## Place Plan Toolkit: Shape My Brecon Beacons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Committee</th>
<th>National Park Authority</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>23rd September 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purpose of Report</td>
<td>To present the proposed Place Plan toolkit for Member approval prior to launching the document for use within the Community.</td>
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### Single Integrated Assessment

The Toolkit has been assessed and demonstrates largely positive impacts on the Authority Goals; Well-being Goals; Sustainable Development Principles and Welsh Language. With neutral impacts being recorded in areas associated with resources and governance. There have been no risks identified to the Authority from the adoption of the toolkit. The Toolkit provides opportunities for communities to develop their own place plans to guide the future development of their place for a 10 year period. The emphasis is on empowering communities to take actions to better their places, services and facilities with the aim of improving their future wellbeing, resilience, and vitality.

### List of Enclosures

- **Enclosure 1**: Shape My Brecon Beacons: A practical guide to developing a Place Plan.
- **Enclosure 2**: SIA

### Public Interest Test

N/A

### Recommendation(s)

a) To approve the publication of Shape my Brecon Beacons for use within the community for the development of Place Plans.
1.1 Introduction or Background

The Local Development Plan commits to the development of Place Plans (previously termed ‘Village Plans’) across the National Park area. A Place Plan is a community derived action plan intended to guide the future development of a place over a five year period. Although firmly rooted within planning policy, it is the intention of a place plan to consider all social, economic and environmental factors which contribute towards the vitality and wellbeing of a community. The goals of the place plan project are as follows:

- Improve the resilience of National Park communities through development of community led plans for sustainable development and improved wellbeing;
- Provide a clear evidence base for future iterations of the Local Development Plan;
- Engage and empower more communities to take control of their future development;
- Ensure better planning decision are made, with community involvement through the adoption of such plans as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

The NPA has been engaged in the production of Place Plans within the community since 2014. To date the NPA has worked with the communities of Hay on Wye, Crickhowell and Brecon. These pilot projects have provided Officers with good working knowledge of Community Planning process and have yielded positive results. However resources within the Authority are such that Officers only have capacity to work with a limited number of communities each year. To address this issue it was considered that the development of a Place Plan Toolkit would enable Officers to stretch available resources, to work with more communities to produce plans, whilst maintaining the quality of the product.

Since the National Park Authority’s inception of ‘Village Plans’ the Welsh Government have also embraced the concept of community planning with the introduction of ‘Place Plans’ into their Positive Planning Implementation Plan (Welsh Government December 2015). [http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/160425positive-planning-implementation-plan-december-2015-en.pdf](http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/160425positive-planning-implementation-plan-december-2015-en.pdf) In January of this year the National Park was one of five Planning Authorities in Wales to receive funding from the Welsh Government as part of this Implementation Plan. The purpose of the grant money was to develop the concept of Place Planning as part of a collaborative all Wales project. Through this project Officers were introduced to work of the Design Commission for Wales in relation to Community Planning. The grant money was seen as an opportunity for the Authority to work with the Design Commission for Wales (DCfW) to produce a toolkit unique to the National Park based on DCfW’s national work ‘Shape My Town’ [http://www.shapemytown.org/](http://www.shapemytown.org/). The toolkit attached at Enclosure 1 is the culmination of this project with the Welsh Government and the Design Commission.
1.2 **Proposals**

The Toolkit is intended to provide an effective means of engaging communities in the Plan making process, by providing easy to follow steps in the production of a robust Plan suitable for adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Local Development Plan. The toolkit provides information on:-

- Setting up a Place Plan group
- Evidence gathering
- Effective Community Engagement
- Data analysis
- Framework for a finalised Plan
- Provides links to other resources
- Encourages partnership working

Officers are proposing that the *Shape My Brecon Beacons Toolkit* attached at Enclosure 1 be published for use with the community for the creation of Place Plans. It is proposed that the toolkit will enable communities to produce a plan for their place with minimal input from Officers of the Authority. It is intended that the resulting plans will be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by the NPA.

1.3 **Implications**

It is anticipated that the introduction of the toolkit will increase the uptake of communities undertaking Place Planning within their area. This will have a three-fold affect:

- Increase community coherence and resilience through the development of community derived action plans.
- Improvement of working relationships between community groups and National Park Authority, especially within the planning department.
- Improve evidence base for LDP review, producing locally distinct policy to better guide future development.

1.4 **Risk**

Failure to approve the toolkit could see the Place Plan project stalling within the National Park to the detriment of our communities, and our understanding of community need for future development.
1.5 Conclusion

The proposed Place Plan Toolkit presents a significant step forward in the progression of the Place Plan project within the National Park. Its introduction will aid communities in the development of a place plan for their area, improving their future resilience and supporting the development of a more locally responsive Local Development Plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

a) To approve the publication of Shape my Brecon Beacons for use within the community for the development of Place Plans.