

Julie James AS/MS

**Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol, Tai a Chynllunio
Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government and Planning**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Our ref: WQ92145 / WQ92146

Andrew R.T. Davies MS
Welsh Conservative Party
Senedd Cymru
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23 April 2024

Dear Andrew R.T. Davies MS,

Thank you for tabling written questions WQ92145 and WQ92146 as follows:

- WQ92145: What guidance is provided to local authorities ahead of their creation of local development plans?
- WQ92146: What support is offered to local authorities ahead of their creation of local development plans?

Unfortunately, I was unable to provide a written answer on 25 March due to changes in appointing a new First Minister, Vaughan Gething MS, Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers. Your questions relate to the support and guidance that is available to Local Authorities (LAs) ahead of their creation of Local Development Plans (LDPs). Please find below responses to both of your questions.

Both Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and Future Wales provide the overarching framework within which LDPs are prepared. This is supported by detailed guidance in the Development Plans Manual (Edition 3), which sets out the policy content, plan preparation process and evidence required to support the content of the plan. All the key topic areas and detailed expression of what degree of evidence is required, alongside explanations of how to express this is set out in the Manual.

Regarding the support provided to LAs, Welsh Government planning officials communicate on a regular basis with both regional groupings of LAs and individual LAs to share experience, best practice and lessons learnt over many years to achieve adopted plans in an expedient manner. This close liaison with LAs has proved to be invaluable in ensuring LA officers, and elected members, understand the policy framework, how it relates to their plan and supporting evidence and how emerging policy could impact on their LDP.

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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.

I hope you consider this response to address your questions.

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

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