

Monday 9 August 2010

Cllr Rodney Berman,  
Cardiff County Council  
City Hall  
Cardiff CF10 3ND

Dear Cllr Berman

Local Development Plan  
Request for variation to consultation regarding Delivery Agreement and CIS

You may know already that Cardiff Civic Society has submitted a detailed Response to the draft Delivery Agreement and Community Involvement Scheme. In case you have not seen it already, I am attaching a copy of the printed version which we are about to publish. We have had already fruitful conversations with the planning team and have an appointment to meet with James Clemence on 26 August to discuss this further. However, this is only 14 days before the Executive is due to consider the final draft and we feel more time is needed to produce a document which would have widespread support.

I am writing during the meantime to make a formal request that the council should vary the consultation period for this important stage of the development of the LDP.

We believe that the proposals we have made, particularly those concerning community engagement and the time taken to produce a deposit LDP, are so important that a revised delivery agreement should be subject to a further consultation period. We are mindful that there should be no unnecessary delay – indeed we believe our proposals would reduce time to Deposit by about a year. We understand that there is no statutory difficulty in your agreeing to what we propose.

I am conscious that you, yourself, and the deputy leader of the council Cllr Neil McEvoy have made public statements concerning the fitness for purpose of the LDP process. We do not share that concern and agree with the minister's view that this strategic document, covering all aspects of the council's work, not just land use, is vital for Cardiff's future prosperity. We are anxious, within the framework provided by the legislation and the need to expend the city's resources carefully, to ensure that Cardiff has an exemplar Local Development Plan to deliver a vision of the city that I am sure we can all share.

CCS does not wish to be a "critical observer" in this process, rather we would wish to be a "critical friend" in creating the consensus that is defined as necessary in the LDP process.

In the next day or two we will be distributing electronically and as a printed document, copies of our response to members of the council, local AMs and MPs. I very much hope that our work will contribute in a meaningful way to the creation of a viable delivery agreement.

Yours sincerely

David Eggleton

Secretary  
and Lead LDP working group, Cardiff Civic Society