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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Local Development Plan

Deposit Plan and Focussed Changes

Sustainability Appraisal Report

APPENDICES

January 2012

Plan Design Enable

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Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan Deposit Plan and Focussed Changes Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment

Sustainability Appraisal Report Appendices

January 2012

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Document History

JOB NUMBER: 5053880			DOCUMENT REF: BG_SAR_Appendices_Jan2012_Final.doc			
5	SAR including Focussed Changes	SM	CW	CW	CW	31.01.12
4	Final Updated SAR	SM	CW	CW	CW	27.04.11
3	Final SAR	SM	AG	CW	CW	22.10.10
2	For client review	SM/LP	AG	CW	CW	18.12.09
1	For client comments	SM/AG/OP	MH	CW	CW	25.08.09
Revision	Purpose Description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date

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Appendix A Consultation Responses to SA Iterations

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A.1 Scoping Consultation

Respondents

A.1.1 Respondents with detailed comments that needed to be addressed in the SA are outlined in the table below. Consultees not included within this table, but from whom responses were received, were:

Councillor Keith Barnes, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Yvonne Lewis, Nantglo and Blaina Town Council

Table A.1 – Consultation Responses, Comments and Actions

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
Janice Tse Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	No Priority Habitats of Wales: A Technical Guide (2003) Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife in South Wales: A Technical Guide (2004) PAS 2010: Planning to Halt the Loss of Biodiversity – Biodiversity Conservation Standards for Planning in the UK – Code of Practice (Aug 2006)	1) Not considered to be a P&P as it is a Technical Guide 2) As above 3) As above	No further action
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	Yes	No further action	No further action

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	No. It is uncertain if the draft 25 SA objectives are manageable and deliverable along the LDP process.	The SA Objectives are used to assess the LDP policies and thus the policies themselves will enable the delivery of the SA objectives.	No further action.
Rhidian Clement Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	Yes	No further action	No further action
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	Yes. Infrastructure provision for both sewerage and water supply needs to be considered. Also, the need to promote sustainable development.	Agreed	Added to key sustainability issues/ opportunities table. Added as indicator to SA objective 21
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	Yes.	No further action	No further action

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	Yes.	No further action	No further action
Lynn Phillips Leisure Services BGCBC	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	No 1.National Plans and Programmes Cadw: Review of Historical Environment 2.Regional Plans and Programmes Capital Region Tourism – Tourism Strategy for South East Wales The Herian Strategy – South Wales Industrial Heritage 3.Local Plans and Strategies The Blaenau Gwent Cultural Strategy The Blaenau Gwent Sports and Active Living Strategy The Blaenau Gwent Arts Strategy	1. Agreed 2. Tourism- used 'A Revised Tourism Strategy for South East Wales' (2003) 3. a) Agreed b) Agreed c) Agreed	1. Added to tables 3.1 and 3.2 2. Added to table 3.1; table 3.2 3. a) Cultural Strategy Update Reviewed. Objectives are already covered in the SA Framework objectives. Data added to table 3.1; table 3.2. b) added to table 3.1; table 3.2. Data added to baseline description; indicator added to SA Framework c) After a review of the document, it is considered that, as the document contains no objectives or aims, it is not necessary to include it within the report. The broad themes of the document are already covered.

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	Yes a) P.3 – 10 Blaenau Gwent currently has 54 listed buildings as opposed to the stated 58. b) There is need to reference the WAG Historic Environment Group in section on Protect and Enhance the Valued Historic Environment and its settings.	a) Noted b) It is not clear why the Historic Environment Group needs to be referenced.	a) Data changed in SAR inc appendix b b) No further action
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	No. a) P.4 – 4 Reference Leisure provision in meeting community housing needs and the way it contributes to quality of life issues. b) P.4 – 5 Beneficial to reference Leisure Tourism in this section e.g. potential of Roundhouses in Nantyglo and quality accommodation/restaurants. c) P.4 – 10 Reference to recreation facilities could be changed to recreation opportunities which would then encompass both programmes and facilities. d) P.4 – 11 Pleasing to see the reference on the way that Leisure contributes to the Community Safety agenda.	a) Unclear how leisure provision can meet community housing needs b) Agreed c) Agreed d) Noted.	a) No further action required. b) Added to table 3.4 in SAR c) Changed to recreation opportunities in table 3.2, and subsequent parts of the document d) No further action required.
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	Yes. a) P.5 – 5 (9) A statement could include improving accessibility to Leisure. b) P.5 – 6 (12) Does this mean welsh language, culture or the cultural heritage of Blaenau Gwent?	a) It is felt that the indicators sufficiently encompass what would be deemed to be access to 'leisure' facilities, under community facilities e.g. community halls, sports facilities, open space, and theatres and cinemas. b) The objective infers the protection of the welsh culture of Blaenau Gwent.	a) No further action required. b) Wording of objective changed in SAR table
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	Yes.	No further action	No further action
Jim Allen Environment-BGCBC	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	Yes	No further action	No further action
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	No. In my opinion, the Festival Park serves a different type of customer to the town centres, and attracts shoppers into the borough from neighbouring areas. I do not think this is a good example of an out-of-town retail area damaging a town centre. In this respect I think point 3.15 is misleading and might be beneficial to the borough. Unlike many out-of-town developments the shops here are specialist, and don't really compete with those in town centres. The clientele is a little different and that is what attracts particular retailers. I'm not entirely sure that future attempts to discourage this sort of development based on the evidence in the document are a good idea. I live just outside the Borough, but do most of my shopping here, a lot of it in Festival Park or Tesco, whereas I wouldn't normally go into Ebbw Vale or Brynmawr.	Comment noted.	Specific reference to Festival Park has been removed.
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	Yes	No further action	No further action
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	Yes	No further action	No further action
Stephen	Table 2.2		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	There is a revised Health & Social Care Needs analysis - completed by Jane Layzell in the NPHS WAG has produced a strategy for social care in Wales called 'Fulfilled Lives Supportive Communities' and a vision for Health Care called 'Designed For Life' There is also revised guidance for the new Health Social Care & Well Being Strategies that come into force from April 2008 There is a local health strategy called Blaenau Gwent 2010 When referring to 'Blaenau Gwent Development Plan for the Strategy for Older People in Wales', not sure if it's the same thing as our strategy and needs assessment called Living Independently In Blaenau Gwent In The 21st century'? There are probably some others that may have relevance, do you want me to try and get a fuller list? Under the sustainability themes you mention health and well being, where as we normally refer to health, social care and well being as per the HSC&WB strategy We could also mention expending the range of accommodation for older people in particular as we are trying to develop Extra care sheltered Housing, and perhaps overall drive to support vulnerable people to maintain their independence in their own homes.	Agreed Agreed SA is an iterative process and thus will be updated as necessary throughout its development. The strategy is not directly relevant to SA. Health issues have been addressed as necessary in the SA Framework The documents are different It is not necessary for SA to cover all the possible relevant plans and programmes, as a strategic approach is required. agreed SA requires a strategic approach and therefore this level of detail is unnecessary.	Added to table 3.1; table 3.2; baseline description; key issues table. Designed for Life and 'Fulfilled Lives Supportive Communities' added to PP table and Sustainability Themes. Relevance to be checked when published No further action. Strategy for Older People replaced by Living Independently in PP review. No further action required. Wording changed in sustainability themes, and SA objective 10. SA objective 10 will include this aspect. An extra indicator has been added.

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
Deborah Beeson Ecologist, BGCBC	Overall, the document is very comprehensive but perhaps could have been simplified and better structured in places.	Comment noted	
	Introduction		
	a) It would be helpful to explain what biodiversity means and that it is a key component of the environment and indicator of sustainable development. b) In particular, SEA should follow the 'positive planning' sequential approach: • Avoiding biodiversity loss or damage • Enhancing biodiversity where possible or securing opportunities for recovery • Compensating for unavoidable loss of biodiversity • Consolidating information on biodiversity. c) It is strongly recommended that the Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership and Gwent Wildlife Trust is invited onto the LDP Forum to ensure that there is balanced representation of biodiversity interests.	a) Agreed b) Protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the SA Framework is thought to be reflective of this approach. c) This is an issue to be addressed by the LDP and not the SA	a) Text added to baseline description b) Indicators in SA Framework modified to reflect this approach c) No further action
	Table 2:1 Relevant Local Plans and Programmes.		

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	It would be useful to date all the plans and programmes. Eg Convention on Biological diversity, Rio de Janeiro, 1992 and UK Biodiversity Action Plan 2005. It would be useful to group national plans into UK and Wales for easier reference. Please add the following to National Plans/Programmes UK: Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c) Regulations 1994 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by Schedule 9 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). Wales: Countryside Council for Wales Action for Wildlife, 1997 d) It is recommended that Tables 2.2 and 4.1 be combined into a simple table which is easier to understand covering SEA Topic, Key Policy Documents Listed, and it would be particularly helpful to clearly list the policy aims and how the LDP might assist in delivering these policy aims.	a) Agreed b) Agreed c) Agreed d) Comment noted but difficult to address as SA guidance recommends staged approach	Dates added to PP table Plans re-ordered Documents added to review No further action
	Table 2.2 Broad Sustainability Themes		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
5053880	Economic There is no link to sustainability under any of the economic themes. There needs to be reference to ensuring that economic growth and development is in line with sustainability principles and respects the environment in its location, scale and design. It should also be noted, that economic growth is not just about promoting industrial development, with 70% of Blaenau Gwent, classified as rural, it is also about promoting farm diversification and supporting sustainable rural development which has consistently been ignored. I concur with the theme 'Establish a strong tourist economy, sensitively capitalising on environmental, heritage and leisure assets'. One of our biggest marketable assets is our natural environment and open spaces. It should be recognised in the report that there are huge opportunities in how the LDP may assist in delivering this aim through developing eco tourism through the management of open spaces and heritage sites and improvement of facilities that will bring considerable investment into the area. Environmental Biodiversity I would prefer to see one main theme which is to protect and enhance biodiversity, natural habitats and wild fauna and flora, including international, national and locally designated sites, protected species and species and habitat types identified as priorities for biological conservation. I would like to see more information provided on how the LDP might assist in delivering this through: detailed policies for the conservation, and where appropriate, enhancement of international, national and local designated sites, reflecting their relative significance identifying the areas to which the policies apply providing for the conservation, and where appropriate, enhancement of biodiversity outside statutorily designated sites, in particular, identifying opportunities to conserve important local habitats and species, and to safeguard and manage landscape features of major importance for nature conservation. Landscape It is recommended that the theme is changed to '…protect and enhance the quality and character of the landscape, including the countryside, the river valleys, upland areas and other green spaces…' Brownfield Land	a) The economic themes, alongside will be used in conjunction with the other sustainability themes. All resulting individual SA objectives for assessment will be used in the assessment of the plan, which will ensure that all aspects of sustainability are considered. b) *Promote the regeneration of disadvantaged wards and support the revitalisation of such areas* goes someway to addressing this. c) Agreed d) Agreed	a) No further action b) (link to comment below from MH CPRW- rural development plan) data added to baseline characteristics; SA Framework objective 2 has been amended to refer to rural development. c) Added to 'key sustainability issues' table. SA Objectives 1 and 15 address this point. d) Themes merged in table and wording modified. Addressed in objective 14 of SA Framework.

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	Environmental Characteristics		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Agreed	No further action.
	This section is weak and needs a more thorough approach:	Agreed	Text in key sustainability issues/ opportunities table elaborated.
	Please provide a more specific geographic reference for each site listed, eg Cwm Merddog Woodlands, Cwm.	Agreed	Added to baseline characteristics description.
	Some reference should be made to what the wildlife site designations mean (there is a useful summary in the Draft TAN 5 which could be included in the appendices) and it should be made clear that the protection and management of these sites is imperative in terms of protecting the biodiversity resource of Blaenau Gwent. This resource is vulnerable to new developments and land management practices which could result in habitat loss and fragmentation. Up to date information on the condition of all sites is not currently available.	Agreed	Added to baseline characteristics description.
	3.31 Reference should be made to the fact that the Usk Bat sites SAC is also referred to as Mynydd Llangattock SSSI. There could be confusion otherwise. Both the Usk Bat sites and Cwm Clydach Woodlands fall within the Brecon Beacons National Park boundary.	The country park is named on the list of candidate LNRs which shows its wildlife importance.	Added to baseline characteristics description.
	3.32 Reference should be made to Brynmawr Sections and Mynydd Llangattock that fall within the Brecon Beacons National Park part of the Authority.	Agreed	Added to baseline characteristics description.
	3.34 Reference should be made to Cwm Clydach NNR which also falls within the Brecon Beacons National Park part of the Authority.	Agreed	Deleted from text.
	3.34 Delete '…which is at Parc Bryn Bach…' as this doesn't make sense.	This is encompassed within the indicators of objective 14 of the SA Framework	No further action
	It would be useful to mention the Country Park Parc Bryn Bach as a valuable wildlife resource as it is not just a recreational resource, and say something about the types of habitats/species found there.	Agreed	Baseline description updated.
	It should be noted that the designation of LNRs is in accordance with targets in the community plan and that the Authority aims to designate 2 per year pending resources.	Agree	Baseline description updated.
	Reference should also be made to the SINC designation process. The first tranche includes 62 not 60 sites – two have since been added Bryn Serth and Peacehaven Pond – information available from SEWBREC. 3.1 will therefore require updating. All sites identified qualify against scientific guidelines 'Guidelines for the selection of wildlife sites in South Wales' (August 2004) and it is anticipated will be taken through to Committee in early 2008. As stated, further tranches of SINCs are expected as survey information becomes available and sites are assessed.	Agree	This is addressed under SA objective 14. Text added to key sustainability issues/ opportunities table.
	Reference needs to be made to the fact that biodiversity cannot just be protected through the protection of statutory and non-statutory designated wildlife sites alone, hence, the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, and need to protect important habitats and species in the wider countryside.		LBAP habitats and species with action plans have been added to baseline description.
	Reference must be made to LBAP and key habitat and species as well as protected species and need to ensure that ecological connectivity is maintained and enhanced between sites and		Figure 3.1 revised.

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	Yes	No further action	No further action.
Dai Davies Member of Parliament	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	No. Consult on each area of inclusion with the general public who live there.	The SA includes relevant plans and programmes that have been consulted upon with the community, such as the Blaenau Gwent Community Plan. The SA is open to public consultation therefore any member of the general public is free to comment on and contribute to its content.	No further action.
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	No. Ensure that those directly affected by change are consulted fully.	The SA includes relevant plans and programmes that have been consulted upon with the community, such as the Blaenau Gwent Community Plan. The SA is open to public consultation therefore any member of the general public is free to comment on and contribute to its content.	No further action.
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	Yes. More general public opinion needed such as consultation around the development of land at Peacehaven in Tredegar	The SA includes relevant plans and programmes that have been consulted upon with the community, such as the Blaenau Gwent Community Plan. The SA is open to public consultation therefore any member of the general public is free to comment on and contribute to its content.	No further action.
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	No. They do not take into account fully the views of the general public including young people. Also what happens when European Funding is removed?	Comment noted but issue not strategic enough for sustainability appraisal	No further action.
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	Yes. Lack of social enterprise projects. More consultation with business on how economy should be developed.	This is an issue for the LDP.	No further action.
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	No. More input required by SMEs and town centre business. Consider real minimum wage at a level of risk per year.	This is an issue for the LDP.	No further action.
Helen Madden Communities First, Blaine	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	Yes. Communities First BDCBC –This does not include all Communities First areas in Blaenau Gwent- the programme is not run by BGCBC. Environmental organisations could include Friends of Parc Nantywaun, Cwmcelym TRA, Westside and Forgeside TRA to name but a few	Comment noted. Issue for BGCBC	No further action.
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	No. What about Communities First? There should be Action Plans for each Partnership. These need to be considered as they have been done in full consultation with the communities they represent.	As a strategic document, it is not necessary to go into this level of detail in the Sustainability Appraisal.	The LDP should take these documents into consideration to ensure that the views of the community are considered fully.
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	No	No further action.	No further action.
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	Yes	No further action.	No further action.
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	Yes. Opportunities exist within the Communities First Programme and indeed with Communities Next which will commence in 2009.	Comment noted.	No further action.
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	Yes.	No further action.	No further action.
Neil Maylan Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	No	No further action.	No further action.
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	No. The Blaenau Gwent Landmap survey has been carried out, although we are not certain whether or not this work has been Quality assured at the current time. The information in this work will be important in determining the impact of the LDP on numerous landscape and environmental issues and it therefore should be included on lists 2.1 and 2.2	Comment noted.	No further action.
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	Yes. The information held in the adopted Blaenau Gwent Historic Environment Record (previously Sites and Monuments Record) curated by this Trust, which includes all known archaeological sites in the County Borough is missing.	Agree.	Information added where appropriate.
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	Yes.		
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	No		
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	Yes		
Dr Jane Layzell	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
Blaenau Gwent Local Public Health Team	Yes. Local Public Health Teams are a primary source of professional public health advice and support for both Local Health Boards and Local Authorities in Wales. As the Local Development Plan will have a significant impact on the wider determinants of health such as employment and behaviour, we would be keen to participate in the working group for the SEA, and any other groups as appropriate.	Comment noted. Issue for BGCBC.	No further action.
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	No. 'Design for Life' is the Welsh Assembly Government's overall plan for the future of health services in Wales. In Blaenau Gwent, this is reflected in the Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust 'Clinical Futures' plan, and also in the Local Health Board 'Primary Care Estate Strategy' and 'Blaenau Gwent 2010' plans for out of hospital care. The Local Authority plan for social area 'Living independently in the 21st Century' is also not mentioned. All of these plans reflect a direction of travel in the delivery of health and social care services whereby considerably more services will be delivered within people's homes, and in local primary care or health and social care resource centres. They include estate requirements for both services and housing. Blaenau Gwent's Mental Health Promotion Strategy is currently out for comment in draft format, and attempts to address issues of poor mental health (as opposed to mental illness) which have a fundamental impact on economic development within the County Borough. Land use, and planning of housing, town centres, transport routes etc can play an important role in promoting social cohesion and interaction, and ultimately better community mental health. A food policy, aimed at children and young people, has also been developed for the County Borough; planning policy in terms of the number and siting of food retail outlets could have a significant influence on the success of this policy in terms of improving population health. The 'Healthier Futures' Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy included in Table 2.1 mentions most of the above strategies, but gives no details on them. It is also coming to the end of its lifespan, and will be replaced next year by Healthier Future 2, although many of the work strands will be ongoing. A single Children and Young People's Plan is currently under construction. This will be the overarching strategy for all services for children and young people from 2008 onwards.	Agree that the strategic level plan for Wales be added to the review. Taking a more strategic approach, the lower level plans will have similar objectives for development and thus it is not necessary to include them all. Agreed Needs to be incorporated in to LDP policy. SA is an iterative process, and subsequent versions of plans will be included through updating and monitoring processes. The plan should be considered in the LDP when published.	Designed for Life and Living Independently in the 21st Century added to review. Data added to table 3.1; key issues table. The SA Framework already includes objectives to improve environmental factors that may affect mental health. no further action PPPs will be updated throughout the SA process. No further action

