



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref MA-JJ-0289-22

To
All Local Planning Authority Heads of Planning
All Development Plan Leads

26 May 2022

Dear Colleagues

Publication of the Development Plans Community Guide (Edition 2)

A successful development system must be underpinned by early, effective and meaningful engagement. It is vitally important that communities get involved in the development plan process in helping to shape their areas. Plan making bodies must use this feedback in formulating their final proposals. Effective engagement in the development plan process helps all parties to understand a wide range of views, helps build trust and consensus, and leads to better planning outcomes for communities.

Today I am pleased to announce the publication of the **Development Plans Community Guide (Edition 2)**. This guide replaces the current Community Guide 'Local Development Plans (LDPs) Planning your Community' (Edition 1) published in 2006. Edition 1 was significantly out of date and no longer fit for purpose.

There have been significant changes to the development plan system since 2006. In particular the publication of Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 and the move towards Strategic Development Plans (SDP) to be prepared by Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). I considered it was imperative that the guide was updated now, in advance of SDPs coming forward later this year, to ensure communities have access to an up-to-date resource that assists them to understand how, why and when they should engage at the key stages of SDPs and LDPs preparation, in an effective and meaningful way.

The Development Plans Community Guide (Edition 2) has been a joint project between Planning Aid Wales and Welsh Government. Planning Aid Wales is an independent, charitable organisation helping individuals and communities across Wales to participate more effectively in the planning system. The guide has been developed in conjunction with a focussed steering group comprising:

- Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) – Cardiff, Conwy, Swansea, and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- Planning Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW)
- One Voice Wales
- Well Being of Future Generations Commissioner
- Iaith Cymru
- Older Peoples Commissioner
- Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)
- Race Council Cymru

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the steering group for their time and expertise which has helped inform and shape the guide. The guide has been designed in such a way to be read as whole or as specific chapters relating to the different types of development plan. This means that communities and interested parties can read the guide in detail or 'dip in and out' of those sections of interest.

The new Development Plans Community Guide (Edition 2) and supporting Development Plans in Wales – A Quick Guide are available to view on the Welsh Government website and on the website at Planning Aid Wales in English:

- <https://gov.wales/development-plans-community-guide>
- www.planningaidwales.org.uk/development-plans-community-guide

And in Welsh:

- <https://llyw.cymru/canllawiau-cymunedol-ar-gynlluniau-datblygu>
- <https://planningaidwales.org.uk/cynlluniau-datblygu-canllaw-cymunedol/?lang=cy>

The guide provides a useful and helpful resource for communities and interested parties to assist their understanding of the development plan process in Wales, when to engage in meaningful way to ensure their views are made as early as possible to influence plans. LPAs should now update their websites to refer to Edition 2. LPAs in the process of preparing an LDP should notify your stakeholders and publicise its release through your communication channels.

Yours sincerely



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Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change