



REPORT TO THE STRATEGIC PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

26th January, 2026

TITLE: Strategic Development Plan Timetable 2026/27 and key tasks

AUTHOR: Andy Roberts, Regional Strategic Planning Officer

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. This report identifies the tasks that are part of the first year of the SDP programme, that will need to be prioritised following Ministerial approval of the SDP Delivery Agreement. This will also form the basis of the work programme for the Sub-Committee for the year.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To note the content of this report and that the task list presented will inform the development of the Sub-Committee work programme and co-ordination of meetings.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. Responsibility to implement the SDP Delivery Agreement rests with the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee. The sub-committee has co-ordination and planning functions regarding each step towards delivery of the SDP.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. Following the submission of the SDP Delivery agreement for formal approval by the Welsh Ministers and their approval, the SDP programme will have commenced, and it is appropriate to look ahead at the key tasks that make up the Delivery agreement programme and timetable for year 1.
- 4.2. The Delivery agreement contains a summary timetable that is then also broken down into key tasks ([Link to current version of the Delivery agreement](#)). These are found in appendices four and five respectively, but for the purposes of focussing on the immediate priority tasks, the table below presents a schedule of the work that is required in year 1, that will also drive the need to discuss progress and outcomes with the sub-committee during the year. This in turn will be developed into a formal work programme for the sub-committee that will inform the scheduling of meetings for 2026/27 which will take place early in the new year.

SDP timetable 2026-27 and SPSC Work Programme

Task	Description	Timing	Comment/outcome
1. Evidence base preparation – stages 1&2	Scoping document prepared to outline key stages in evidence base preparation and to serve as a brief to appoint consultancy support	Jan-Apr 2026	Evidence preparation brief prepared. Six stage brief – ARUP appointed for stages 1&2
2. Submission of Delivery Agreement for Ministerial approval	Last formal pre-commencement requirement of the LDP production process	Jan 2026	Once approved the DA timetable will be used for monitoring purposes by the SPSC
3. Delivery Agreement approved and commencement of SDP	CJC should receive Ministerial approval by letter four weeks from submission date	Jan-Feb 2026	Ministerial letter signifies formal commencement of the SDP
4. Recruitment to SDP team	Initially create up to two senior/principal planner roles to support SDP production	Jan-Jun 2026	This is budgeted for in the 2026/27 budget
5. Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Scoping Report	An essential early step in the process as the IIA then applies throughout the plan making process on an iterative basis	Apr-Jun 2026	Officers have collaborated with the Cardiff Capital Region CJC to share a common framework for this work
6. Focused consultation on IIA scoping	Once the IIA scoping report is drafted the CJC is required to consult with specific consultees on this	Jun – Jul 2026	Amend Scoping report dependent on relevant feedback
7. Production of a Main Issues Report	This is stage three in the evidence base scoping document referred to in 1 above, and begins the process of identifying the relevant issues and trends from the assessment of individual LPA evidence bases that are relevant in a regional context	Jun-Jul 2026	Key document to guide the development of the plan strategy and policy themes
8. Development of Issues, Vision, and Objectives including Members and stakeholder workshops	This is an important opportunity for Members to input into the development of the strategic focus for the plan by helping to define the vision and strategic objectives	Apr-May 2026 for DCFW Jun-Jul 2026 for ARUP facilitated	Options for facilitated workshops from Design Commission for Wales and then ARUP. Draws on the summary of evidence in the main issues report.

9. Identification and assessment of growth and spatial options	Stages 4 and 5 in the development of the evidence base for the SDP. Will need to consider LDP options and longer-term growth for the region, as well as a settlement strategy.	Jun-Oct 2026	Important in the identification of the preferred strategy
10. Develop Candidate sites methodology	The SDP regulations require the CJC to make a 'call for sites' which allows those with an interest in land to submit their sites for consideration	Aug-Sept 2026	The methodology will define the parameters for site identification at the strategic scale e.g. minimum of 500 homes.
11. Formal Call for candidate sites (8 weeks) and creation of register of sites	The SDP regulation specify that the call for sites must be open for a reasonable period and two months has been allowed in the SDP timetable.	Sept-Oct 2026	Create a register of sites and publish on the CJC website as soon as possible after consultation
12. Preparation of SDP Preferred Strategy	The above sequence of work leads up to the preparation of the SDP Preferred Strategy	Aug 2026- Sept 2027	The tasks above feed into the preparation process of the Preferred Strategy which will run into year 2 of the plan production programme

4.3. Officers will expand on the above tasks in presenting the report to the sub-committee at the meeting and Member feedback and questions at the meeting will help to refine the work programme for the SDP and for the sub-committee over the forthcoming year.

4.4. Whilst all the tasks above are important, it is worth highlighting the significance of several including the development of a vision and strategic objectives for the SDP, a call for candidate strategic sites, and the development of growth and spatial options to inform the preparation of the Preferred Strategy later in 2027.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1. Members are asked to note the forthcoming schedule of work for the SDP which also provided an indication of the considerations that the sub-committee will need to give to the development of the plan, especially some of the key outputs from the work that are highlighted above.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. Costs will be drawn from existing North Wales CJC budgets where provision has been made to support this work, with the necessary support from the CJC's Legal and Finance teams. The CJC will also seek to secure all opportunities for further funding support from Welsh Government.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The Corporate Joint Committee has a statutory duty to prepare a Strategic Development Plan further to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The specific requirements and steps to produce a Strategic Development Plan are set out in The Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

APPENDICES:

None

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

“No observations to add in relation to propriety.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“The expected costs in 2026/27 have been included in the budget. I have no further comments from the perspective of financial propriety.”