

Julie James AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/02281/23

Eifion Evans  
Chief Executive  
Ceredigion County Council

chiefexecutive@ceredigion.mail.onmicrosoft.com

20 September 2023

Dear Eifion,

Thank you for your letter of 8 August regarding progression of a Mid-Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and individual Local Development Plans (LDPs) for each respective Local Planning Authority (LPA) within the region.

It is a statutory duty for Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) to prepare the SDP and for LPAs to prepare LDPs. It is vitally important to have a plan led system for making planning decisions in Wales to provide the essential cornerstone for local decision making.

I welcome your commitment as leader of the Mid-Wales CJC to progress the preparation of an SDP. Considering planning issues on a wider scale, across Local Authority (LA) boundaries will enable coherent and consistent outcomes to be achieved. Understanding and evaluating current relationships within the region combined with careful analysis of how places function, their role, relationship, sustainability credentials and how they interact with other settlements both within the area and beyond, will be key when preparing an SDP.

Replacement LDPs provide the short to medium term context of an SDP. It is therefore not an issue about repetition or duplication, but rather using the LDP process to start the SDP evidence gathering and direction of travel in advance of an SDP formally commencing. When considering progression of an SDP it will be for the Mid-Wales region to assess the skills and resources across all participating authorities, steered by the CJC. Different authorities will be at different stages of LDP preparation and can therefore contribute resources at various stages in the SDP preparation process.

Two Advisory Notes were issued to LPAs in August 2021 giving further detail on these matters. In addition, my officials circulated a draft SDP Manual in Autumn of last year to assist officers in the region with the technical and procedural aspects of preparing the SDP.

In summary, I wish to reassure you that progressing a replacement LDP is the appropriate way forward for all LPAs in the Mid-Wales Region in advance of the CJC commencing an SDP.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales](mailto:Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales)

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.

Following receipt of the Delivery Agreement for the Mid Wales SDP I would be happy to meet with you. My officials will of course also continue to provide guidance and technical expertise to support the preparation of both the LDP and SDP.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Julie James AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Minister for Climate Change