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	Yes. The key health statistics presented demonstrate the scale of ill health in the area, but give no information as to its causes. The majority of the burden of poor health in the areas is from common, largely preventable conditions such as coronary heart disease, chronic obstructive airways disease and type 2 diabetes. This is directly related to high levels of smoking, obesity, poor diet, sedentary lifestyles, and excess alcohol consumption. Poor mental health is also linked with these issues as both cause and effect. The combination of these issues and poor health status is a major contributor to the economic deficits of the area. All of these underlying health determinants can be influenced by planning policy, particularly for town centres and other areas where people do or could congregate. Comments on the transport network do not reflect the lack of public services to some residential and industrial estates, the current reliance on taxi services, and the perceived lack of safe parking facilities for HGVs in the area. Safe access for HGVs to industrial estates is also an issue in some cases. Current issues with the local landfill site and diffusion of landfill gas odours over surrounding residential areas are not mentioned. This could potentially result in conflict between encouragement of waste recycling to extend the active life of the site, and the desire of the local community to see it closed to prevent nuisance odours affecting their wellbeing. Early identification of a replacement site may be required.	Comment noted. Objectives in SA Framework already address this Comment noted Comment noted d) Comment noted but this is not a problem of strategic nature	No further action required No further action required Text in Issues table amended to reflect No further action
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	It is extremely difficult to predict population growth at this point in time. If current trends continue, then the population is likely to continue to diminish; with an increasing proportion of very elderly individuals. This may be partially reduced by economic migration into the area, particularly into the health and social care sector. However, the new railway, relatively low house prices and economic growth generated through the Heads of the Valleys Strategic Programme could promote inwards migration from other areas in Wales/UK, as well as reduce the amount of outward migration, resulting in a larger and more balanced population. Planned improvements to post 16 educational opportunities through the Learning Campus on The Works site may also affect this. Both scenarios probably need to be taken into account until the effect of the railway in particular becomes apparent. High levels of poor health are going to be a feature of the area for at least the next generation; and are unlikely to improve without serious changes in lifestyles and opportunities for healthier lifestyles, particularly for children and young people. There are many areas there the LDP can directly contribute to this. Many of the contributions are subtle but important: e.g. town centre design to promote good mental health and reduce obesogenic environments; transport planning to encourage active travel and use of public transport; as well as the more obvious provision of recreation and leisure opportunities. Many of these issues are contained within the assessment, but are not overtly recognised as being population health issues. Access to safe, modern health and social services is a relatively minor, although also important, point. Much of the health service estate will be being replaced or relocated over the next ten years in line with changing service needs. Links with the Local Health Board to ensure planning are aware of developments will be essential to complement agendas- primary care services can increase footfall in town centres, for example, and health and social care is a major local employment sector. Consideration of health needs in design of new housing developments will also be important- the 'homes for life' concept enables a wide variety of people to maintain their independence in the community; and siting of development has a major role in social inclusion for residents.	Comment noted Comment noted Agreed Agreed Access to health care and employment is included within SA objective 9. Agreed	No further action Text added to baseline section Text added to baseline summary table The SA objectives will help to ensure that the LDP policies achieve these aims. No further action This has been included under SA objective 10
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	The team may be familiar with the concept of an 'obesogenic environment' where access to food, particularly less healthy food, is heavily promoted and physical activity including walking is effectively discouraged. This promotes obesity and therefore poor health in the population; and has been an unforeseen and unintended outcome of planning policy in some areas. It is something which should be consciously and actively avoided in the Blaenau Gwent LDP. Although exposure to tobacco smoke has been drastically reduced by recent legislation; the development of outdoor 'café quarter' environments could reverse this while smoking is currently permitted outside premises and in the street. Apart from cardiac and respiratory disease, smoking also plays a major role in babies being born with low birthweights. A low birthweight puts infants at risk of infection and failure to thrive as infants, and also increases their risk of obesity and chronic disease as adults. Consideration needs to be given to reducing exposure to tobacco smoke outdoors. Excess use of alcohol is also a major factor in the County Borough, and also contributes to both unplanned pregnancy and low birth weight babies. Again, consideration of retail policy and urban design may improve this, at least in public places. The environment can similarly affect mental health, as is alluded to in the scoping report, by encouraging or discouraging social interaction, antisocial behaviour and fear of crime. Because of the topography of the area, significant increase in motor traffic within the County Borough is likely to result in a significant increase in air pollution. There is the potential for this to be reduced by planning to maximise active and public transport, and reduce traffic bottlenecks. There are a number of industrial estates/ business parks within the County Borough which area not easily accessible by public transport. This needs to be addressed, in addition to improving public transport for some of the residential estates. In the view of the extent of the health problems within the area, and their contribution to the economic situation, a formal Health Impact Assessment should be carried out a suitable stage on the draft LDP. The Local Public Health Team would be willing to assist with this.	SA objectives 9, 10 and 13 seek to encourage more walking and cycling as well as improve access to health facilities. This is not an issue that should be addressed within the scope of this strategic level SA. This is not an issue that should be addressed within the scope of this strategic level SA. Comment noted. Already considered through SA objectives 13 and 20 SA objectives 13, 18 and 20 address this point. SA objective 13 seeks to improve more sustainable modes of transport. SA objective 9 seeks to improve access to	An additional indicator to encourage healthier building design added. No further action required. No further action required. No further action required. No further action required. No further action required. g) No further action required.

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	No. Both life expectancy and CHD death rates reflect advance in medical treatment as much as health status, and mainly apply to older adult. However, they are good long term outcome measures, albeit with a long lag time between cause and effect. Welsh Health Survey data on health related lifestyle behaviour and physical/mental component summary scores may be a more immediate reflection of population health and wellbeing status. These figures are available every 3-4 years. Another potential measure would be prevalence of long term conditions such as diabetes and hypertension in the population, taken from yearly Primary Care Quality and Outcome Framework measurements. Indicators selected will depend on space and length of document; but use of health behaviour data may be a way of encouraging some of the more subtle planning links with health and wellbeing.	Agreed It is not necessary for the SA to go into specific detail relating to social behaviour. It is not necessary for the SA to go into specific detail about individual health conditions. The SA addresses health issues and how they can be influenced by land use planning through the SA objectives.	No further action No further action No further action No further action
Miss Kayna Tregay Planning Liaison Officer Environment Agency Wales	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	We welcome the opportunity to comment on consultation documents produced by your authority as part of the LDP process. We welcome the opportunity to attend any relevant meetings or workshops.	Noted.	As a statutory consultee the EA will be consulted at every relevant stage of the SA.
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	The Environment Agency has prepared a standard package of national data and information for SEA/SA purposes. The LPA has already been provided with access to our current data sets and these should utilised (Tim Griffin and Andrew Long of your Authority have been provided with details and a password). For clarity, this data is as follows: SEA website- datasets currently available: Bathing Water Quality Sample Points General Quality Assessment (GQA) Biology at 1:10,000 General Quality Assessment (GQA) Chemistry at 1:10,000 Groundwater Vulnerability at 1:100,000 Groundwater Vulnerability (drift) at 1:100,000 Groundwater- Source Location Points at 1:50,000 Groundwater- Source Protection Zones at 1:50,000- WA Industry Sites with RAS Authorisations (Radioactive Substances) Industry- Sites Under Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Industry- IPPC Sites LEAP boundaries Licensed Water Abstractions- Point Data Licensed Water Abstraction- Line Data Licensed Water Abstractions- Area Data/ Nitrate Vulnerable Zones at 1:25,000 Waste- Landfill Sites (Active) at 1:10,000 Waste- Landfill Sites (other known sites) at 1:50,000 Waste Management Licenses Water Discharge Licenses (Active) Water Discharge Licenses (Revoked) River Quality Objectives (RQO) at 1:10,000 We would also stress the importance of utilising the most relevant and up-to-date information. Notably, it is the responsibility of the plan maker to collect data for the environmental baseline. It is also appreciated however, that some strategic environmental information has not yet been collected but could be recorded to encourage instigation of monitoring to address existing deficiencies and to improve the availability of such information for subsequent SEA and plan	Most information already in Scoping Report (see next column). Atkins unable to obtain highlighted information from EA website as it is in GIS format. Agreed This is an issue for the LDP This is an issue for the LDP Comment noted Agreed	biological and chemical water quality already included; IPPC added; already have sufficient waste data Meeting (24th April 2008) of stakeholders concluded that it was unnecessary to collect data for all potential environmental parameters where there are not issues. CCW referred to EA packs to be sent to local authorities containing pertinent data relating to specific issues in the County Borough. CAMS added to pp review, and sustainability themes table. No further action to be taken No further action to be taken No further action Draft TAN5 added to PP review and sustainability themes

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	Para 3.31 page 3-6 Environmental Characteristics: Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and species should also be considered as part of the baseline data discussion, although we note the inclusion of the Blaenau Gwent BAP in Table 2.2 (page 2-10). The LDP process should deliver the protection, enhancement and expansion of these BAP habitats too. In addition to statutory nature conservation designation, we would stress that rivers and other watercourses are important for biodiversity for the habitat they provide and for their wildlife corridor function. Please note that watercourses are now included in the recently updated national BAP. There are likely to be a number of other existing wildlife networks (in addition to watercourse corridors) in the area which have not been considered. The importance of the protection and expansion of these links is highlighted within the EU Habitats Directive and reflected in the Draft TAN 5. These habitats and networks should therefore also be considered as baseline data. Para 3.44 Water and Flood Risk We note that there are some errors in paragraph 3.44. We request that TAN15 be referred to as it is the appropriate national policy guidance with respect to flood risk. We suggest the following replacement for paragraph 3.44: 'TAN15 Development and Flood Risk (July 2004) is the appropriate framework for guiding planning decisions with respect to flood risk. The policy refers to the Welsh Assembly Government's (WAG) Development Advice Maps (dam), which are based on Environment Agency Wales' flood outlines. In Blaenau Gwent there are zones of both defended and undefended floodplain (C1 and C2 respectively). The dam maps should be used as a trigger for guiding development away from areas of flood risk.' As TAN 15 is the mechanism used for guiding the location of development in flood plains, we recommend that figure 3.3 be replaced by a figure showing the DAM zones in Blaenau Gwent. The DAM maps are available from the Welsh Assembly Government on request. With regard to surface water runoff, we would seek to ensure that no development takes place that generates surface water flows greater that 10 litres/second/hectare being discharged to any watercourse in these catchments.	Agreed Agreed Agreed Agreed Agreed	BAP species and habitats for which action plans have been prepared have been added to the baseline discussion. Non designated sites are already included within the SA Framework Text modified according to recommendation Flooding maps provided in Appendix B Indicator added to SA objective 21

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	With regards to Objective 14- To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent (see table 5.2), we note that the trend is 'stable' and would appreciate clarification on how this conclusion has been reached.		
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	We have a number of comments on the key issues suggested (relating to table 4.1), and also recommend below examples of opportunities for increasing sustainability in Blaenau Gwent: Key Issue: Protection of ecological resources and biodiversity (page 4-13 and 4-14) Ecological resources and biodiversity should be protected, enhanced and expanded. This applies to statutory sites, SINCs, LNRs, national and local BAP habitats, habitats for BAP and protected species and habitat networks, such as river corridors. *Implications for Plan:* The LDP should deliver the protection, enhancement and expansion of these BAP habitats. In addition, sites meeting the criteria of SINC designation must be identified as soon as possible, in order for them to be included within the LDP. This will reduce the risk of their removal by development. Creation of habitat within new developments where it has previously been lost should be promoted. This could include landscaped areas to benefit wildlife and the use of SUDS incorporating habitat creation (eg green/brown roofs, wetlands) It is important to note that development and biodiversity do not have to be mutually exclusive in all cases. Dependent on the existing ecological conditions of an area, the level of possible development intensity should also be considered on a site by site basis. Correct determination of development intensity (and ultimately design) will enable the retention and potentially increased robust ecosystem and provide for high quality developments for the local community. Key Issue: Limited Supply of Brownfield Land (page 4-14) We support proposals to remediate contaminated land, prior to development. Implications for plan: we would stress that remediation should seek to protect (rather than merely 'reduce the threat to') all controlled water, which includes groundwater, as well as watercourses. Key issue: Waste Management (page 4-15) We welcome the approach to waste management proposed, although request that the plans also consider the disposal of waste water. Implications for plan: the plans should consider the limitations on existing sewerage systems and locate development in areas where capacity already exists or where upgrades are planned. We recommend consultation with the Sewerage Undertaker. The plan should ensure that where capacity does not exist, development should be considered as premature until the necessary improvement works have been undertaken. Additional Issue: Angling We would bring your Authority's attention to the positive impact that developing angling facilities can have on encouraging tourism and contributing to community health and wellbeing. The promotion of angling can bring in tourists from outside the area, which will provide extra	Agreed Agreed. The text currently states words to the same affect. Agreed Agreed Agreed Agreed This is mainly an issue for the LDP. Agreed	Key issues/ opportunities table wording modified as a result of earlier comment of the same nature. Wording modified slightly in key issues/ opportunities table. Creation of habitat added to key issues/opportunities table Text added to key issues/opportunities table Text modified in key issues/opportunities table accordingly. Text modified in key issues/opportunities table accordingly. Text modified in key issues/opportunities table accordingly. Added to baseline description; key issues/opportunities table, and SA Framework

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	Generally, the objectives, indicators and targets appear to cover all relevant issues. The wording used however, may require refinement to provide clarity and understanding. We have commented on this in the relevant sections. Specific comments with relation to Table 5.1 (draft SA Framework) are as follows: Objective 10: To promote community health and wellbeing In response to Question 5, we commented on the benefits of angling and recommended that LDP promote the development of angling facilities. In order to measure this, we recommend the following indicator: The number of Rod Licences sold annually in Blaenau Gwent (target: increase) (depending on data availability) Objective 14: To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent The target: 'to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010- EU sustainable development strategy' appears vague. We would recommend a clearer target and would be willing to work with you on the development of this. With reference to the indicator on 'the amount of greenspace important for wildlife corridors' we recommend that an additional indicator be added to focus on enhancements: Amount of greenspace important for wildlife corridors enhanced as part of development. This therefore covers corridors that may have been previously degraded and identifies strategic links to create a more robust ecosystem. However, it should be noted that the word 'amount' should be quantified, for example, into an area or percentage of planning applications approved. For rivers and other watercourses this will also allow the evolution of natural processes and systems as promoted within the Draft TAN 5. However, all rivers, watercourses and associated terrestrial corridor are easily identifiable as important wildlife corridors. We therefore recommend the following additional indicators: % of planning permissions incorporating a condition which is to establish a buffer zone (relating to development adjacent to a watercourse) Objective 16: to make the best use of previously development land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development. This objective sets a target of 60% of all new dwellings to be situated on brownfield land. We consider this as an appropriate target and it is in line with government targets. Objective 17: To conserve soil resources and their quality We agree that the number of Contaminated sites will decrease through remediation. We	Agreed Agreed Agreed- SA Framework already contains an indicator to this effect. Agreed Agreed Agreed No further action Remainder of land (greenfield) at 40% is acceptable by the council Agreed Agreed Agreed in part Agreed Comment Agreed Agreed	Added to Framework Modified in line with information provided by CPRW below: to achieve favourable condition for all international, national and local designated sites by 2026 Indicator modified slightly 'amount' changed to '%'. Indicator added to SA Framework No further action No further action no further action Added to SA Framework Text modified objective modified to read 'To promote <u>the more</u> sustainable use of water resources' indicator added CAMS consulted Indicators added to SA Framework 24TH April meeting CCW indicated that under the WFD monitoring objectives have now changed

