

EXAMINATION of the Merthyr Tydfil Replacement Local Development Plan

www.merthyr.gov.uk/ldpexamination

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To all Deposit & Focussed Changes Consultation Respondents

Our Ref: PS/TS

25 April 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Examination into the soundness of the Merthyr Tydfil Replacement LDP

My name is Paul Selby. I am the Planning Inspector appointed by the Ministers of the Welsh Government to conduct the independent examination of the Merthyr Tydfil Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP).

The Council consulted on the Deposit LDP from 12 February to 9 April 2018, and on Focussed Changes to the LDP from 21 January to 4 March 2019. The Plan which I will examine is the [LDP as amended by the Focussed Changes \(December 2018\)](#)[SD01].

I am writing to you because you or your organisation made representations during the consultation on the Deposit LDP or Focussed Changes.

Tracey Smith is the Programme Officer who will assist me with the examination. Although appointed by the Council, she will work for me in administering the examination and hearings and is independent of the Council. All correspondence and submissions relating to the examination should be sent to Tracey, who may be contacted using the details shown in the header of this letter.

Participation in hearings and deadline for requesting to participate

The examination will include a series of public hearings which will be held at the **Orbit Centre, Rhydyar Business Park, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1DL**. I expect these hearings to begin on **25 June 2019** and to continue for 2 weeks or so.

A [draft hearings programme](#) [ED003], including a list of potential participants and an outline of the matters to be discussed, has been published on the [examination website](#). **Please note that this is a 'live' document which is subject to change.** I aim to publish the final timetable for the hearings, a definitive list of participants for each session, and the detailed list of matters, issues and questions, by **10 May 2019**.

The hearings will be open to the public to observe, but only those who made relevant representations during the consultation periods are eligible to participate. Those who have already indicated to the Council that they wish to be heard have been assigned to relevant sessions as shown on the draft hearings programme. Others eligible to request to attend these sessions (as they have made relevant representations) are also listed but must request to participate. If you wish to speak at a hearing but are not listed on the programme, and you have made a representation which you consider makes you eligible to give oral evidence at that hearing, please get in touch with the Programme Officer as soon as possible. I would stress, however, that any written representations already made will carry equal weight to oral evidence given during hearings.

Whether or not you are identified as a participant on the draft programme, **it is ESSENTIAL that you CONFIRM with the Programme Officer your intention to speak at a hearing session as soon as possible and no later than 10 May 2019.**

If your participation in a hearing has not been confirmed by this date I will assume that you are content for your views to be dealt with via written representations, irrespective of what you may have previously stated. Your cooperation in this regard is much appreciated.

It would also assist the Programme Officer if you could confirm your contact details, in particular your email address (if you have one) as future communications will be conducted electronically as far as possible. Please quote your Representor ID shown at the top of this letter in all correspondence.

Information and guidance about the examination

The examination website www.merthyr.gov.uk/LDPexamination provides up-to-date information about the examination and hearings. Documents submitted by the Inspector, Programme Officer, Council and others will be published in the [Examination Library](#) section of the website under 'Examination Documents'. You should check this website regularly for the latest information, including changes to the programme.

A Pre-Hearing Meeting will not be held for this examination. Instead, [Guidance Notes for participants](#) [ED002] have been published on the website alongside this letter. **Please ensure that you read these carefully and comply with them during the examination.**

Participants should note that I will be writing to the Council with some preliminary questions regarding the LDP and its evidence base. This is purely to assist me and to facilitate an efficient examination process. This letter and the Council's response will be published on the examination website in advance of the hearings.

The Council provides internet access at public libraries. Details can be found at clause 3.3 of the [Guidance Notes](#) [ED002]. Anyone wishing to view hard copies of examination documents should contact the Programme Officer who will be happy to assist.

Translation and special assistance at hearings

Correspondence in both Welsh and English is welcomed and examination documents will be available bilingually. Where some or all participants in a hearing have indicated a preference to communicate in the Welsh language, translation facilities will be arranged. If you intend to speak Welsh at a hearing it would be appreciated if you could confirm this with the Programme Officer as soon as possible prior to the event so that the Council can make the necessary arrangements. Not informing us beforehand has no impact on your right to participate in Welsh, but it may delay proceedings whilst simultaneous translation services are arranged.

Participants who have specific requirements and require assistance during the examination should contact the Programme Officer as soon as possible. Please note that a hearing loop system will be available at the hearings.

If you have any questions about the content of this letter please contact me via the Programme Officer.

Yours faithfully

Paul Selby

Planning Inspector

cc Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council