

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions at Council
25 October 2018**

1.	<p>Councillor E W Fitzgerald</p> <p>In relation to Agenda Item 14 – Outcome of Swansea Local Development Plan (LDP) Examination and Requirement for Public Consultation on Proposed Amendments to the Plan.</p> <p>i) What are the overrun costs of the LDP?</p> <p>ii) Please provide the details of the Third Party Costs associated with the LDP (Consultants etc.)?</p> <p>iii) The number of new houses outlined in the report seems to differ from those referred to by the Planning Inspectorate. How many new homes are predicted in the LDP?</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Delivery</p> <p>i) An updated LDP Delivery Agreement (DA) was approved by the Welsh Government in July 2017, prior to the submission of the Swansea LDP for Examination. This revised DA anticipated adoption of the Plan in Summer 2018. LDP adoption is currently anticipated for the early part of 2019. This approximate 6 month delay is primarily due to the Examination being ongoing for a longer period than originally anticipated, in order to allow sufficient time for the extensive range of issues that are covered by the Plan to be adequately scrutinised during examination and, where relevant, to provide adequate time for all parties involved in the process to submit material in advance of scheduled Hearings. This delay in the anticipated adoption date does not equate to any directly quantifiable increase in costs incurred. The costs associated with officer time are those associated with staff undertaking their expected and normal duties. Any fees associated with external services procured for the Examination, as well as the costs of the Programme Officer and Planning Inspectorate, cannot be necessarily directly attributed to the specific length of time taken to conclude the Examination process. These are costs that must be met to fulfil the Council's obligations in relation to the Examination. The Inspectors appointed by the Ministers work on a time charged basis. The Inspectors have put the Examination process 'in suspension' at intervals throughout the process, for example to allow parties to submit further evidence, and the Planning Inspectorate has not invoiced the Council for any time charged for these periods.</p> <p>ii) Since the commencement of the LDP in 2010, third party costs borne by the planning authority in the engagement of external services and consultants to deliver the LDP (including Examination) has amounted to £205,838.91. These costs have been met by the department's allocated budgets over this 8 year period. The Authority has also benefitted from some grant support for LDP related costs amounting to £56,462. The Council is also obliged to meet the salary and expenses costs of the LDP Programme Officer (engaged to facilitate the administrative procedures of the Examination), and the costs incurred by the Planning Inspectorate associated with the Examination process, including the Inspectors time.</p>
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These services are ongoing until the Examination process is formally closed, and current costs incurred are £17,760 and £84,795 respectively.

iii) Following a comprehensive update in 2017 of the evidence base relating to projected levels of economic and population growth in Swansea, the total housing provision within the Deposit LDP changed from **17,106 homes to 17,645 homes**, to support the potential creation of 13,600 additional jobs over the Plan period. The total provision within the plan incorporates the up to date evidence about site allocations, commitments (planning permissions already awarded), and future windfall sites. The 17,645 figure was accurately referenced in the Report of the Cabinet Member for Delivery of the 25th October 2018, and is consistent with the figures that the Examination Planning Inspectors have agreed should be subject to consultation during the Matters Arising Changes consultation scheduled to run until 14th December 2018.