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
Susanne Whiting Cadw	Table 2.2 Broad Sustainability Objectives Environmental p.2-11 The protection and enhancement of the historic environment and its setting has been correctly identified as a Sustainability Theme. Sustainability Baseline- Key Features P3-11 Cultural Heritage Blaenau Gwent has 53 listed buildings on the Cadw Listed Building database but the variation is probably due to definition of records. 3.38 There are 9 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) in the Blaenau Gwent area. The 2nd bullet point should read 'Incline Haulage Winding Engine, Mynydd Bedwellty'. Mynydd Bedwellty is not listed separately as a SAM. There are also 2 other SAMs not mentioned- Y Domen Fawr Round Cairn and Trefil Quarries North. However, it is not necessary to name them individually as long as the correct number is recorded. Table 4.1 Key Sustainability Issues p.4-14 Under appreciation and protection of heritage resources Given the low number of SAMs it is fair that the sustainability issues concern listed buildings, conservation areas and townscapes. It is unfortunate through that there is no reference to archaeology. Are the industrial SAMs under any particular pressures? Table 5.1 Draft SA Framework p.5-7 Objective 15- this could refer to SAMs in Blaenau Gwent (particularly if any are owned by the local authority) to monitor their condition. Cadw would normally expect to see an objective relating to SAMs, however, with only 9 in their area they might not be significant at a strategic level. Table 5.2 SA Baseline Data and Trends Summary P5-13 Objective 15- recognises the pressure on the Historic Environment from development and seems concerned about the lack of designations. Table A.1 Baseline Data, Indicators and Trends for Socio-Economic Issues pA-46 No of Listed Buildings and proportion at risk- recognises the threat to listed buildings at	Noted 53 listed buildings confirmed. Noted. Council believe that several SAMs are under pressure- Agreed Noted Noted Noted	no further action required added to document Appendix and baseline description text modified to reflect correct data. SAMs added as indicator to objective 15 SAMs added as indicator to objective 15 No further action required No further action required Indicator added to objective 1 in SA Framework

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	risk without intervention. Archaeological Sites- recognises the scope for increasing tourism in the area particularly in respect of SAMs. The indicator itself should be re-drafted to, for example, 'increase public access to historic and archaeological sites' listing current numbers.		
Margaret Hunt Newport and the	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	CPRW is satisfied with the suggested level of involvement		
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	No. International EU Landscape Convention (came into force on 1st March 2004, and ratified by the Westminster Government in November 2005, CPRW believes) National Question- is CPRW correct in assuming that A Winning Wales- the National Economic Strategy of the Welsh Assembly Government is the outcome of WAVE- A Vibrant Economy, consulted upon at the end of 2005? *WAG Technical Advice Note 17*- Planning and Managing Development, consulted upon toward the end of 2007. National Assembly's *Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013* (of relevance, despite the fact that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council has not applied for funding under its provisions) Regional *Valleys Regional Park Framework Working Draft*, published in July 2007 by the Greening the Valleys Partnership. The initiative has strong recreational and tourism connotations. [South Wales] Draft Regional Statement for Aggregates, published for consultation in November 2007. *Wales: Making Places Design Note*, published by the Countryside Council for Wales in October 1999. It gives advice upon urban as well as rural areas. Local Blaenau Gwent Local Transport Plan 2000-2005 published in October 2002. The Rhymney Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy, published by the Environment Agency in March 2006. The Ebbw and Lwyd Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy, EA Sept 2006 The two above documents have ecology management, tourism, agriculture and industry connotations.	The European Landscape Convention (not EU but open to anyone in Europe that signs up to it) No. a Winning Wales has been superseded by WAVE. This TAN is not directly relevant to the SA process, but should be referred to in the drafting of the LDP. Noted and agreed. This document is not directly relevant to the SA process, but should be referred to in the drafting of the LDP. This document is not directly relevant to the SA process, but should be referred to in the drafting of the LDP. This document is not directly	Added to PP review and sustainability themes table Replace A Winning Wales with WAVE. No further action required. Rural Development Plan for Wales added to PPPs, sustainability themes, baseline information and SA Framework objective 1 (see also response from Deborah Beeson Sustainability Themes b) No further action No further action No further action No further action No further action

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	CPRW's direct comment is that coverage appears to be suitably comprehensive.	Noted	No further action
	Table 2.2 Broad Sustainability Objectives is not included in the index.	This issue will be resolved in the SAR	Check references in SAR
	Page 2-9, 4th item under SEA topics- Material Assets would seem applicable to the Sustainability Theme	Agreed	Added to sustainability themes table (regeneration of disadvantaged wards)
	Page 2-11, 1st item under SEA topics- Landscape issues are of relevance to protection of floodplains from inappropriate development.	Agreed	Added to table
	Page 2-11, 2nd item under National/Regional- *The Blaenau Gwent Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan* 2007 should appear in the Local column, also on pages 2-12 and 2-14.	Agreed	Document ref. moved to the correct column
	Page 2-11, 4th item under Sustainability Theme- CPRW would prefer to see '*valued landscape character'* only enhanced where this is necessary, enhancement not being regarded as a prescription to be generally applied.	Agreed. Theme already modified as a result of previous comments.	Theme further modified to reflect CPRW stance, also reflected in SA Framework objective 26.
	Page 2-12, 2nd item under SEA topics- CPRW is not sure why 'Human Health' is regarded as being directly relevant to the redevelopment of previously developed land Sustainability Theme.	Human Health was included as remediation of contaminated land will reduce levels of contaminants that may enter the food chain/ watercourses.	No further action
	Page 2-12, 6th item under SEA topics- Landscape can be affected by waste management practices, the development of landfill sites in particular. They are often to be found in the countryside, and can be extremely disfiguring.	Agreed	Added to table
	Page 2-13, 4th item under SEA topics-Climatic Factors ought to be added; the levels of soil sequestration of carbon dioxide can have an influence.	Agreed	Added to table
	Page 2-15, 1st item under National/Regional- the *Environment Strategy for Wales* refers to housing quality (on pages 42 and 43) and should be included	Agreed	Added to table
	Page 2-15, 1st item under SEA topics- quality of housing is directly associated with Human Health	Agreed	Added to table
	Page 2-15, 2nd item under SEA topics- CPRW does not see 'Human Health' as being closely related to the crime and fear of crime Sustainability Theme, unless this is having a marked adverse upon the mental health of a substantial number of citizens, either in a given area or in Blaenau Gwent in general.	Agreed disagree	Topic ref removed meeting 24th April- Human Health is regarded by the Local Health Board as being related to crime levels.
	Page 2-16, under Local- The *Blaenau Gwent Local Rights of Way Improvement Plan* is arguably of relevance to the Protect and provide local social, recreational and leisure facilities theme	Agreed	Added to table
	There is no reference to formal sports facilities in Chapter 3, Baseline Information	Agreed	Data from the Sport s and Active Living Strategy added to baseline description alongside information from the council
	Page 3-5, para 3.24, 2nd sentence- it is not quite clear as to why primary school places will be 'particularly' reduced as a result of the trend toward an ageing population in Blaenau Gwent; over time, one would have expected this to percolate through to secondary educational establishments.	Agreed	
	Para 3-6, paragraph 3.30, 3rd sentence- the '17.8' figure is clearly incorrect, and presumably	This is addressed in the key sustainability	

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	CPRW agrees in general that the judgements made are correct, though adds a few incidental comments. Page 5-10, paragraphs 5-10 and 5-11 –CPRW has difficulty in understanding what is meant by 'sensitivity to change' and does not find 'thresholds' in this context and easy concept to grasp. This may be because examples are given from a single topic area. Page 5-13, item 11- it is not clear as to why currently 'improving' trends in crime reduction will become 'stable' in future without the influence of the LDP. Page 5-13 and 5-14, item 16 –pressure for greenfield development just outside settlement boundaries must be strongly resisted. Pages 5-14, item 20- in view of the anticipated increase in car ownership, and thus of emissions, it might be difficult to maintain a stable state.	Noted. The LDP is unlikely to have a substantial impact on crime levels; policing and other such measure are likely to be more influential. The objective is in support of this aim It is thought that the improvement to rail services (unrelated to LDP) may counter balance this effect. There is currently a low rate of car ownership in Blaenau Gwent, and with air pollution currently stable it is anticipated that this trend would continue in the absence of an LDP.	Further clarification provided in the text. 'stable' changed to 'improving' No further action No further action

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	Page 4-3, 1st paragraph, 1st and 2nd sentences under key issues- it would be interesting to have the additional information as to the number of people on job seekers allowance who find temporary or permanent employment through this scheme.	It is not the task of the SA to comment on the effectiveness of benefit schemes	No further action
	Page 4-4, paragraph under Implications for Plan- CPRW is not quite certain about the desirability of encouraging 'people of working age to settle in the area', unless it can be guaranteed that in-migrants do not take jobs from indigenous people who need them after training to improve skills. It is appreciated, however, that there is a need to change the population balance in favour of a smaller senior citizen percentage, especially in the light of the exodus of young people.	The text refers to the need to improve the population balance in the area. It would be difficult, however, for the LDP to dictate to whom job opportunities are awarded.	No further action
	Page 4-5, under Key Issues, Tourism Potential- it is noted that the topic missing from Chapter 3 is dealt with here.	Agreed	No further action
	Page 4-5, under Implications for the Plan, Tourism Potential- when 'increases in recreational function' are considered, the impact upon the countryside, particularly visual, must be taken into account. The tenor of this comment also applies to land designated for its ecological value.	Agreed	Added to table
	Page 4-5, under Implications for the Plan, High Vacancy Rate in Town Centres- CPRW does not think it is realistic for the LDP to 'ensure' that town centres can effectively compete with those in adjoining areas' these might offer superior retail facilities or be upgraded to a higher standard, and therefore attract shoppers from Blaenau Gwent. Improved public transport might also make the adjoining-area centre more accessible than at present. It is clearly necessary, however, for the Plan to contain positive town centre regeneration policies.	Agreed	Text modified to reflect comments.
	Page 4-7, under Implications for Plan, 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence, poor housing quality and mismatch of housing size/tenure with needs and demand- while it is agreed that improved rail services could increase the demand for housing in Blaenau Gwent, it is likely to be the case that the majority of in-comers will be car owners, and that a sizeable proportion of these will therefore commute and take other trips by private transport.	The text is solely referring to the potential increase in demand for housing that may arise from the increased attractiveness of the area due to the improved rail services, not an increase in demand for housing in general.	No further action
	CPRW notes that under Implications for Plan, 3rd paragraph on page 4-9, 'increase car usage' is envisaged as a result of 'attracting people to Blaenau Gwent'.	Noted	No further action
	Pages 4.7 and 4.8, 1st paragraph, penultimate sentence under Housing affordability problems, Key Issues- the comment under page 4-7 above applies. Too much reliance should not be placed upon rail use by the anticipated influx of Cardiff workers (penultimate sentence).	Agreed. However, the	Wording slightly modified.
	Page 4-8, under Low educational attainment, Key Issues, 2nd and 3rd paragraphs- in view of the fact that low educational attainment is attributed, at least in part, to truancy from school, it is interesting to learn that the two wards with the lowest performance (2nd paragraph) are not those with the highest percentage of non-attendance (3rd paragraph)		No further action
	Page 4-8, under the above heading, 4th paragraph. It would have been useful to include the Wales figure of 68% for 'total population…enrolled in higher education'		No further action
	Page 4-8, under Low Education Attainment, Implications for the Plan- it is more realistic to		Text currently uses the word 'encourage' as opposed to 'ensure'.
			Further clarification provided in the text.
			No further action required
			Text modified slightly to include need for prioritisation
			No further action
			No further action
			Landscape removed from list of relevant SEA topics.
			No further action
			Text added to in key issues table.
			Text added to high

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	It is to be hoped that definitive targets, to replace 'increase' and 'decrease', will emerge as the LDP stages are progressed and missing baseline data is established. A presented, the Table 5.1 report is too obviously an 'interim' statement. The '0%' targets or equivalent, are to be welcomed, through are arguably ambitious. The remark applies to: All targets under item 6 4th, 5ht, 6th, 7th and 8th targets under item 9 8th and 9th targets under item 10 2nd target under item 11 2nd target under item 14 2nd target under item 15 2nd target under item 16 1st item under item 21 Both targets under item 22 Target under item 23 Page 5-4, under item 4, Draft SA Objective, 2nd Potential Indicator- CPRW is not convinced that increased 'national retailer representation' in town centre will necessarily be beneficial in enhancing their vitality and viability. Chain outlets may well undercut prices charged by in local shopkeepers and, moreover, can add an unfortunate air of uniformity. Page 5-4, under item 7, 1st Potential Indicator- CPRW makes the assumption that the '20% Affordable Housing' figure is based upon assessed needs. Page 5-4, under item 9, 1st Potential Indicator- use of the expression 'the elderly' to describe senior citizens is looked upon with disfavour. The text should have stated: residential homes for elderly people. Page 5-5 and 5-6, under item 10, 5th potential indicator- is it to be understood that 'death rate' is applicable to all accidents, including those in the workplace? Page 5-5 and 5-6, under item 1-, 5th target- it is questionable as to whether the poor health estimate is an adequate match for the potential indicator. Page 5-7, under item 13, 2nd target- in the interests of sustainable living, and given that travel by private transport should be discouraged, it would certainly not be appropriate to more than stabilise car ownership. Ideally, it should be reduced during the lifetime of the LDP, though CPRW recognises that this would tend to be in conflict with the aim of improving conventional standards of living.	Agreed Noted National retailer representations are required to provide anchor stores, which will then encourage trips to the town centre from outlying areas. Independent stores can then be encouraged as they will enhance the retail offer and benefit from increased footfall. Noted Agreed No. it refers to road traffic accidents only Comment noted Noted. The indicators seek to reduce car usage through providing alternative modes of transport. It is not appropriate to discourage car use in the absence of alternative modes or reducing the	Targets will be changed as they are agreed during the development of the LDP no further action no further action No further action Text modified Indicator modified Target removed for SA Framework No further action No further action Indicator amended to cover designated registered parks and gardens of historic interest No further action Topic added No further action Topic added No further action

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
Dr Maggie Hill	General		
Countryside Council for Wales	The link between the baseline data and policy review to the issues and through to the objectives is made clearer. Data gaps should be identified for those issues that may be felt to be significant, even in the absence of adequate data. There is no mention of the requirement for a Habitats Regulations Assessment in this document. Following the ruling from the European Court of Justice that stated that the UK has failed to adequately transpose the provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitat Directive into national legislation as regards the appropriate assessment requirement for land use plans (Case C-6/04-Commission v. United Kingdom, October 2005), LDPs are required to undergo a Habitats Regulation Assessment. The LDP Manual states that guidance will be provided in a revised TAN 5 and that the HRA should be integrated with the Sustainability Appraisal. We trust that your authority has considered this requirement and seek clarification on how your authority plans to take this forward, given that Natura 2000 sites partly within the Borough and in neighbouring authorities may be affected by the LDP. Water quantity and geodiversity should be included as themes within table 2.2 While there is a good amount of data on Local Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species in the appendices, this information has not been reflected within the summary paragraphs 3.31-3.35, nor within the issues table. There is reference to Local Development Frameworks on page 4-9. This is an error that should be corrected. Page 6-8. We welcome the discussion on the range of assessment techniques available and seek assurance that some of the modelling techniques will be used to help quantify some of the effects. Page A-47 The stated trends for biodiversity does not include mention of the Environment Strategy for Wales Action 32 which is to achieve favourable condition for all international, national and local designated sites by 2026. Resources are currently being allocated towards achieving this, for example through CCW's Special Sites project. Page A-47. The stated designated features for Usk Bat Sites SAC are incorrect. The ones listed are for Mynydd Llangatwg SAC. The correct features are European dry heaths, degraded raised bogs, blanket bog, calcareous rocky slopes, caves not open to the public, *Tilio-Acerion* forests and lesser horseshoe bats.	Noted Agreed. Noted Pertinent data has been added to baseline description as a result of comments from earlier consultees Agreed Noted. Unlikely that modelling techniques will be utilised given the nature of the LDP Agreed Agreed	Data gaps identified in report Documentation of the LDP and its potential Appropriate Assessment will be included in the SAR. Water quantity is covered in objective 23 in the SA Framework No further action Text modified No further action Added to baseline description and Text in appendix modified, SA Framework objective 14 target 1 changed accordingly. Text modified

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	CCW is a statutory consultee on the SEA of the LDP and as such we expect to be consulted on the environmental report when it is produced. However, it is unclear in the document on the level of involvement your authority would like from CCW during the preparation of the report. The delivery agreement published May 2007 states that CCW will also be part of the SA/SEA Working Group. We confirm that we are happy to be part of this group and attend future meeting as necessary.	Comment noted. Issue for BGCBC	No further action
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	In addition to the list provided in table 2.1, we would recommend the following: Environment Act 1995 (specifically section 62 about the role of public bodies and National Park duties) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (section 40) Interim Statement for the Couth East Wales Spatial Planning Group, Summer 2007. UDPs and LDPs of neighbouring local authorities ie Torfaen, Caerphilly and Brecon Beacons National Park. Scoping Report for Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan, 2007 Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies Catchment Flood Management Plan Scoping Report for the Eastern Valley 2007 Significant Water Management Issues for the Severn River Basing District, EA 2007 LANDMAP Register of Landscape of Historic Interest in Wales (specifically area 16 and 52) Natural Heritage- a pathway to health, CCW 2007	Comment noted	Documents will be considered as necessary in the Sustainability Appraisal Report
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	We recommend that information is collected on the following relevant topics: Recreation within the County Borough to link issues on levels of tourism, including access to green space (an potential links to health) Protected species (Section 74 CRoW Act and European Protected Species) Landscape has not been adequately covered within the baseline. There is no mention of LANDMAP nor Special Landscape Areas. The Brecon Beacons National Park Presence of agricultural land, forestry and woodland Geodiversity (RIGS and geological SSSI) Water quantity- although water resource strategies have been reviewed, no local data is presented Capacity of existing water infrastructure in terms of water supply and sewerage infrastructure Housing need Wildlife crime eg illegal offroading or poaching of protected bird species. Paragraph 3.31. The two SACs are underpinned by SSSI in addition to those named in the following paragraph. Cwm Clydach SAC is underpinned by Cwm Clydach SSSI while Usk Bat Sites is underpinned by Mynydd Llangatwg SSSI, Siambre ddu SSSI, Buskland Coachhouse and Ice House SSSI and Fox Wood SSSI. Paragraph 3.34. The name of a SSSI is inaccurate. It should read Cwm Merdogg Woodlands SSSI and not Cwm Merdogg and Coed Ty'n Gelli SSSI. Figure 3.1 We recommend changing the colours representing SINCs and SACs as the current choices are very similar and make differentiation difficult. Paragraph 3.40. It would be useful to include the percentage of carbon dioxide emissions from transport in this paragraph. Paragraph 3.49. There is no mention here of the Assembly Government's target to achieve 4TWh of electricity from renewable sources by 2010 nor of the One Wales commitment to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 3% each year until 2011 in areas of developed competence.	Agreed BAP species already in report: sufficient Agreed Brecon Beacons not in plan area agreed Geodiversity- Brynmawr Sections (geological site) SSSI is already included within the baseline. Agreed Water infrastructure not considered to be an issue at this time noted Wildlife crime is not considered to be an issue in the County Borough Noted Noted Issue for BGCBC Agreed Noted	Recreation assessment currently being developed- detail to be added as appropriate No further action required Data added to baseline and subsequent sections where necessary No further action necessary ALC data received and added to baseline. Further detail on geodiversity to be added to baseline. There are no RIGS in BG. Water Quantity data will be added where appropriate No further action required housing needs addressed in key issues table. no further action to be taken Text added Text reflects this adjustment. map modified

