

## DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Ms Tamsin Davies
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Councillor Rob Stewart

Your Ref / Eich Cyf: Date / Dyddiad:

29 July 2015

If you require this or any other information in another format e.g. Braille, audio tape or a different language, please contact me

Dear Ms Davies

Further to your letter dated 19 June 2015 regarding the above.

The Authority is currently in the process of formulating the Deposit Local Development Plan (LDP) and it is anticipated that this document will be subject to a period of public consultation during early 2016. In the meantime a number of subject areas including the consideration of the Welsh Language are currently being considered from a policy perspective. With specific regard to the Welsh Language, provisions established from guidelines such as Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language (2013) and the legislative requirements from the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 that received Royal Assent on the 6<sup>th</sup> July will be fully taken into account. In terms of LDP production to this stage of the process, issues regarding the Welsh Language have influenced the scale and distribution of growth reflected as part of Plan preparation. The Spatial Options Assessment Topic Paper concluded that whilst the scale of growth proposed had the potential to put pressure on the capacity of social infrastructure, including the Welsh Language, the opportunity to Masterplan sites would bring positive benefits by ensuring that the Council is able to achieve the objectives of planning for sustainable, distinct communities.

Given that work is currently ongoing in creating a Welsh Language Topic Paper along with establishing a detailed policy framework for the LDP I am unable to confirm at this stage the precise approach to be reflected within the forthcoming Deposit LDP. However, generally it is proposed that the LDP will include a reasoned justification of the regard had by the local planning authority to the needs and interests of the Welsh Language, and how any related policies interact with other Plan policies.

## COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD ROB STEWART LEADER / ARWEINYDD

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Further evidence on how this can be achieved will be provided by the Sustainability Appraisal report which will provide an explanation as to how the assessment has influenced the final document. More specifically, it is envisaged that where appropriate (in areas above an established threshold and designated as language sensitive areas) there may be scope for development proposals to be accompanied by a Language Action Plan (LAP) setting out the measures to be taken to protect, promote and enhance the Welsh Language. Planning permission will be subject to conditions or legal agreement requiring the implementation of the recommendations of the LAP and examples of such mitigation measures may include phasing development, provision of affordable housing for local needs, provision of bilingual signs, support for the provision of school places in Welsh medium schools and support funding for language and cultural awareness initiatives. It is considered that developments may indeed bring considerable benefits to the Welsh Language and this in itself should be noted within the LAP. The role of the LAP will be to consider and acknowledge both positive and negative impacts and where necessary identify potential mitigation measures. It is considered that such an approach is consistent with the provisions of national policy guidance insofar as the measures proposed offset any negative impacts on the Welsh Language.

It is important to note that the aforementioned proposal only indicates a potential approach currently being considered by officers therefore you will have to await the publication of the Deposit Plan in order to be able to consider the final, agreed policy framework. However, in the meantime I would welcome any feedback that you may have in order to inform LDP preparation.

Should you wish to discuss any of the above the please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR ROB STEWART
LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE & STRATEGY

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