation needed with gypsies and travellers

Mixed use development priorities

- Access and public transport
- Parking
- Cycle routes
- Landscape/ allotment buffer
- Education provision with community links
- Better employment provision
- Housing to meet population requirements
- Use of renewable energy and sustainable drainage systems (SUDS)
- Design and permeability
- Protection and implementation of green space
- Street lighting and secure by design
- No gated communities, better integration
- A focal point to new development

Climate Change

- Policy to build close to public transport and existing infrastructure
- Public buildings to be close to public transport
- Renewable energy schemes
- Bike storage

- Ensure new houses are energy efficient
- Encourage use of local materials
- Develop brownfield sites

Growth

- Take stock of what provision we have at the moment
- Brownfield before Greenfield
- Integrate new housing with existing
- Improve variety of provision
- Make better use of empty buildings in the city centre
- Affordable housing
- Most people who responded to the questionnaire at the community consultation event thought the City should expand
- Most young people questioned between May and June 2008 thought the City should continue to grow

Design

- Design out potential crime in new developments
- Carefully think about street design and street furniture in town centre areas

Key vision results from the consultation exercises

1. A prosperous, multi cultural city, proud of its heritage and environment, where people have access to: housing, employment, education and community facilities.

2. A welcoming vibrant city proud of its rich heritage, with facilities and services that strive to be the best in Wales for all its citizens and visitors irrespective of age, race and background. Newport should be a springboard to Wales for working, shopping and living.

3. An attractive and safe gateway city with a vibrant city centre and an attractive waterfront environment which is well connected with its surroundings and attracts people to live, work and enjoy.

4. A gateway city to south east Wales, embracing its waterside location and rural setting, to create a vibrant, dynamic, prosperous and sustainable city, offering a diverse range of accessible opportunities for all.

5. A city of the future, proud of its past.

6. A sustainable gateway city celebrating its heritage with balanced, safe and healthy communities, linked to a vibrant riverfront city centre, delivering prosperity and opportunity for all.

7. To make Newport a safe place for people who live, work and visit the city.

9. A culturally diverse city of Newport that is proud of its heritage, with a good standard of living for its residents and preserves strong links between the city and countryside.

10. Our vision for Newport is to continue to be the cultural and economic gateway to Wales, building upon our historical, geographical, industrial, and multicultural strengths.

11. A safe vibrant multicultural city where local people are employed in local jobs, living in affordable houses, with raised aspirations, enjoying good education, health and leisure, and opportunities.

12. Our vision for Newport is essentially dual – we need to look forward to a vibrant, innovative, future while reflecting on a rich and tapestried past.

13.

Newport

Efficient

Welcoming

Prosperous

Open

Rejuvenating

Tantalising

From consultation to draft visions and objectives

The consultation events for the vision and objectives stage were well attended and highly informative. As well as taking on board the views of the community when they were consulted on the Community Strategy in 2005, the Authority was able to gain an up to date view on specific land use issues.

Key findings

1. Look to achieve sustainable economic growth.
2. Protect and make better use of our built and natural heritage whilst embracing our culture and working to empower citizens.
3. Encourage better use of our existing building stock and build on brownfield sites before looking to build on green fields.
4. Further consider the needs of the population before building more housing and look to ensure that housing in the right locations as close as possible to bus stops and train stations.
5. Consider that other parts of Newport and its river should be better connected to the city centre.

DRAFT VISION AND OBJECTIVES DOCUMENT

The Vision

“Newport will be a City that celebrates its culture and heritage while being a focus for accessible economic growth. It will be a place that people recognise as being culturally vibrant with interconnected communities and as an attractive City at the gateway to Wales.”

This vision is proposed as the core purpose of the LDP. It will drive forward the intended changes for Newport from 2011. The vision addresses the main priorities for taking Newport forward in land use terms, as discussed at the three consultation events, and taking into account the Community Strategy and the Wales Spatial Plan. Importantly, it is also distinctive to Newport.

Objectives

Sustainable use of land

The most important aim of the LDP will be to achieve sustainable development.

Sustainable development is recognised by many as “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (see the Ministerial Foreword to Planning Policy Wales (March 2002)).

Sustainability will be at the heart of every stage of the plan and the LDP will be tested by a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment as required by the Welsh Assembly Government and the SEA Directive⁴.

Objective 1

To ensure that all development uses land as effectively as possible and makes the best use of resources

Climate change

Climate Change is now a key issue for every LDP in Wales. There is a need to make a positive commitment to reducing the impact development and the use of land has on climate change. The LDP will require development proposals to make an early commitment to addressing the

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climate change impact. This could be shown in terms of the location of development or by utilising sustainable energy technologies.

Objective 2

To ensure that development and land uses in Newport make a positive contribution to helping to minimise the causes of climate change and mitigating the impacts.

Economic growth

Newport is seen as a major economic hub nationally and locally. It occupies a strategic location in Wales where there are opportunities for Newport to play an even more vital role in the regional economy. There are strong aspirations to drive forward the existing economic growth so as to provide investment and thereby employment for the indigenous and growing population of the City.

Objective 3

To provide a diverse economy that meets the needs of the people of Newport and those of the wider south east Wales economic region.

Housing

One of the main land use issues for the LDP is for it to guide the provision and distribution of housing in the City. The LDP will need to provide an adequate supply of housing land capable of meeting the housing needs of the city in the most sustainable locations. Development proposals should therefore, make maximum use of previously developed land and be close to facilities.

Objective 4

To ensure that there is an adequate supply of land for housing in the right locations and to ensure that the housing provision meets the needs of the population.

Conservation

Conservation of the natural and built environment is fundamental to and a long standing aspect of the planning process. It is now well recognised that the existing population have a duty to preserve and enhance the natural and built environment for future generations. Development proposals will be favoured where they recognise the importance of local distinctiveness and the contribution built and natural heritage can make to communities.

Objective 5

To ensure that all development or land use does not adversely effect, and seeks to enhance, the quality of the built and natural environment.

Community facilities

In order to avoid placing pressure on existing facilities, appropriate new or enhanced community facilities will be encouraged as proposals in their own right or as part of other development proposals.

Objective 6

To ensure the provision of appropriate new and/or enhanced community facilities wherever possible.

Accessibility

The principle that services and facilities should be accessible to all regardless of age, gender and impairment is fundamental to achieving sustainable development. Development proposals should therefore, provide convenience and enjoyment of use for all, and should strive to achieve the same outcome for all.

Objective 7

To ensure that proposed developments and uses are accessible to all and seek to achieve the same outcome for all regardless of impairment.