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	While we commend your authority on attempts to consider the data gaps and trends likely without a plan in this report, we have concerns about some of the judgements made in table 5.2 where there appears to be a lack of evidence to qualify statements. For example, draft objective 13 on increasing sustainable transport is suggested to be improving without the need for an LDP. However, within the baseline information, it is noted that car ownership and therefore use is likely to rise. Similarly we would question whether improvements are likely on such issues as soil conservation, greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity. Paragraph 5.16 states that only one objective where the prediction is for some improvement. We believe that table 5.2 contradicts this statement.	Noted. With regards to sustainable transport, it was considered that, as stated, the increase in rail facilities may counter balance the effects of an increase in car ownership and use. Other judgements on improvements are qualified within the table. Agreed	Sustainable transport trend changed to 'stable' and improvement made to explanation. text modified
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	While we accept the issue of tourism within the County Borough, there is no information in the baseline on this matter or on recreation per se. We recommend that data is gathered on this issue, as well as the potential for ecotourism, to provide for its significance. Similarly, the lack of data on recreation has led to a gap in the issues covering levels of activity, access to green spaces and health. We recommend that this issue is covered. The lack of energy efficient houses was mentioned as a key contributor to high domestic gas use in the baseline information but does not appear in the issues table. We recommend that it should be considered here, along with greenhouse gas emissions from commercial/ industrial properties. Equally, there is no issue on the need to conserve landscape or water resources, which are two key environmental goods important to the area. We recommend that following baseline data review, inclusion of these issues is considered.	Agreed Agreed Agreed Comment noted	Tourism is now addressed in the SA scoping report Heads of the Valleys Greenspace Provision Report September 2007 requested and received from BGCBC. Data added to baseline. Text added to key issues/opportunities table. Indicator provided on access to green space. added to key issues table LANDMAP data to influence the key issues and baseline
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	As previously expressed, we have some concerns about the linkages between the baseline data and the issues, leading to a lack of relevant objectives, such as on landscape. While we appreciate that work has gone into the derivation of indicators, the SEA Directive states that only significant effects need to be monitored. We therefore assume that there will be a shortened list of indicators within the environmental report once the assessment of alternatives has taken place. CCW will look to advise you on this list of indicators.	Agreed Agreed	Integrity of document checked and modified where necessary Indicators rationalised to reflect potential significant effects
Gwyn Smith	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
Sustrans	Yes. We would like to propose and promote the valleys cycle network (VCN) to ensure these proposals are part of the report. As well as the expertise SUSTRANS has in many other areas, such as Travel Smart (A scheme that can deliver up to 15% change in the way people travel)	Noted	Sustrans to be consulted on further stages of the report
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	No. Sustrans proposals for VCN	Agreed	Added to PP review and sustainability themes table
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	Yes. Length of cycle routes. This information should be in the draft ROWIP	Agreed	Further detail added to baseline description
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	Yes	No further action	No further aciton
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	No	No further action	No further action
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	No. 10. to promote health and well-being – add extra indicator percentage of population with 1kn of National Cycle Network (NCN) 13. Modal shift- add extra indicator as number of travel smart programmes	Agreed	Indicators added to SA Framework
Mike Webb	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
Senior Planning Officer RSPB	Blaenau Gwent is nationally important for breeding lapwings, a scarce and declining bird species in Wales. The RSPB is a strategic partner of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council in respect of the authority's Lapwing Conservation Officer, who provides advice to landowners and developers as to how to incorporate habitat management for lapwings as part of the development process. We would therefore wish to be involved with plan formulation and SEA production in respect of any present or historic lapwing sites in the County Borough	Noted.	Data added to text
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		

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<table>
<tr><th>Name and Organisation/ Department</th><th>Comment</th><th>Response</th><th>Action</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, especially s40 and s42
The RSPB suggests two new themes :-
<table>
<tr><th>Sustainability Theme</th><th>Source International</th><th>Source National</th><th>Source Local</th><th>SEA Topics</th></tr>
<tr><td>Maximise Opportunities to Carry out Habitat Restoration at a Landscape Scale:</td><td>Convention on Biological Diversity</td><td>PPW; TAN 5; the UK Biodiversity Action Plan; the Wakes Environment Strategy and Action Plan; the CROW Act; the NERC Act; The Wales Spatial Plan: The Wales Spatial Plan Area Work "Southeast Wales; a Networked City Region"</td><td>The Blaenau Gwent LBAP</td><td>Biodiversity</td></tr>
<tr><td>Carry out measures which mitigate for climate change, such as sustainable floodplain management and upland management</td><td>The EU Sixth Environment Action Plan; The UN Framework on Climate Change</td><td>PPW; TAN 5; TAN 15; the UK Biodiversity Action Plan; the Wales Environment Strategy and Action Plan; the CROW Act; the NERC Act; The Wales Spatial Plan: The Wales Spatial Plan Area Work "Southeast Wales; a Networked City Region"</td><td>The Blaenau Gwent Community Strategy; The Blaenau Gwent Energy Policy Statement</td><td></td></tr>
</table>
The RSPB further suggests that the following are added to the Themes of protecting and enhancing Biodiversity" and "Identify, manage and protect habitats and species which are important on an international, national and local scale" :-

The Wales Spatial Plan Area Work "Southeast Wales a Networked City Region"</td><td>Agreed</td><td>Data added to key sustainability themes and SA Framework, except Wales Spatial Plan addition as the SP is already included</td></tr>
</table>

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	Para 3.4: this paragraph is deficient in that, citing the LDP Manual, it states:- "local planning authorities should focus baseline data collation on characteristics which will be directly affected by landuse plans" (emphasis added). Annex 1 of the SEA Directive "requires that the assessment of effects includes secondary or indirect effects and cumulative and synergistic effects" (emphasis added). Appendix 8, p78 of "A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive" (ODPM, WAG et al) 2005	Agreed	Data added
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
	Insert the following into the "Targets" section of the "Carbon Emissions" (tonnes) row in Table A2 :- "A 3% year on year reduction in average overall carbon emissions across all sectors" Reason: This is the target set out in the WAG/WLGA "Welsh Declaration on Climate Change and Energy Efficiency", to which Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is a signatory Insert the following into the "Populations of Species and Areas of Priority Habitat" heading set out in Column 1 (Indicators") :-	Agreed	Data added to appendices and main report

Quantified Data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators	Targets	Trends	Issues Identified	Source
Lapwing *(Vanellus vanellus)*	Current estimated Wales population = 700 pairs	No further reduction in breeding numbers. A breeding success of 0.6 fledged young per pair per year (This is the adopted target for the WAG/Blaenau Gwent/RSPB Heads of the Valleys Lapwing Project)	Without intervention, it is likely that this species will experience further dramatic declines and extinction in Blaenau Gwent	The most important issue impacting on breeding lapwings is that of development pressure	WAG/BGCBC/ RSPB
Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix)*	Current estimated Wales population	Halt decline and maintain and enhance range (Source :	Without intervention, it is likely that this	Development pressure from built developme	WAG/BGCBC/ RSPB

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Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
Nigel Bard Vice Chair, Six Bells Partnership Board	1. Would your organisation like more active involvement than has been suggested within the report?		
	No- retain same level as existing.	Agreed	No further action required.
	2. Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted? If not, which ones should be included?		
	Yes	Agreed	No further action required.
	3. Are any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?		
	Yes. Social enterprises- development of CF and community groups involvement.- consideration needed.	Agreed. This is an issue for the LDP.	No further action required.
	4. Are judgements made concerning future baseline correct?		
	Yes	Agreed	No further action required.
	5. Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Blaenau Gwent area that need to be considered in the development of the LDP?		
	Yes. Partnership working with CF: opportunity to promote, engage etc within localised areas. Sustainability: CF development of communities and projects including social enterprises and ability to access additional funding to support overall developments.	Agreed. This is an issue for the LDP.	No further action required.
	6. Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators suggested appropriate?		
	Yes.	Agreed	No further action required.

A.2 Consultation Responses to Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report

Table A.2 – Consultation Comments, Responses and Actions: ISAR 2008

Name and Organisation/ Department	Comment	Response	Action
Neil Maylan Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust	The process appears to be logical and the conclusions appropriate.	Noted with thanks.	No further action.
	We are not certain how option 2 which seeks "growth and regeneration" will lead to a more beneficial impact on SA Objective 12 "Protect and enhance Welsh Culture" than option 3 "Balanced and Interconnected communities". Both options seek to stem out-migration thereby keeping the current level of Welsh Culture but option 2 seeks to increase the population, which will lead to inward migration, possibly by people with little knowledge and understanding of Welsh culture. As such at best option 2 should be judged against SA objective 12 as slightly positive and probably should be slightly negative. The above change however does not alter the overall results of the appraisal.	Agree. However, existing argument that an increase in population may help to reinforce a sense of community upheld.	Assessment and scoring changed to +/- to include consultee viewpoint.
	We welcome the splitting of policy 13 into two, which gives greater emphasis on the need for good design to protect and enhance sites and locations protected for their historic or archaeological value.	Noted with thanks.	No further action.
	Considers the identified mitigation measures for the LDP Preferred Strategy acceptable.	Noted with thanks.	No further action.
	Monitoring Framework- There is no indicator showing how the LDP has had an impact on historic assets not included in the Buildings at Risk Register or being a registered historic park. It is suggested that an indicator could be the number of historic assets that have an approved monument management plan in place, with the target being to increase.	Agree	Added to frameworks (SA and monitoring)
Suzanne Whiting Cadw	Cadw is content generally with the content of the Sustainability Appraisal at this stage but would like to make the following comment: Table 3.4 Objective 15 (p64) Cadw is content with the draft objective, however, the potential indicator should separate listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments as scheduled monuments are not included on the buildings 'at risk' register. A possible indicator for scheduled ancient monuments could be: *"The number of scheduled ancient monuments having undergone positive management works over the lifetime of the LDP."*	Agree	Added to frameworks (SA and monitoring)
	Objective 17 (soil resources) We recommend that you clarify how the Target of Nil for Area of Greenfield Land Lost to Development will be possible when a target for Objective 16 is to achieve 60% of all new dwellings p.a. on previously developed land.	Agree.	Targets changed
	Table 6.2 We understand that Table 6.2 is a summary of Table F1 in Appendix F. Table F1 is clear and useful to a degree, although we suggest that the Mitigation column is fully filled in all instances when a policy may have a negative relationship with a SA indicator. Mitigation measures should then be translated into appropriate policies.		CHECK
	Table 6.3 We agree with many of the policy recommendations made on page 99 of the SAR in relation to the initial draft policy SP13 on the Built and Natural Environment. We note that a new policy was proposed on the Environmental Impact of new development. We note that a new policy roughly equivalent to this had been incorporated into the Draft Preferred Strategy (SP4- Sustainable Development), but that not all the recommendations are included in the policy have been carried forward (for example, reference to SUDS and pollution minimisation). We would appreciate clarification on why this is the case.	This is an issue for the LDP.	No further action for the SA.
	We welcome the intention to incorporate mitigation measures into the LDP. However, at	This is an issue	No further action for

Appendix B Relevant Plans and Programmes

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Table B.1 - Relevant Plans and Programmes

International Plans and Programmes	
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Bali 2007	http://unfccc.int/2860.php
United Nations Statement of Principles on Forests 1992	http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-3annex3.htm
Convention on Biological Diversity 1992	http://www.biodiv.org/default.shtml
United Nations Agenda 21 1992	http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/english/agenda21toc.htm
Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change 1997	http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.html
European Climate Change Programme (UK 2006)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/eccp.htm
The EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC)	http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/ewd/rrrpac/wildbirds/index.htm
The EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-nitrates/index_en.html
The EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna (92/43/EEC)	http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/ewd/rrrpac/wildbirds/index.htm
The EU Noise Directive (2003/10/EEC)	http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l_042/l_04220030215en00380044.pdf
The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html
The EU Directive on Environmental Noise (2002/49/EEC)	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l21180.htm
The EU Landfill of Waste Directive (97/11/EC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm
The EU Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment (85/337/EEC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/eia-legalcontext.htm
The Aarhus Convention on Access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters (2005/370/EEC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/index.htm

The EU Air Quality Framework Directive (96/62/EC)	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/ambient.htm#1
The EU Rural Development Policy 2007-2013	http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/766&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en
European Spatial Development Perspective, 1999	http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/som_en.htm
The Common Agriculture Policy (Reform 2003)	http://ec.europa.eu/
The European Employment Strategy 2002	http://ec.europa.eu
Intelligent Energy Europe Programme 2007-2013	http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html
EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings (2002/91/EC)	http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l_001/l_00120030104en00650071.pdf
EU Waste Framework Directive (91/156/EEC)	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l21197.htm
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development 2002	http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/POI_PD.htm
Structural Funds Regulations 2007-2013	http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/newregl0713_en.htm
The EU Biodiversity Strategy 1998	http://www.birdlife.org/eu/eu_biodiversity.html
The EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan 2002-2012	http://www.birdlife.org/eu/eu_biodiversity.html
European Landscape Convention (ratified in UK 2006)	http://www.coe.int/t/e/Cultural_Co-operation/Environment/Landscape/
UK Plans and Programmes	
UK Sustainable Development Strategy –'Securing the Future' 2005	http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/
One Future, Different Paths – The UK's Shared framework for Sustainable Development (2005)	http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/uk-strategy/framework-for-sd.htm
Planning for a Sustainable Future: White Paper, 2007	http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1510503
UK Biodiversity Action Plan 2007	http://www.ukbap.org.uk/
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by Schedule 9	http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1377

of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000).	
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2000/20000037.htm
Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c) Regulations 1994	http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1994/uksi_19942716_en_1.htm
Meeting the Energy Challenge – A White Paper on Energy 2007	http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/publications/white_paper_07/white_paper_07.aspx
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/ukpga_20060016_en_1
Wales Plans and Programmes	
People, Places, Futures – The Wales Spatial Plan 2004	http://www.wales.gov.uk/themesspatialplan/content/spatial-plan-e.htm
One Wales: One Planet: The Sustainable Development Scheme of the Welsh Assembly Government, 2009	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en
Capturing the Potential: A Green Jobs Strategy for Wales, 2009	http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/090709capturingthepotentialagreenjobsstrategyforwalesen.pdf
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Tredegar Urban Function Analysis	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
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Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Tourism Strategy	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Blaenau Gwent Waste Strategy 2004	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
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Blaenau Gwent Housing Strategy 2007-2012	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

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Blaenau Gwent Adopted School Organisational Plan	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
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Blaenau Gwent Play Strategy 2004	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
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Appendix C Socio-Economic Baseline Data

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C.1 Economic Characteristics

Incomes and Economic Activity

C.1.1 70% of Blaenau Gwent is classified as rural.

C.1.2 In terms of employment sectors, statistics indicate a tendency towards employment within the manufacturing sectors as representing a higher proportion of employment than the regional and national averages. The relative value of employment in this sector is reflected in wage levels, which are below regional averages: in 2006 the average gross weekly income for Blaenau Gwent was £346, compared to the regional average gross weekly income of £474.

C.1.3 A 2009 report (http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/PRINT/news/2009/12575.htm) indicates that "tourism was worth £26.9 million to the economy of Blaenau Gwent in 2007:

This visitor spending was up by £1.56 million – 6% - over the figures for 2006;

The total number of visitors was 527,000 – up 9%;

Tourists spent a total of 705,000 days in Blaenau Gwent – up 8%;

Most of the revenue came from day visitors and visitors staying with friends and relatives; and

The tourism sector is now responsible for the equivalent of 516 full time jobs in Blaenau Gwent – up 27 on the previous year.

C.1.4 Tourism and heritage initiatives in Blaenau Gwent include:

The Valleys Walking Festival

Heritage adult education classes

Sirhowy Ironworks

Ebbw Vale steelworks – part of The Works regeneration project

Hafod Arch restoration

Clydach Gorge partnership

Bedwellty House and Park restoration

C.1.5 In 2008 29.5% of the workforce were economically inactive, with 9.1% of those 'wanting a job'. This figure is significantly above the Welsh average of 24.3%, of which 6.4% are 'wanting a job'.

C.1.6 Between 2004 and 2007, the proportion of working age adults claiming Job Seekers Allowance increased very slightly to 4.6%, but Incapacity Benefit claim and total Welfare Benefit claim percentages continued to fall slowly to 17% and 29% respectively. In 2009, the proportion of working age adults claiming job seekers allowance rose to 7.9%.

