

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: Petition P-05-844
Ein cyf/Our ref: LG/01763/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee
National Assembly for Wales
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September 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter dated 14 September, regarding Petition P-05-844, which relates to the Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan (LDP).

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (PCPA) 2004 requires Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to prepare a statutory development plan for their administrative area. Neath Port Talbot adopted their LDP in January 2016.

The PCPA Act 2004 also requires LPAs to keep adopted plans under review (section 69). The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005, as amended 2015, specifies the time period when a LDP should be reviewed as no longer than four years from adoption (Regulation 41). Neath Port Talbot are due to commence a review of their adopted LDP in January 2020.

The PCPA Act 2004 also requires every LPA to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) setting out whether the objectives of the plan are being achieved or not. This includes the effectiveness of the policies, as well as any new legislation or external circumstances which require the plan to be reviewed (section 76). Neath Port Talbot's first AMR was published in October 2017:

https://www.npt.gov.uk/media/8100/amr_final_oct17.pdf

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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.

AMRs are the mechanism for reviewing a LDP and identify if any changes to the plan, including strategy and policies, are required and contain indicators which assess the effectiveness of the plan. Neath Port Talbot's next AMR is due to be published October 2018.

The monitoring and review of an adopted LDP is the responsibility of the LPA, as set out in primary legislation and supported by Regulations. If residents have concerns regarding the content or application of the LDP these should be made directly to the respective LPA, in this instance Neath Port Talbot. Such comments will assist the LPA when reviewing their LDP. It is not for the Welsh Ministers to intervene in the statutory review process.

Regards
Lesley

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