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This document is available in Welsh*



## **Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Joint Local Development Plan (2026-2041)**

### **Draft Delivery Agreement Executive Summary - July 2026**

#### **Introduction**

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (PCPA) 2004 places a duty on local planning authorities (LPAs) to produce a Local Development Plan (LDP) for their area. This Draft Delivery Agreement has been prepared jointly by Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen County Borough Councils to influence and inform the preparation of a Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP). Following its adoption, the new JLDP will replace the individual Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Local Development Plans, which remain in-force until that time.

#### **Delivery Agreement for new Joint Local Development Plan (2026-2041)**

- 1.2 Before substantive work can commence on a JLDP a Delivery Agreement must be prepared by the Councils and agreed with the Welsh Government (WG). Therefore, the Councils are consulting on a Draft Delivery Agreement. This document is an Executive Summary of the [Draft Delivery Agreement](#).

#### **Purpose of the Delivery Agreement**

- 1.3 A Delivery Agreement is a succinct public statement that contains two key parts: a 'Timetable' for preparing a JLDP; and the 'Community Involvement Scheme' (CIS), setting out how and when stakeholders and the community can contribute to the plan preparation, development, monitoring and review.
- 1.4 Section 2: of the 'Draft Delivery Agreement' contains the following **Key Stage Timetable** (including key participation dates\*)

| <b>Stage</b> | <b>Stage Description</b>                      | <b>Timescale</b> |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>1</b>     | <b>LDP Review &amp; Develop Evidence Base</b> |                  |
|              | Publish Torfaen LDP Review Report             | Apr-18           |
|              | Publish Blaenau Gwent LDP Review Report       | Jan-20           |
|              | Develop JLDP Evidence Base                    | ongoing          |
| <b>2</b>     | <b>Delivery Agreement</b>                     |                  |
|              | Councils consider draft Delivery Agreement    | Jul-26           |
|              | Consultation on draft Delivery Agreement *    | Jul - Aug 26     |

|          |                                                                                          |                 |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
|          | Councils consider consultation responses & Submit Delivery Agreement to Welsh Government | Nov-26          |
|          | Welsh Government Approval / Councils Publish Delivery Agreement                          | Dec-26          |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Pre-Deposit Participation</b>                                                         |                 |
|          | Call for Candidate Sites                                                                 | Jan - Mar 27    |
|          | Engagement on JLDP Vision and Objectives                                                 | Jun-27          |
|          | Engagement on Growth and Spatial Options                                                 | Jul-27          |
|          | Development of JLDP Preferred Strategy                                                   | Jul - Dec 27    |
|          | Councils consider JLDP Preferred Strategy                                                | Jan-28          |
|          | Consultation on JLDP Preferred Strategy (6 weeks)*                                       | Feb - Mar 28    |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Statutory Deposit of Proposals</b>                                                    |                 |
|          | Assess consultation responses and Preparation of Deposit JLDP                            | Apr - Sep 28    |
|          | Councils consider consultation responses & Deposit JLDP                                  | Oct-28          |
|          | Consultation on Deposit JLDP (6 weeks)*                                                  | Nov - Dec 28    |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Submission to the Welsh Government</b>                                                |                 |
|          | Assess consultation responses and prepare for Plan submission                            | Jan - Jun 29    |
|          | Councils consider consultation responses and Plan submission                             | Jul-29          |
|          | Submission of the Plan to the Welsh Government                                           | Jul-29          |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Examination of the JLDP</b>                                                           | Jul 29 - Apr 30 |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Receipt of Inspector's Report</b>                                                     | May-30          |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Adoption of JLDP</b>                                                                  | Jun-30          |
| <b>9</b> | <b>1<sup>st</sup> JLDP Annual Monitoring Report</b>                                      | Oct-32          |

- 1.5 Section 3: of the 'Draft Delivery Agreement' provides the '**Community Involvement Scheme**' (CIS), which sets out the Council's principles, strategy and process for proactively engaging the community throughout the JLDP preparation process. Early community engagement and consensus building will be an important element of the new JLDP, to meet Welsh Government principles.
- 1.6 A range of engagement methods are suggested from direct contact via letter and e-mail to social-media, advertisements, public information exhibitions and workshops; which show how people and organisations are to be involved in the preparation of the new plan. The Draft Delivery Agreement also includes a list of all specific, general and other consultation bodies that will be consulted throughout the process and will be involved in its preparation.
- 1.7 The Councils will use an online consultation package called '**OpusConsult**' as the main means for stakeholders to submit formal comments on the JLDP an associated documents. Therefore, you are encouraged to [register on OpusConsult](#) to get involved, receive updates and be consulted on the new Plan, supplementary planning guidance, etc.
- 1.8 Section 4: of the 'Draft Delivery Agreement' on '**Monitoring and Review**' shows how the Councils will ensure that the preparation of the JLDP is kept to timetable throughout the process and will produce an Annual Monitoring Report on how the new plan is doing each

year following adoption. Then, unless an AMR shows that the plan is not working and needs an early review, the plan will be reviewed every four years in any event.

- 1.9 Following completion of the consultation, a report will be presented to both Councils in November 2026 to consider all comments made and approve the Delivery Agreement (as amended) for submission to the Welsh Government for final agreement (expected in December 2026).
- 1.10 Upon agreement from Welsh Government, work will then commence on preparing the JLDP in line with the published Delivery Agreement.
- 1.11 **The Draft Delivery Agreement will be subject to consultation for 6 weeks from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July to 11:59pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026.**

We welcome your views on the Draft Delivery Agreement by using our [comments form](#) (in Welsh or English) and returning it to us by email to [enquiries@bgtjointldp.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bgtjointldp.org.uk) or in writing to the 'Shared Planning Policy Unit' at either the:

- Blaenau Gwent CBC, General Offices, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8UW
- Torfaen CBC, Civic Centre, Pontypool, NP4 6YB