Entrepreneurial Dynamism

C.1.7 The key indicator used to assess economic enterprise is total VAT registrations – at the end of 2007 there were 1,020 businesses registered in Blaenau Gwent. During 2005 new registrations totalled 1.46 per 1000 population; however, in the previous year (2004), new registrations totalled 1.61 per 1000 population thus the percentage change between 2004 and 2005 was -9%. These statistics are broadly similar to the South East Wales region (-8%) and Wales (-9%) figures. In contrast, there were 80 deregistrations (1.2 per 1000 population) in Blaenau Gwent in 2005 (-9.6%) in comparison with -6.8% for Wales. A comparison at the regional level reveals that Blaenau Gwent has consistently experienced the second least number of new registrations over the past five years after Merthyr Tydfil and, in most recent years, registrations in Blaenau Gwent have been over 150 less than any other authority in the region (with the exception of Merthyr Tydfil, which is performing below Blaenau Gwent).

Retail

C.1.8 The central shopping areas in Blaenau Gwent are Abertillery, Blaina, Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, and Tredegar. The towns are located within the deeply incised and roughly parallel valleys of the Sirhowy, Ebbw Fach and Ebbw Fawr rivers which flow in a north to south direction through the County Borough.

C.1.9 Tredegar is located in the Sirhowy valley to the North of the County Borough; Ebbw Vale sits along the Ebbw Fach river in the next valley towards the East; and Brynmawr, Blaina and Abertillery are situated in the Ebbw Fawr valley, with Brynmawr in the extreme North of the Borough, Abertillery in the South, and Blaina between them.

C.1.10 Out of centre retail parks have created negative impacts upon the vitality and viability of town centres in Blaenau Gwent. High vacancy rates currently exist within many of the town centres. However, the Council through mechanisms such as Commercial Improvement Grants and Town Centre Strategies are endeavouring to address this problem.

Car Ownership Rates

C.1.11 Blaenau Gwent experiences low car ownership rates, (35% of households with no car or van, compared to 26% in Wales) in conjunction with high levels of deprivation; meaning that accessibility to town centres may be difficult for some members of the community.

C.2 Social Characteristics

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2008[1]

C.2.1 Figure C.2 shows of the 47 LSOAs in Blaenau Gwent shows that 10 were in the most deprived 10% LSOAs in Wales. The three most deprived LSOAs in Blaenau Gwent were:

Tredegar Central and West 2 with a score of 69.9, which ranked 15 out of 1896 in Wales. This LSOA was placed in the 10% most deprived category in Wales.

Sirhowy 2 with a score of 67.5, which ranked 23 out of 1896 in Wales. This LSOA was placed in the 10 % most deprived category in Wales.

[1] http://new.wales.gov.uk/statsdocs/compendia/wimd08/authority/wimd08lapt7e.pdf

Ebbw Vale North 2 with a score of 54.6, which ranked 75 out of 1896 in Wales. This LSOA was placed in the 10 % most deprived category in Wales.

C.2.2 In Blaenau Gwent:

The LSOAs had deprivation score distribution over 71% of the range for Wales.

21% of its LSOAs fall within the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales.

83% of its LSOAs fall within the 50% most deprived LSOAs in Wales.

There are much higher than average levels of deprivation in all of the 4 most deprived categories (most deprived 10%, 20%, 30% and 50%).

Figure C.1 – Spread of Deprivation in Blaenau Gwent Relative to Wales

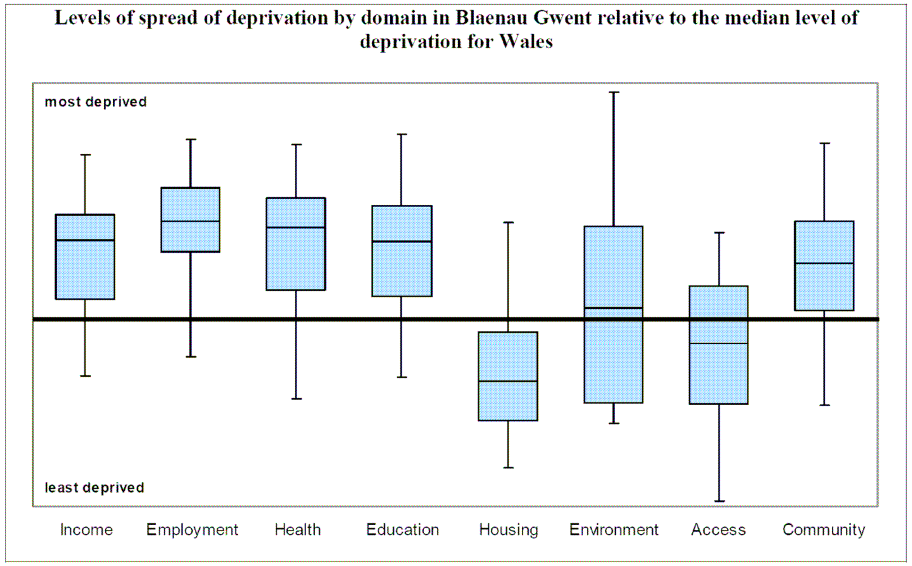
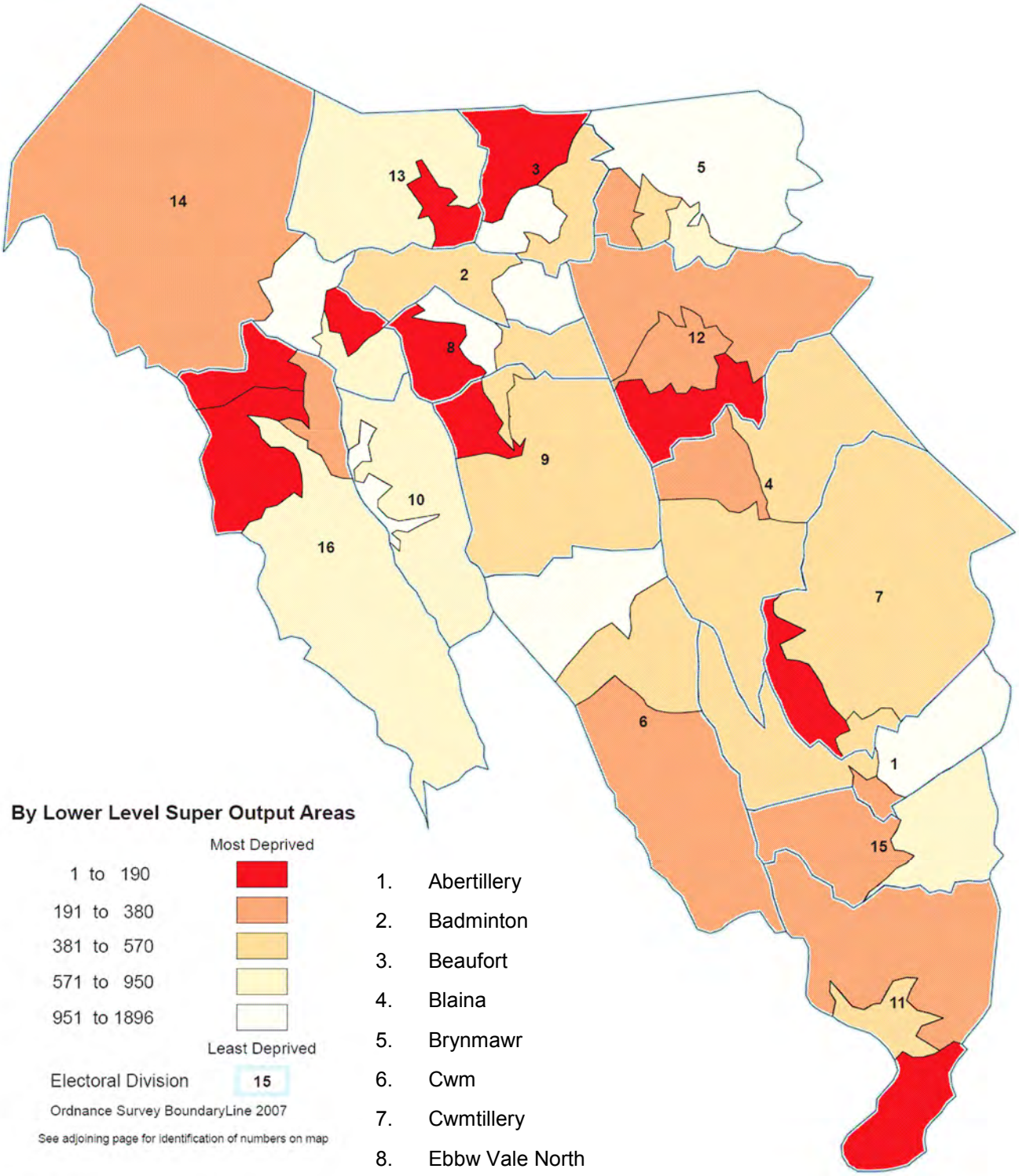


Figure C.2 – Index of Multiple Deprivation 2006



1. Abertillery
2. Badminton
3. Beaufort
4. Blaina
5. Brynmawr
6. Cwm
7. Cwmtillery
8. Ebbw Vale North
9. Ebbw Vale South
10. Georgetown
11. Llanhilleth
12. Nantyglo
13. Rassau
14. Sirhowy
15. Six Bells
16. Tredegar Central and West

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Housing

C.2.3 In 2000, 83.4% of the housing in Blaenau Gwent was within council tax bands A and B, compared to the South East which had 22% in band A and 26% in band B. Furthermore, seven of the 16 electoral divisions in Blaenau Gwent had more than 90% of housing within these two bands and only 0.09% of housing in Blaenau Gwent was within council tax bands G and H compared to 4% for the South East. This suggests that the overall size and market value of housing stock in the County Borough is relatively modest, particularly in the regional context.

C.2.4 The average house price in Blaenau Gwent in 2007 was £95000. Trend data indicates that the area has seen substantial increases in house prices in recent years, which is likely to be a reflection of the increase in house prices in Cardiff and Newport, encouraging people to buy further north. It is likely that this trend will continue with the new rail line and proportional increase in prices across Wales.

C.2.5 In 2001, 55% of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock consisted of terraced properties built pre 1919. This may be a further reason for lower average house prices in the County Borough since a higher representation of smaller properties, i.e. terraces and flats, will skew the statistic downwards. In addition to this, 8% of private properties were considered unfit (1,740) and a further 12% were classified as being in need of substantial repair (2,610) in the latest survey.

C.2.6 The total number of households in Blaenau Gwent was 29,586 in 2001. Average household sizes were above the national averages but below regional averages – 2.34 compared to 2.40 in the South East region and 1.87 in Wales.

C.2.7 According to the 2001 census, a significant proportion of properties in Blaenau Gwent were owned outright (62.62%). However, this was significantly less than regional and national averages, which were 72.79% and 71.3% respectively. There was also a significant percentage of council housing rental (24.34%) compared to regional and national averages of 13.59% and 17.9% respectively.

Population

C.2.8 The population of Blaenau Gwent has been falling since its peak of 127,611 in 1921 - according to the 2005 mid year population estimate the total was 68,400. In the context of the County Borough, the population is projected to grow by 7% between 2003 and 2011, which would equate to a total population of approximately 73,725 by 2011. However, although the overall longer term trend suggests a likely net increase, in recent years (1999-2002) the population has experienced a decline of -4.63%, attributed to a combination of accelerated out-migration and falling birth rates. Over the same period in the South East region as a whole, population grew at a rate of 0.034% and the national population increased by 1.59% in the same period.

C.2.9 An examination of population demographics indicates that Blaenau Gwent has a relatively ageing population in comparison to national averages, particularly notable for persons over 65 (16.89% compared to 16% for South East Wales, in 2001). In addition, the proportion of the population under the age of 16 is lower than the South East average.

C.2.10 A continuation of these trends is likely to result in conditions which will be increasingly difficult to sustain, both socially and economically, with a smaller proportion of workers being required to support a higher proportion of elderly dependents. This trend also places additional pressure on services and decreases demand for school places, particularly in the primary sector.

C.2.11 However, the new railway, relatively low house prices and economic growth generated through the Heads of the Valleys Strategic Programme could promote inwards migration from other areas in Wales/UK, as well as reduce the amount of outward migration, resulting in a larger and more balanced population. Planned improvements to post 16 educational opportunities through the Learning Campus on The Works site may also affect this.

C.2.12 The population is still very homogenous, although numbers of welsh speakers and demand for welsh language education has increased, and there is a modest inward migration of workers from Eastern Europe and Iberia.

Health and Well Being

C.2.13 Life expectancies for both males and females across the County Borough are below national averages. Males have an average life expectancy of 73.8 years and females of 78.4 years – this compares to 75.8 for males and 80.3 for females nationally (2002 - 2004).

C.2.14 The proportion of people with limiting long term illness is above the South East and national averages: 28.26% compared to 23.4% in the South East and 23.3% in Wales. In addition, people who self-assessed their general health as 'good' (2001 Census) represented a lower proportion of the population than the South East and national averages: 59.38% in Blaenau Gwent compared to 64.48% in the South East and 60.06% in Wales.

Crime and Fear of Crime

C.2.15 In general terms, Blaenau Gwent has relatively low levels of crime, totalling 2,978 crimes in 2004/05 (including violence against the person, burglary in a dwelling, theft of a motor vehicle and theft from a motor vehicle), falling to 2,731 crimes in 2005/06. Within this total, the majority of crime types appear to be falling in the area, including crimes related to violence, which represent the largest proportion of all recorded crimes in the County Borough. However, motor vehicle theft statistics appear to be higher and less stable than the regional average and theft from motor vehicles seems to be rising.

Education, Skills and Qualifications

C.2.16 Data relating to education, skills and qualifications in the area indicates a considerable disparity between Blaenau Gwent and the South East and Wales. In Blaenau Gwent the proportion of people holding NVQ level 2 in 2008 was 57.1% compared to 65.5% for Wales. However, this is an increase from previous years: the proportion in 2003 was 41.1%, which was also a growth from 2001 when the proportion was 30.92%.

C.2.17 There is also a lower percentage of the population achieving a level 4/5 qualification (such as a degree, HNC, HND) with only 13.6% in Blaenau Gwent compared to the Welsh average of 17.4%. Blaenau Gwent had 4,360 adults engaged in adult education in 2003, which represented 6.3% of the total population; this was lower than the Welsh average of 6.8%. Latest statistics also show that there was a lower proportion of 19 year olds with 5 GCSE's (A*-C), with 43% achieving this compared to the Welsh average of 56%. These educational attainment statistics have implications for the manner in which the local economy will be able to expand and grow over the Plan period.

C.2.18 In 2001, 45.02% of the Blaenau Gwent population held no qualifications, compared to 34.37% and 33% for the South East and Wales respectively. By 2003, this had considerably improved to approximately 13,000 persons, which represented 30.4% of the population at the time. Although this compares unfavourably to the Welsh average of 37.8% for the same year, the statistic does suggest that the trend is moving in a positive direction, with a substantial reduction in the proportion of the population with no qualifications.

Recreation

C.2.19 Research identified within the Healthy and Active Lifestyle in Wales document (2003) reports that only 28% of adults in Wales are active at the recommended levels for health. Furthermore, in excess of 50% of adults are considered overweight, with the prevalence of obesity approximately doubling over the last ten years.

C.2.20 Blaenau Gwent Leisure Services offers a wealth of recreational facilities with excellent dual use Sports Centres at Abertillery, Ebbw Vale, Nantyglo and Tredegar, together with satellite facilities in Glyncoed and Brynmawr Athletics Track.

C.2.21 Blaenau Gwent Sports Centres caters for all ages and abilities, with rugby, football and netball sessions as well as a wide range of classes from Aqua Aerobics, Parent and Toddler swimming sessions and Fit Ball Sessions.

C.2.22 As well as the Blaenau Gwent Sports Centres, the borough also has the Abertillery Indoor Bowls Centre, Ebbw Vale Cricket School, Glyncoed Community Hall and the new Brynmawr Athletics track, which only opened in September 2006.

C.2.23 Sports and Leisure activities include:

Splash Programme over 100 youths participating holiday periods

Street League football currently being held at Glyncoed Sports Centre

Newly Established Disability Sport Forum

Volunteering opportunities through: Volunteering Counts, Dragon Sport and Millennium Volunteers. (Sport in Blaenau Gwent highly dependent upon volunteers.)

C.3 Regeneration: ‘The Works’

Objectives of the Development

Economic

C.3.1 The goal for the economic sustainability objectives is to maximise the economic benefit which can be delivered to local people and help achieve a sustainable economic future for Ebbw Vale and the wider Heads of the Valleys area. This will be achieved through the following objectives:

To assist in creating a more dynamic and enterprising local economy through:

- economic diversity
- investment
- local procurement

To maximise accessibility and employment for local people and wider Heads of the Valleys residents through:

- providing appropriate employment

- Providing training and skills development

Social

C.3.2 The aim of the social sustainability objectives is to improve the quality of life for local people through strengthening local communities, encouraging the participation of all residents and reaffirming the strong cultural identity of Ebbw Vale and the wider Heads of the Valleys area. This will be achieved through the following objectives:

To strengthen the local community of Ebbw Vale and those of the wider Heads of the Valleys area through:

- Strengthening community cohesion and relationships
- Increasing the participation of the community
- Strengthening local image and confidence

To improve the quality of life for local people through:

- Creating a healthy environment for all people to enjoy; to increase wellbeing
- To increase access for all residents to open spaces/facilities and landscapes/greenscapes

To increase social assets through investing in valuable social assets and key infrastructure such as housing.

Environmental

C.3.3 The aim of the environmental sustainability objectives is to provide strong stewardship of the natural, built and historic environment for the benefit of this and future generations of residents and visitors to Ebbw Vale. This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- To create and implement a best practice Environmental Management System.
- To protect and enhance local biodiversity.
- To protect and enhance the local landscape.
- To enhance the local built environment through creating a high quality urban environment and through respecting the surrounding historic and archaeological environment and character.

Resource Objectives

C.3.4 The aim of the resource objectives is to reduce the ecological footprint of Ebbw Vale through implementing ambitious initiatives aimed at encouraging more sustainable use of resources, lowering emissions levels and promoting recycling. This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- To promote more efficient energy use and reduce emissions through:
- Establishing an ambitious target for development
- Increasing access to public transport for residents and visitors

- To protect water resources through reducing potential risks to water quality, prevent flooding impacts and utilising SUDS.
- To restore local land resources through remediating and developing brownfield land.
- To reduce materials use and minimise waste production through:
  - Building in a green procurement code for the contractor/developer
  - Encouraging greater reduction, reuse and recycling of materials
  - Building in green travel plans for construction

Figure C.3 - The Works: New Carbon Emissions Targets

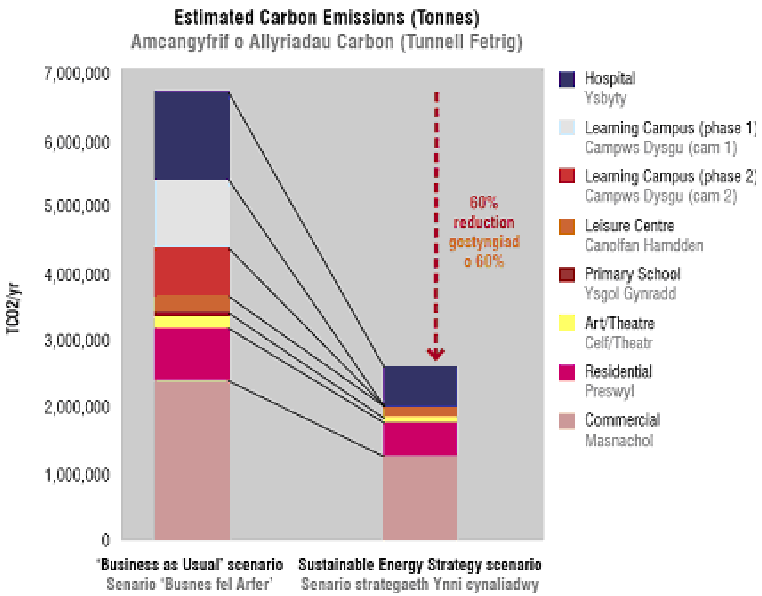

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Table C.1 - Baseline Data, Indicators and Trends for Socio-Economic Issues

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Gross Value Added (GVA) and GVA per head	*GVA per head* 9,500 (2003)	Total GVA in Wales (£ million): 2005: 40,867 2004: 39,316 2003: 37,115 GVA per head in Wales (£): 2005: 13,813 2004: 13,316 2003: 12,633			GVA per head 60% of UK average (16,100) (2003) Gwent Valleys in the bottom 5 GVA per head in the NUTS3 Region (2003)	Population	ONS, Regional GVA December 2006 Larnig an labour market intelligence: area profile Blaenau Gwent http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/lgva1205.pdf
Average Gross Weekly Earnings	2006 male full time weekly pay – £402.9 2006 female full time weekly pay – £267.2 2006 total full time mean weekly pay – £346.1	**South East** 2006 male full time weekly pay – £537.33 2006 female full time weekly pay – £411.37 2006 total full time mean weekly pay – £474.35	**Blaenau Gwent** **2008** Increase average weekly earnings to 82% GB levels (from 78% in 2000) **Blaenau Gwent** **2012**	**Blaenau Gwent** **2002** – 34.7% of households in borough had a gross annual income of less than £10,000. **1996** – lowest average earnings in GB, 72.4% of national average Full time mean weekly pay ***Male*** **2002 -** £343.8	Men are earning on average over £130 a week more than women. This may be due to the more established industrial and manufacturing makeup to the borough resulting in less well paid jobs for women. Across the south east the average earnings increase for both genders, over £130 for men and £140 for women with the deficit	Population	NOMIS Blaenau Gwent UDP

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			Increase average weekly earnings to 84% GB levels	**2003 -** £381.5 **2004 -** £379.4 **2005 -** £426 ***Female*** **2002 -** £275.3 **2003 -** £306.8 **2004 -** £305.4 **2005 -** £313.5 ***Total*** **2002 -** £309.55 **2003 -** £344.15 **2004 -** £342.4 **2005 -** £369.75 **South East** Full time mean weekly pay ***Male*** **2002 -** £438.98 **2003 -** £461.28 **2004 -** £480.89 **2005 -** £512.96 ***Female*** **2002 -** £349.78 **2003 -** £367.96 **2004 -** £381.34 **2005 -** £405.3	between the two genders still being around £130. From 2002 to 2005 weekly income has been less than that of the rest of the south east and for the whole of Wales.		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				Total **2002 -** £394.38 **2003 -** £414.62 **2004 -** £431.115 **2005 -** £459.13 **Wales** Full time mean weekly pay ***Male*** **2001 –** £373.7 **2002 –** £383.9 **2003 –** £397.6 **2004 –** £417.7 ***Female*** **2001 –** £282.1 **2002 –** £290.5 **2003 –** £303.8 **2004 –** £320.5 **Total** **2001 –** £327.9 **2002 –** £337.2 **2003 –** £350.7 **2004 –** £369.1			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Gross Household Income ***(ward data)***	***1998*** ***% less than £5,000 pa*** Abertillery – 12.3 Badminton – 11.0 Beaufort – 10.8 Blaina - 14 Brynmawr – 12.8 Cwm – 11.2 Cwmtillery – 16.9 Ebbw Vale N - 14 Ebbw Vale S – 12.2 Gerogetown – 10.5 Lanhilleth – 19.2 Nantyglo – 23.6 Rassau – 13.1 Sirhowy – 15.6 Six Bells – 13.8 Tredegar C & W – 16.1 ***% less than 50% of £22.5k pa*** Abertillery – 36.8 Badminton – 35.5 Beaufort – 32.2 Blaina – 39.1 Brynmawr – 37.5 Cwm - 35 Cwmtillery 43.8				There are particular household income issues in wards of Llanhilleth, Nantyglo, Cwmtillery and Tredegar all with high percentages of people earning less than £5000 per annum. All the wards show high levels of people on less than £11.25k per annum. These low income figures could reflect a combination of a lack of opportunities for higher paid employment; a lack of local skilled labour; and potentially that there may be a percentage of the population that are not able to participate in higher skilled jobs in these areas. They might also reflect the high percentage of the population unable to work, due to limiting long term illnesses?	Population Human Health	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Ebbw Vale N – 40.2 Ebbw Vale S – 36 Gerogetown – 31.9 Lanhilleth – 48 Nantyglo – 51.3 Rassau – 37.8 Sirhowy - 40 Six Bells - 39 Tredegar C & W – 41.8						
Working Age Economically Inactive	*Jan 2008-Dec 2008* *Unemployed- 9.2%* **Economically Inactive** Wanting a job- 9.1% Not wanting a job- 20.4% *Jan 2000 – 2,130 (9.6%) people unemployed* ***July 2005-Jun 2006*** *Proportion of the working age population that is economically inactive* – 12,400 (30.4%) *Wanting a job* – 4,200 (10.4%) *Not wanting a job* – 8,100 (20%) *Unemployed* 2,000 (7.5%) (2003/04) **2000 (ward data)** Percentage of male unemployment in the	**Wales** *Jan 2008-Dec 2008* *Unemployed: 6.3% (GB: 5.7%)* **Economically Inactive** Wanting a job- 6.4 % Not wanting a job- 17.9% *Proportion of the working age population that is economically inactive* 24.9% *Wanting a job* – 6.2% *Not wanting a job* – 18.7%	**Blaenau Gwent** **2008** Reduce unemployment to 4% **2012** Reduce unemployment to 3%		There is a high proportion of economically inactive people in the borough, over 5% more than that of the Wales average. 10.4% of people from that percentage are wanting a job which may indicate that there is a shortage of opportunities suited to local skills in the area. However, 20% are highlighted as not wanting a job. This statistic is also higher than the Wales average of 18.7%. In 2000 the unemployment rate was 6.9% which by 2003/04 had increased to 7.5%, further highlighting opportunity issues in	Population	ONS annual population survey Blaenau Gwent UDP Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038432100/report.aspx#tabrespop

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	economically active population (aged 15 – 64) Ebbw Vale North - 11.5 Ebbw Vale South - 11.1 Nantyglo - 10.4 Brynmawr - 10.2 Rassau - 10.0 Cwmtillery - 9.1 Cwm - 9.0 Tredegar C&W - 8.8 Beaufort - 8.4 Badminton - 7.7 Six Bells - 7.6 Georgetown - 7.3 Sirhowy - 7.2 Blaina - 6.6 Abertillery - 6.5 Llanhilleth - 6.3 Percentage of female unemployment in the economically active population (aged 15 – 64) Ebbw Vale South - 5.8 Ebbw Vale North - 5.6 Cwm - 4.9 Brynmawr - 4.8 Cwmtillery - 4.8 Rassau - 4.6				the area. The wards of Ebbw Vale North and South, Brynmawr and Nantyglo have particularly high unemployment problems among the total of people unemployed.		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Sirhowy - 4.5 Blaina - 4.3 Nantyglo - 4.2 Beaufort - 4.2 Six Bells - 4.2 Tredegar C&W - 3.9 Badminton - 3.6 Abertillery - 3.1 Llanhilleth - 2.9 Georgetown - 2.0 Total Percentage of unemployed people among the economically active population (aged 15 – 64) Ebbw Vale North - 9.1 Ebbw Vale South - 9.0 Nantyglo - 8.0 Brynmawr - 8.0 Rassau - 7.8 Cwm - 7.5 Cwmtillery - 7.4 Tredegar C&W - 6.8 Beaufort - 6.6 Six Bells - 6.2 Sirhowy - 6.1 Badminton - 6.0 Blaina - 5.7 Abertillery - 5.2 Georgetown - 5.1						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Llanhilleth - 5.0						
Working Age Economic Activity Rates	*2001* *All persons* – 49,747 *Economically Active* – 27,564 ***2003/04 (rounded statistics)*** *All people economically active* 29,000 (68.6%) *In employment* 26,000 (63.5%) *Employees* 24,000 (58.6%) *Self employed* 2,000 (4.35) *Unemployed* 2,000 (7.5%) ***Males*** *Economically active* – 16,000 (72.3%) *In employment* – 14,000 (66.2%)	**South East** *Economically Active* – 74.1% (2003/04 average) **2003/04** ***Males*** *Economically active* – 78.6% *In employment* – 74.0% *Employees* – 61.4% *Self employed* – 12% *Unemployed* – 5.9% ***Females*** *Economically active* – 69.6% *In employment* – 66.7% *Employees – 61.7%* *Self employed* – 4.5%	**Blaenau Gwent** **2008** Increase labour market participation to 72% (from 67.5% in 2000) Increase employment rate to 64% (from 60.4% in 2000) Increase self employment rate to 9.7% (from, 9% in 2000) **Blaenau Gwent** **2012** Increase labour market	**Blaenau Gwent** ***1981 -*** 84.8% *of men economically active.* 53.8% *of women economically active* ***1991*** – 18,398 *men* (77.1%) *economically active* 21,452 *women (58.1%) economically active)* ***2001*** *People aged 16-74: economically active:* *employees part time* – 10.26% *People aged 16-74: economically active:* *employees full time* – 35.68% *People aged 16-74: economically active:* *Unemployed* – 4.68% *People aged 16-74: economically inactive: retired – 14.71%*	In 1981 84.8% of men and 53.8% of women were economically active. More recently in 2003/04 these figures had altered quite significantly and were shown to be 72.3% and 64.7% respectively. These more recent figures for men and women are in both cases lower than the Welsh average. The total number of people economically active In the County Borough in 2003/04 was 29,000 (68.6%). This was over 5% lower than the south east area which averaged 74.1% in total in the same year.	Population	Neighbourhood statistics 2001 ONS annual population survey Local Area Labour Force Survey (Mar 2003-Feb 2004) Blaenau Gwent UDP ONS, 2001 Census (UV28 – Economic Activity)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Employees – 13,000 (59.3%) *Self employed* – 1,000 (5.9%) *Unemployed* – 1000 (8.4%) ***Females*** *Economically active* – 13,000 (64.7%) *Employees* – 12,000 (57.7%) *In employment* – 12,000 (60.5%) *Self employed* – 1,000 (2.6%) *Unemployed* – 1000 (5.5%)	*Unemployed* – 4.2% **Wales** *Economically Active* – 75.1% (2006) *Economically Active - unemployed* – 5.2 *(2006)* **South East** *All persons* – 994,173 *Economically Active* – 605,474 *Percentage of working age population economically active* 61% **South East (Average)** *All persons* – 99,417 *Economically Active* – 60,507 *Percentage of working age population economically active* 61%	participation to 74% Increase employment rate to 67% Increase self employment rate to 10%	*People aged 16-74: economically inactive:* *student – 3.75%* *People aged 16-74: economically inactive: permanently* *sick /disabled – 13.79%* ***2002*** 7.9% unemployment 68.5% activity rates 63.1% employment rates **Wales** 1991 – 86.6% men economically active 67.6% women economically active (Mar 2003 – Feb 2004) *All people economically active* 74.2% *In employment* 70.5%			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Wales *All persons* – 2,075,347 *Economically Active* – 1,265,497 *Percentage of working age population economically active* 61%		*Employees* 61.6% *Self employed* 8.4% *Unemployed* 5.1%			
Employee Jobs By Occupation (%)	*Jan 2008-Dec 2008* *Managers and* *Senior Officials* – 9.8 *Professional* *Occupations* –6.8 *Associate Prof & Tech Occupations* – 12.1 *Administrative and Secretarial Occupations* – 9.8 *Skilled Trades* *Occupations* – 14.1 *Personal Services Occupations* – 11.1 *Sales and Customer Service Occupations* – 6.2 *Process, Plant and Machine Operatives* – 14.4 *Elementary Occupations* – 15.8	**Wales/GB Jan 2008-Dec 2008** *Managers* *and Senior* *Officials* – 13.2/ 15.7 *Professional* *Occupations* – 12.0/ 13.0 *Associate Prof & Tech Occupations* – 13.5/ 14.5 *Administrative and Secretarial Occupations* – 11.1/ 11.4 *Skilled Trades* *Occupations* – 12.5/ 10.8 *Personal Services Occupations* –9.0/ 8.2 *Sales and*		**Blaenau Gwent** *Jan 2000 – new manufacturing accounted for 70% of all manufacturing employment (5,250)* *2000/01 – employment dominated by manufacturing (7,600) and other services (5,300)*	Professional occupations in the borough account for 5.8% whereas in the south east they account for 11.87%. The employment is predominantly based around manufacturing and service industry; this may be a reason for the lower income rates. The lack of other opportunities may lead to out migration and commuting elsewhere to work, particularly for those residents educated to degree level or higher.	Population and Human Health	Apr 2005-Mar 2006 annual population survey (NOMIS)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Customer Service Occupations – 7.7/ 7.6 *Process, Plant and Machine Operatives* – 8.3/ 7.1 *Elementary Occupations* –12.2/ 11.4					
Frequency of Home working	*Proportion of working population working mainly at or from home* – 5.8% (2001)	**Wales** Proportion of working population working mainly at or from home – 9.7% (2001)			In 2001 there was only a small percentage of people working from home, which is likely to mean the number of people using their cars for work is higher.	Population Human Health Air Climatic Factors	ONS, 2001 Census (Map 24, National SEA of WSP)
Percentage of Job Seekers Allowance Claimants	July 2009: All people: 7.9% Male: 11.4% Female: 4.2% *Job Seekers Allowance Claimants (2005)* ***All people*** – 1,683 (4.1%) ***Male*** – 1,327 (6.2%) ***Female*** – 356 (1.8%) Dec 2006 - Proportion of resident working age population estimates claiming JSA (Rate) – 4.3%	**July 2009 Wales/GB (%)** **All people: 4.3/4.1** **Males: 6.3/5.8** **Females: 2.2/2.3** *Wales Job Seekers Allowance Claimants (2005)* ***All people*** – 2.4% ***Male*** – 3.6 % ***Female*** – 1.2% **Wales**		**Blaenau Gwent** Proportion of resident working age population estimates (Rate) **Apr 2000 – 4.9** **Apr 2001 – 4.9** **Apr 2002 – 4.4** **Apr 2003 – 3.8** **Apr 2004 – 3.8** **Apr 2005 – 4.0** **Apr 2006 – 4.7**	From April 2000 to April 2005 the proportion of resident working population claiming JSA had fallen from 4.9% to 4%. More recently in April 2006 that figure has risen again to 4.7%. 2003 saw Blaenau Gwent have 38.6% of people aged 18 – 24 (645 people) claim JSA which was higher than the Wales figure of 34.1%.	Population Human Health	NOMIS National Statistics (Feb 2003) Claimant Count (February 2005) national statistics https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038432100/report.aspx#ta

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Feb 2003 Aged 18 – 24 – 645 (38.6%) Aged 25 – 49 – 770 (46%) Aged 50+ – 240 (14.3%)	**Feb 2003** Aged 18 – 24 - 34.1% Aged 25 – 49 - 49% Aged 50+ - 15.5%			Male unemployment in the borough in 2005 was significantly higher than female by nearly 1,000 people. JSA numbers close to double the rate for the whole of Wales in 2005 suggesting unemployment is a significant problem in the borough.		brespop
Percentage of Income Support Claimants	*2005 –* *Incapacity benefit*: 62% *Lone parent*: 31% *Carers and others*: 8% **2006 -** Income Support Claimants (16 and over) – 4,050	**Wales** *Income support claimants by type – national percentages (August 2005):* *Incapacity benefit* :60% *Lone parent*: - 32% *Carers and others*: -8% 2006 – Income Support Claimants (16 and over) - 126,160		**Blaenau Gwent** **1998** *% of persons aged 16 and over on income support (wards)* Abertillery – 9.6 Badminton – 9.6 Beaufort – 11.5 Blaina – 10.6 Brynmawr – 11.9 Cwm – 9.7 Cwmtillery – 13.4 Ebbw Vale N -12.7 Ebbw Vale S – 12.7 Gerogetown – 7.7 Lanhilleth – 14.4	The breakdown of income support claimants by type indicates that the situation in Blaenau Gwent is broadly comparable to that across Wales as a whole. In 1998 the figures for the percentage of people on income support or in income support households were particularly high in Nantyglo, Brynmawr, Cwmtillery, Tredegar and Ebbw Vale north and South.	Population Human Health	ONS (Income Support Claimants, August 2005) Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				Nantyglo – 17.5 Rassau – 11.2 Sirhowy – 12.9 Six Bells – 10.1 Tredegar C & W – 15.3 % of persons aged 60 and over on income support Abertillery – 13.4 Badminton – 16.6 Beaufort – 18.3 Blaina – 15.3 Brynmawr – 21.4 Cwm – 17.6 Cwmtillery – 19.2 Ebbw Vale N – 21.8 Ebbw Vale S – 17.5 Gerogetown – 10.8 Lanhilleth – 16.9 Nantyglo – 21.8 Rassau – 14.4 Sirhowy – 18 Six Bells – 14.5 Tredegar C & W – 21 % children aged 0 - 15 in income support			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				households Abertillery – 21.8 Badminton – 16.5 Beaufort – 26.5 Blaina – 22.4 Brynmawr – 20.6 Cwm – 18.6 Cwmtillery – 31.4 Ebbw Vale N – 27 Ebbw Vale S – 33.5 Gerogetown – 16.9 Lanhilleth – 35.5 Nantyglo – 46.3 Rassau – 31 Sirhowy – 31.6 Six Bells – 21.7 Tredegar C & W – 33.3			
VAT Registered Businesses	2007 Registrations: 100 (9.8%) Deregistrations: 60 (5.9%) Stock (at end of year): 1,020	2007 Wales/GB Registrations: 7.8%/ 10.2% Deregistrations: 6.5%/ 7.2% 2005/06 **South East** Total Enterprises – 26,780 0-4 employees –		***Total VAT Registrations by Employment Size Band*** 2005/06 Total Enterprises - 830 0-4 employees – 550 – 66.3% 5-9 employees – 145 – 17.5% 10-19 employees – 55 – 6.6%	Blaenau Gwent has a significantly lower number of VAT registrations than the average for authorities in the south east Wales region (830 compared to 2678). The representation of enterprises by size band indicates that Blaenau Gwent has a	Population	ONS (Counts of VAT Based Enterprises by Employmen t Size Band 2005/06) Nomis Labour Market Profile Blaenau Gwent 2009

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		19,685 5-9 employees – 3,905 10-19 employees – 1,495 20+ employees – 1,705 **South East Average** Enterprises by authority – 2,678 0-4 employees – 1,969 – 73.5% 5-9 employees – 391 – 14.6% 10-19 employees – 150 – 5.6% 20+ employees – 171 – 6.4% **Wales** Total Enterprises – 74,115 0-4 employees – 57,615 5-9 employees – 9,415 10-19 employees – 3,490 20+ employees – 3,590 **Wales Average** 0-4 employees – 2619 5-9 employees – 428		20+ employees – 80 – 9.6%	lower than average proportion of very small businesses compared to the average for south east Wales authorities (66.3% compared to 73.5%). Conversely, the representation of registrations of 20+ employees is above average – 9.6% compared to 6.4%. It has the second lowest number of VAT registrations in the south east after Merthyr Tydfil. This suggests that there is either a lack of entrepreneurial spirit, or insufficient support (premises, training, etc.) suitable to assist SMEs and start ups.		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		10-19 employees – 159 20+ employees – 163					
Number of new VAT Registrations per annum	**2007:** **Registrations 9.8%** **Deregistrations 5.9%** **2005** *Registrations* – 100 (10.6%) Deregistrations – 80 (8.5%) Stock at the end of the year - 940	**South East** **2005** **SE Total –** 2930 Bridgend - 275 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 395 Vale of Glamorgan - 265 Merthyr Tydfil - 100 Cardiff - 800 Caerphilly - 270 Blaenau Gwent - 100 Torfean – 160 Newport – 305 Monmouthshire - 260 **Wales** **2005 total -** 6430		**Blaenau Gwent** 1998 - 85 1999 - 85 2000 - 85 2001 - 75 2002 - 75 2003 - 105 2004 - 110 **% change** 1997/98 – 31% 1998/99 – 0% 1999/00 – 0% 2000/01 – -12% 2001/02 – 0% 2002/03 – 40% 2003/04 – 5% 2004/05 – -9% **South East** 1998 - 2745 1999 - 2770 2000 - 2790 2001 - 2725 2002 - 2900 2003 - 3165	In 2002/03 Blaenau Gwent experienced a 40% increase in VAT registrations from the previous year. However, more recently it experienced a -9% drop. This was also experienced by the south east and Wales. A comparison at the regional level reveals that Blaenau Gwent has consistently experienced the second least number of new registrations over the past 5 years after Merthyr Tydfil, and in most recent years registrations in Blaenau Gwent have been over 150 less than any other authority in the region with the exception of Merthyr Tydfil.		VAT Registrations/Deregistration By Industry (NOMIS)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				2004 - 3185 **% change** 1997/98 – -4% 1998/99 – 1% 1999/00 – 1% 2000/01 – -2% 2001/02 – 6% 2002/03 – 9% 2003/04 – 1% 2004/05 – -8% 1998 **SE Total –** 2745 Bridgend - 230 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 350 Vale of Glamorgan - 295 Merthyr Tydfil - 70 Cardiff - 770 Caerphilly - 265 Blaenau Gwent - 85 Torfaen - 135 Newport – 295 Monmouthshire - 250 1999 **SE Total –** 2770 Bridgend - 250			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				Rhondda Cynon Taff - 335 Vale of Glamorgan - 285 Merthyr Tydfil - 80 Cardiff - 780 Caerphilly - 270 Blaenau Gwent - 85 Torfaen - 145 Newport - 265 Monmouthshire - 275 2000 **SE Total -** 2790 Bridgend - 255 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 345 Vale of Glamorgan - 285 Merthyr Tydfil - 75 Cardiff - 815 Caerphilly - 235 Blaenau Gwent - 85 Torfaen - 150 Newport – 295 Monmouthshire - 250 2001 **SE Total -** 2725			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				Bridgend - 245 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 340 Vale of Glamorgan - 240 Merthyr Tydfil - 75 Cardiff - 785 Caerphilly - 255 Blaenau Gwent - 75 Torfaen - 135 Newport - 300 Monmouthshire - 275 2002 **SE Total -** 2900 Bridgend - 255 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 365 Vale of Glamorgan - 315 Merthyr Tydfil - 70 Cardiff - 830 Caerphilly - 285 Blaenau Gwent - 75 Torfaen - 135 Newport – 290 Monmouthshire - 280 2003			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				SE Total - 3165 Bridgend - 330 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 380 Vale of Glamorgan - 295 Merthyr Tydfil - 70 Cardiff - 830 Caerphilly - 335 Blaenau Gwent - 105 Torfaen - 165 Newport - 315 Monmouthshire - 325 2004 **SE Total** - 3185 Bridgend - 280 Rhondda Cynon Taff - 430 Vale of Glamorgan - 320 Merthyr Tydfil - 110 Cardiff - 820 Caerphilly - 300 Blaenau Gwent - 110 Torfaen - 175 Newport - 320 Monmouthshire - 320			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				Wales 1998 - 6165 1999 - 6120 2000 - 6290 2001 - 6025 2002 - 6430 2003 - 7145 2004 - 7040 **% change** 1997/98 – -2% 1998/99 – -1% 1999/00 – 3% 2000/01 – -4% 2001/02 – 7% 2002/03 – 11% 2003/04 – -1% 2004/05 – -9%			
Percentage of Vacant Properties	*Percentage of households spaces which are unoccupied (second residences, holiday accommodation or otherwise vacant):* **5.7% (2001)**	**Wales** *percentage of households spaces which are unoccupied (second residences, holiday accommodation or otherwise vacant):* **5.2% (2001)**			The percentage of vacant properties is higher than the Welsh average. Given the nature of the County Borough, it is considered likely that this statistic represents unoccupied properties as opposed to second homes or holiday homes.	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (UV53 – Housing Stock)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Recorded Crime Figures of ***(i) theft of or from vehicles*** ***(ii) burglary in dwellings*** ***(iii) robbery***	(Apr 05 – Mar 06) Violence against the person 1,436 (Apr 05 – Mar 06) Burglary in a dwelling 234 (Apr 05 – Mar 06) Theft of a motor Vehicle: 397 Apr 05 – Mar 06) Theft From a Motor Vehicle: 664	**Wales** **Total Crime Rates** ***Violence against the person*** 2002 – 36,453 2003 – 53,135 2004 – 53,014 2005 – 53,341 2006 – 52,639 ***Robbery*** 2002 – 1,030 2003 – 1,377 2004 – 1,280 2005 – 1,085 2006 – 1,134 ***Burglary in a Dwelling*** 2002 – 12,526 2003 – 14,954 2004 – 13,902 2005 – 11,697 2006 – 10,009 ***Theft of a motor*** 2002 – 16,954 2003 – 17,810 2004 – 16,133 2005 – 12,996 2006 – 11,696 ***Theft from a motor vehicle*** 2002 – 25,653 2003 – 31,066 2004 – 29,810 2005 – 26,061 2006 – 26,125		**Blaenau Gwent** **Total Crime rates** ***Violence against the person*** 2002 – 1,672 2003 – 2,751 2004 – 2,256 2005 – 1,664 2006 – 1,436 ***Robbery*** 2002 – 18 2003 – 10 2004 – 10 2005 – 11 2006 – 13 ***Burglary in a Dwelling*** 2002 – 283 2003 – 372 2004 – 252 2005 – 297 2006 – 234 ***Theft of a motor*** 2002 – 404 2003 – 424 2004 – 398 2005 – 409 2006 – 397 ***Theft from a motor vehicle*** 2002 – 447 2003 – 582 2004 – 505 2005 – 597 2006 – 664	Violence against the person, although on a decreasing trend, seems to be significantly higher than the other crime rates, possibly reflecting poor urban design and planning for safe communities. There may be many areas in the borough where crime is prevalent because visibility is hindered or there are no surveillance techniques in design.	Population Human Health	Sustainable Developme nt Indicators (Maps 115-116, National SEA of WSP) Notifiable Offences Recorded by the Police Series (using data from: Office for National Statistics, Population Estimates Unit)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Overall crime rate per 1000 population	***Total number of offences*** Apr-Jun 2005 - 1573 Jul-Sep 2005 - 1433 Oct-Dec 2005 - 1632 Jan-Mar 2006 – 1334 **Offences per 1000 population** Apr-Jun 2005 – 22.9 Jul-Sep 2005 – 20.8 Oct-Dec 2005 – 23.7 Jan-Mar 2006 – 19.4	**South East** ***Total number of offences*** Apr-Jun 2005 – 32,693 Jul-Sep 2005 – 30,938 Oct-Dec 2005 – 31,174 Jan-Mar 2006 – 29,137 **Offences per 1000 population** Apr-Jun 2005 – 26.8 Jul-Sep 2005 – 25.4 Oct-Dec 2005 – 25.6 Jan-Mar 2006 – 23.9 **England/Wales** ***Total number of offences*** Apr-Jun 2005 – 1,400,465 Jul-Sep 2005 – 1,374,201 Oct-Dec 2005 – 1,374,886 Jan-Mar 2006 – 1,323,048 ***Offences per 1000 population*** Apr-Jun 2005 – 26.4 Jul-Sep 2005 – 25.9 Oct-Dec 2005 – 25.9 Jan-Mar 2006 – 24.9 Overall crime rates (per 1,000 population) in Wales 2005/06: 87 Overall crime rate (per 1,000 population) 2005/06 for England			Crime rates are relatively high but compare favourably with the south east and Wales statistics	Population Human Health	SD Indicators, WSP Crime in England and Wales 2005/06 (British Crime Survey) Home Office Crime Statistics

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		and Wales: 103					
Housing Completions	Housing completions of all tenures (2002): 35 Jan – Mar 2004 Private Sector *Starts - 21* *Completions - 6* Registered Social Landlords *Starts - 0* *Completions - 0*	**South East** Jan – Mar 2004 Private Sector *Starts – 1,068* *Completions – 952* Registered Social Landlords *Starts - 84* *Completions - 74* **Wales 2002** total: 8,530 Jan – Mar 2004 Private Sector *Starts – 2,191* *Completions – 1,753* Registered Social Landlords *Starts - 122* *Completions - 127*			Housing completion rates in 2002 were very low. No trend data has been sourced as yet. However, continuation at this level would seriously undermine aspirations for growth in the County Borough.	Population Human Health Soil Landscape Material Assets	Welsh Housing Statistics 2002 (Map 77, National SEA of WSP) Welsh Housing Statistics quarterly - Jan - Mar – 2004 - (http://new.wales.gov.uk/legacy_en/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/housing/2004/sb73-2004/sb73-2004.pdf)
Central Heating: characteristics of dwellings	2001 *With central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)* Count – 28,802 Percentage – 97.35% *Without central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)* Count – 27 Percentage – 0.09% *Without central heating , with sole use of bath/shower and*	**Wales** 2001 *With central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)* Count – 1,115,461 Percentage – 92.26% *Without central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)* Count – 1,878 Percentage – 0.16%			In general terms Blaenau Gwent performs above average in these statistics, with only a small minority of households not enjoying central heating and sole use of bath/shower and toilet. However, a count of 712 households without central heating is a notable statistic,	Population Human Health Air Climatic Factors	2001 Census

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	toilet (households) Count – 712 Percentage – 2.41% *With central heating, without sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)* Count – 44 Percentage – 0.15%	*Without central heating , with sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)* Count – 88,911 Percentage – 7.35% *With central heating, without sole use of bath/shower and toilet (households)* Count – 2,798 Percentage – 0.23%			suggesting that there is room for improvement in the quality of the existing housing stock.		
Housing benefit	*All claimants of housing benefit/council tax benefit (count) 2005* 9,585 *Percentage of people claiming housing benefit (ward data)* Nantyglo - 34.8 EV North - 28.2 Sirhowy - 28.0 Tred C&W - 27.9 Cwmtillery - 26.9 Rassau - 25.9 Blaina - 25.0 Llanhilleth - 24.8 Beaufort - 24.6 Brynmawr - 22.7 EV South - 21.3 Badminton - 19.6 Georgetown - 14.0 Cwm - 13.9 Abertillery - 13.8 Six Bells - 13.5	**South East** *All claimants of housing benefit/council tax benefit 2005 (count)* 149,280 **Wales** *All claimants of housing benefit/council tax benefit 2005 (count)* 292,045			The wards of Nantyglo, Ebbw Vale North and South Tredegar and Cwmtilery have high percentages of people claiming housing benefit.	Population Human Health	Health and social needs June 2005 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Council Tax Benefit	*Percentage of households claiming council tax benefit benefit (ward data)(Dec 2000)* Nantyglo - 39.1 Sirhowy - 33.2 EV North - 32.6 Cwmtillery - 32.3 Tred C&W - 31.9 Llanhilleth - 30.6 Rassau - 29.0 Beaufort - 27.8 Blaina - 27.7 Brynmawr - 26.4 EV South - 24.9 Badminton - 24.6 Six Bells - 21.7 Cwm - 19.2 Abertillery - 19.0 Georgetown - 17.9	**South East** *All claimants of housing benefit/council tax benefit 2005 (count)* 149,280 **Wales** *All claimants of housing benefit/council tax benefit 2005 (count)* 292,045			The wards of Nantyglo, Sirhowy, Ebbw Vale North and South Tredegar and Cwmtilery have high percentages of people claiming Council Tax benefit and housing benefit. This suggests that these wards are suffering particularly from low incomes, or have high proportions of single person households, either of which may be an indication of pockets of deprivation.	Population Human Health	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent
Religion or Faith	2001 *Christian* – 44,973 *Buddhist* – 86 *Hindu* – 51 *Jewish* – 11 *Muslim* – 152 *Sikh* – 26 *Any other religion* – 161 *No religion* – 17,575 *Not stated* – 7,029	2001 **Wales** *Christian* – 2,087,242 *Buddhist* – 5,407 *Hindu* – 5,439 *Jewish* – 2,256 *Muslim* – 21,739 *Sikh* – 2,015 *Any other religion* – 6,909 *No religion* – 537,935 *Not stated* – 234,143			The majority of residents in the borough in 2001 were Christians (44,973, approx 64%) and only very small minorities of other religions, Muslim being the 2nd highest religion in terms of representation with 152 residents practising the faith. There was also a large number of	Population	Neighbourhood Statistics (2001)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					people who stated having no religion or did not state any religion. The sheer difference in numbers of religious groups could mean that problems relating to social exclusion and integration may occur in the borough and the LDP will need to be sensitive to this.		
Average House Prices	H.M Land Registry Oct-Dec 2003 Detached - £106,004 Semi-detached - £58,501 Terraced - £40,226 Flat/Maisonette - £23,050 2007 £95,000	**England & Wales** *Average house price* £131,462 *(2006)* UK average £201,090 *(Dec 2006)*		**Blaenau Gwent** *Dec 2000* - £36,558 *Dec 2001* – £38,019 *Dec 2002* – £40,719 *Dec 2003* – £51,675 *Dec 2004* – £71,179 *Dec 2005* - £79,239 *Dec 2006* – £88,608 **Wales** *Dec 2000* - £58,209 *Dec 2001* – £65,318 *Dec 2002* – £80,458 *Dec 2003* – £98,120 *Dec 2004* – £120.432 *Dec 2005* - £125,089 *Dec 2006* – £136,419	The average house price for Blaenau Gwent in 2006 was nearly £50,000 less than that of the Welsh average (£136,419). This suggests that Blaenau Gwent may be one of the less desirable authorities in which to live in Wales. As it is an average, it may also be a reflection on the nature of the overall housing stock, which may in general terms be more modest than other parts of Wales (i.e. smaller properties, lots of terraces and a high representation of flats) and also of affordability problems as large percentage of households on low incomes.	Population Human Health	Land Registry Residential Property Price Report, January-March 2003 (Map 70, National SEA of WSP) http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/houseprices/housepriceindex/report/default.asp Blaenau Gwent Housing strategy 2004 – 2009

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					Trend data do, however, indicate that the area has seen a substantial increase in house prices in the last six years, broadly tracking the proportional increase in prices across the Principality.		http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/documents/Documents_Environment/UDP_Adopted_Affordable_Housing_in_New_Developments.pdf
Condition of Housing Stock	2003 – 31,387 households (total) (2.6% Welsh Housing Stock) 2003 - 94% (29,585) have people residing; remaining 6% (1,802) vacant) Terraced House – 55.3% Semi-detached – 24.5%	**Wales** 2000 23% of dwellings had repair costs over £1,000 13% of homes were classified as unfit; more			Many of the houses built pre 1919 may be in need of repair and modernisation and are likely to be less energy efficient than more modern properties.	Population Human Health Air Climatic Factors Material Assets	Blaenau Gwent UDP http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/H209.asp

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Detached – 9.4% Purpose built flats – 8.5% Flats in Commercial building – 1.1% Converted/shared house – 1% Caravans/mobile home – 0.2% 55% of housing stock was terraced properties built pre 1919 (2001) (2001) - 8% of private properties considered unfit (1,740) Further 12% needed substantial repair (2,610) **Owner Occupied Stock** Terraced – 69% Semi-detached – 16% Detached – 9% Flats – 3% Other 3% **Council Owned Stock** 4 bed house – 1% 3 bed house – 52% 2 bed house – 17% 2 bed flat – 13% 1 bed flat – 1% OAP accommodation - 12% Sheltered housing – 4%	than one in twenty lacked one or more basic amenities; one in five required repairs costing £1,500 or more.			The percentage of unfit properties and those in need of substantial repair is considerable – this could be a reflection of low incomes and deprivation. The majority of the owner occupied housing stock is terraced housing. This may meet current needs for the area but does not give residents a choice of housing type in Blaenau Gwent or allow residents to meet their housing aspirations within Blaenau Gwent. It also means limited suitable provision is available for single people within the owner occupier sector. The vast majority of the council housing stock of Blaenau Gwent is 2-3 bed family accommodation and provision for the elderly. There is very little single person housing or housing to meet the needs of		http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/n10.asp

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					large families.		
Household Size and Tenure	2001 Average Household Size: 2.34 Average Number of Rooms per Household: 5.14 ***Housing tenure*** Owner occupied – 62.62 Rented from Council – 24.34 Housing association/registered social landlord – 4.53 Private landlord or letting agency – 6.1 Other – 2.41 ***Communal Establishments*** People resident in communal establishments – 0.99 People resident in communal establishments of which people sleeping rough – 0.00 People resident in households – 99.01	2001 **South East** Average Household Size: 2.396 Average Number of Rooms per Household: 5.517 Owner occupied – 72.29 Rented from Council – 13.59 Housing association/registered social landlord – 4.75 Private landlord or letting agency – 6.46 Other – 2.91 ***Communal Establishments*** People resident in communal establishments – 1.42 People resident in communal establishments of which people sleeping rough – 0.00 People resident in households – 98.58 ***National average household size***: 1.87 ***National household tenure:***		**Blaenau Gwent 1991** *Percentage of households non-owner occupied by ward* Nantyglo - 61.0 Rassau - 50.3 Tredegar Central & West - 48.6 Ebbw Vale North - 48.5 Cwmtillery - 44.3 Sirhowy - 43.3 Llanhilleth - 43.2 Blaina - 42.1 Brynmawr - 40.9 Beaufort - 39.6 Badminton - 37.3 Ebbw Vale South - 35.6 Cwm - 19.7 Georgetown - 17.1 Six Bells - 14.5 Abertillery - 13.3 **2000** *Percentage of housing owned by local authority* Nantyglo - 52.8 Rassau - 43.0 EV North - 36.2 Sirhowy - 33.9 Badminton - 31.3 Tred C&W - 30.7 Cwmtillery - 30.6	The average household size is similar to that of the Welsh average. However, the average number of rooms is lower than the Welsh average. The percentage of owner occupied housing is less than the Welsh average. This may reflect residents' inability to afford to buy housing in Blaenau Gwent, even though the average house price is relatively low. There is also a high percentage of homes rented from the council - 24.34% compared to 13.59% across Wales. Linked to this, trend data indicates that although the proportion of homes not owner-occupied has decreased since 1991, in certain wards the percentage remains considerable (e.g. Nantyglo, Rassau and Sirhowy).	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (KS18 – Tenure, KS20 – Household Composition, UV85 – Residents in Households) ONS, 2001 Census (Map 74, National SEA of WSP) Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Owner occupied: 71.3% Social rented: 17.9% Private rented: 7.4% Other rented: 3.3%		Beaufort - 30.6 Llanhilleth - 28.3 Blaina - 27.4 Brynmawr - 26.4 EV South - 24.3 Georgetown - 19.7 Cwm - 9.5 Abertillery - 2.0 Six Bells - 2.0			
Council tax bands (2000)	**Bleanau Gwent** **A – 55.16%** **B – 27.18%** **C – 9.26%** **D – 4.91%** **E – 2.94%** **F – 0.44%** **G – 0.04%** **H – 0.06%** **X – 0%** **A & B** Llanhilleth - 94.9 EV North - 93.1 Cwmtillery - 93.1 Abertillery - 92.1 Six Bells - 92.1 Blaina - 90.9 EV South - 90.2 Cwm - 85.4 Nantyglo - 84.3 Tred C&W - 82.6 Georgetown - 75.0 Brynmawr - 74.4 Rassau - 74.2 Sirhowy - 72.5 Badminton - 69.3 Beaufort - 60.6 **G & H**	**South East Average** **A – 22%** **B – 26%** **C – 19%** **D – 13%** **E – 11%** **F – 5%** **G – 4%** **H – 0%** **X – 0%** **Wales Average** **A – 20%** **B – 25%** **C – 20%** **D – 15%** **E – 12%** **F – 5%** **G – 3%** **H – 0%** **X – 0%**			83.4% of housing in Blaenau Gwent is within Council tax bands A & B. Seven of the sixteen electoral divisions have more than 90% of housing within these two bands. 0.09% of housing in Blaenau Gwent is within council tax bands G & H. This suggests that the overall size and quality of housing stock in the County Borough is relatively modest, particularly in the regional context.	Population	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Brynmawr - 0.28 Tred C&W - 0.16 Cwm - 0.16 Beaufort - 0.12 EV South - 0.10 Nantyglo - 0.10 EV North - 0.09 Rassau - 0.07 Blaina - 0.05 Cwmtillery -0.04 Sirhowy - 0.04 Llanhilleth - 0.00 Abertillery - 0.00 Six Bells - 0.00 Georgetown - 0.00 Badminton - 0.00						
Population	**2007: 69,200** **2001 (census)** 70,064 **2003 (UDP)** 68,900 6.44 per hectare (2001) (10,876 hectares) Ebbw Vale = 23,600 Abertillery = 16,600 Tredegar = 15,000 Nantyglo & Blaina = 9,100 Brynmawr = 5,600	**2007 Wales: 2,980,000** **2007 GB: 59,216,200** **South East** 1,393,645 2001 Average per hectare 6.09 (280,823 hectares **Wales** 2,903,085 2001 Average per hectare 4.07 (2,074,201 hectares)		**Blaenau Gwent** *Population change 1999 – 2002* -4.63% *1982 – 2002* -7.2% *Population Decline 1981 – 1991* 5.84% *1981 – 1991* Decline of 4% in 5 - 24 year old age group 1921 - population 127,611 (peak) 1951 – 1991 20% population decline in BG	Since 1921 when the population was 127,611, Blaenau Gwent has experienced substantial population decline. Between 1982 and 2002 it experienced a 7.2% drop. The population in 1991 was 73,250 and the population in 2003 was 68,900, over 100 less than two years previous. The future projections for 2011 only estimate the population to be 500 more than the 1991 figure; However, the South East of Wales and Wales as a whole have experienced	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (UV01 – Population) ONS, 2001 Census (Map 39, National SEA of WSP) WSP Topic Paper J: Population Unitary Authority Profiles, WAG https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038432100/report.aspx#ta

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				1981 – 1991 6% decline though out migration 1991 – population 73,250 2011 – projection 73,725 **South East** *Population change 1999 – 2002* 0.034% **Wales** *Population Growth 1999 – 2002* 1.59% 1982 – 2002 4.1%	population increase since 1999, suggesting Blaenau Gwent is becoming less of a desirable place to live and out migration is contributing to population decline.		brespop
Population Age Profile (%)	*(0 – 4)* – 5.6% *(5 – 15)* – 15.7% *(16 – 19)* – 4.91% *(20 – 24)* – 32.3% *(45 – 64)* – 24.6% *(65+)* –16.89%	**South East (average)** *(0 – 4)* – 6.07% *(5 – 15)* – 15.05% *(16 – 19)* – 5.19% *(20 – 24)* – 33.85% *(45 – 64)* – 23.85% *(65+)* –16.00%		**Blaenau Gwent** *Population change by age group 0-25 age group 1981 – 2001 (%)* -19% **Wales** *Population change by age group 0-25 age group 1981 – 2001 (%)* -11%	The population of 16 – 19 year olds is the lowest percentage age group. 45 – 64 and 65+ age groups are slightly higher than the South East average suggesting there is an ageing population. The percentage of 0 – 4 year olds is also lower than the South East average by almost 1%. Population change In the 0 – 25 years olds range in Blaenau Gwent from 1981 –	Population	Census 2001

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					2001 saw a 19% decrease whereas Wales only experienced an 11% decrease.		
Ethnic Diversity (percentage)	*Asian or Asian British* – 0.31 *Black or Black British* – 0.09 *Chinese or other* – 0.17 *Mixed* – 0.25 *White* – 99.17 *People Identifying themselves as Welsh* – 12.01	**South East** *Asian or Asian British* – 1.39 *Black or Black British* – 0.40 *Chinese or other* – 0.51 *Mixed* – 0.85 *White* – 96.85 *People Identifying themselves as Welsh* – 13.28 **Wales** *Asian or Asian British* – 0.9% *Black or Black British* – 0.3% *Chinese or other* – 0.04% *Mixed* – 0.6% *White* – 97.9% *People Identifying themselves as Welsh* – 14.4%			Ethnic populations make up less than 1% of the Blaenau Gwent population, with over 99% being white in ethnic origin. For those minority groups, integration and social inclusion may be a problem. There is a slightly lower proportion of people identifying themselves as Welsh in Blaenau Gwent than the South East regional or Welsh national averages (12.01% compared to 13.28% and 14.4% respectively).	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (KS06A – Ethnic Group and Identification as Welsh) ONS, 2001 Census (KS06A – Ethnic Group and Identification as Welsh) WSP Topic Paper J: Population
Percentage of Welsh Speakers	2001 *Welsh speakers as a percentage of total population aged 3 and over.* *Either speaks, reads or writes Welsh* – 11.13	2001 **Wales** Aged 3 and over - 20.8% Aged 3 – 15 – 44%			Approximately 90% of the County Borough's population don't speak Welsh or have no Welsh speaking	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (UV84 – Welsh Language Skills)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Reads Welsh – 8.58 *Speaks Welsh* – 9.47 *Understands spoken Welsh* – 9.02 *Writes Welsh* – 7.84				communications skills. This could be interpreted as a reflection of a lack of strong cultural heritage in the County Borough. It may also be an indication of difficulty in accessing welsh medium education.		WSP Topic Paper J: Population 2004 Welsh Language Use Survey, Welsh Language Board Blaenau Gwent UDP
Net migration	Net migration of 16-24 year olds 1999-2001. **-2.7%** Net migration of 25-44 years olds 1999-2001 **-1.1%**	**Wales** Net migration of 16-24 year olds 1999-2001. **-1.0%** Net migration of 25-44 years olds 1999-2001 **0.3%**			The younger generation support the older generation in terms of contributing to the economy. The net out migration of young people from the County Borough will therefore prove unsustainable if the trend continues over time. In addition, if the young population are leaving with good levels of education then the out migration of skilled young workers may act as a disincentive for potential business investment in the area.	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (Maps 42 and 42a, National SEA of WSP)
Dependent Children	2001 *Households with dependent children (all ages)* Count – 9,447 Percentage – 31.93%	2001 **Wales** *Households with dependent children (all ages)* Count – 365,553			The percentages of households with dependent children and adults in employment with dependent children	Population Human Health	Neighbour hood statistics Census 2001 (KS21)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Households with an adult in employment with dependent children Count – 2,583 Percentage – 8.73%	Percentage – 30.23% *Households with an adult in employment with dependent children* Count – 73,013 Percentage – 6.04%			are higher than the national averages. With Blaenau Gwent being a low earning area, the quality of life for the dependent children in these households might potentially be relatively low. As such, this statistic may be an indication of pockets of deprivation.		
Lone Parent Households	*1991* *Male –* *224 (count)* *In full time employment – 43.75%* *In part time employment – 4.91%* *Female –* *2,427 (count)* *In full time employment – 16.56%* *In part time employment – 19.61%* **Total – 2,651 (count)** *Percentage of lone parent households by ward.* Rassau - 7.5 Nantyglo - 6.3 Ebbw Vale North - 6.1 Ebbw Vale South - 5.2 Beaufort - 4.5	**South East** *Male – 3,875 (count)* *Female – 42,164 (count)* **Total – 46,039** **Average** *Male – 388 (count)* *In full time employment – 49.1%* *In part time employment – 5.14%* **Female –** *4,216 (count)* *In full time employment –18.5%* *In part time employment -23.6%* **Wales** *Male – 8,134*			There are high percentages of lone parent households in Rassau, Nantyglo and Ebbw vale North and South. Lone parent households are more likely to earn less and seek benefits, therefore putting less money back into the economy. Children in those households are more likely to have a lesser quality of life and experience other types of deprivation.	Population Human Health	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent (1991 census) Neighbourhood Statistics 2001 census (KS22)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Sirhowy - 4.4 Tredegar Central & West - 4.3 Llanhilleth - 4.2 Blaina - 4.1 Brynmawr - 3.7 Cwm - 3.4 Cwmtillery - 3.3 Six Bells - 3.3 Abertillery - 2.6 Badminton - 1.9 Georgetown - 1.5	*(count)* *Female – 79,831 (count)* **Total – 87,965 (count)** **Average** **Male –** *370 (count)* *In full time employment – 51%* *In part time employment - 6.3%* **Female –** *3,629 (count)* *In full time employment – 18.7%* *In part time employment – 25.7%*					
Percentage of second homes in the south east	2001 *Unoccupied spaces (second residence or holiday home accommodation) as a percentage of all unoccupied household spaces.* 2.1%	2001 **Wales** Average national percentage 23.2%			Only 2.1% of residences were unoccupied in Blaenau Gwent in 2001, which is very low relative to the Welsh average and indicates that it is not a place of choice to own a second home or have holidays in.	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (UV53 – Housing Stock)
Percentage of Population Born outside Wales	2001 7.9%	2001 **Wales** 24.6%			This statistic suggests that there is likely to be a strong sense of community identity, with only a very small	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (Map 48, National SEA of WSP)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					percentage of the resident population having been born outside Wales.		
Population Density	2001 *Area (hectares)* 10,876 *Density per hectare* 6.44 *People per square km* 638	**2001** **South East** *Area (hectares)* 280,823 *people per hectare* 6.9 **Wales** *Area 2,074,203* *People per hectare* *1.40* *People per square km* – 141			Blaenau Gwent has a population density that is higher than that of Wales; However, because of the area's typography its population is focused on a small number of relatively densely developed settlements within the valley floors, with much of the surrounding land being undeveloped.	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (UV02 – Population Density)
Percentage of low birth weight (LBW)	*Percentage of babies born (live and still births) after 24 weeks gestation with low birth weight (less than 2,500g) (2003)* Total 65 (9.4%) **(1994-98)** *Ward Data* Sirhowy - 13.3 Ebbw Vale South - 10.3 Abertillery - 10.2 Nantyglo - 9.3 Beaufort - 8.6 Blaina - 8.0 Llanhilleth - 8.0 Ebbw Vale North - 7.8 Cwmtillery - 7.7 Cwm - 7.7 Tredegar C&W - 7.5 Georgetown - 7.4	**South East (2003)** **Total – 1,218** **Average** **121.8 (6.4%)** **Wales (2003)** **Total – 2,175** **Average –** **103.5 (7.1%)**			Low birth weight babies create greater strain on the health service due to intensive care. They are more typically common among people of poor health, and are also more common in teenage pregnancies. The relatively high percentage of low birth rate babies in Blaenau Gwent may reflect these issues and, as such, suggests particular issues in Sirhowy,	Population Human Health	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent Neighbourhood Statistics

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Brynmawr - 6.9 Rassau - 6.3 Six Bells - 5.8 Badminton - 5.6				Ebbw Vale South, Abertillery and Nantyglo.		
Teenage Conceptions	*Rate per 1000 (2003)* 60.4	**South East** *Rate per 1000 (2003)* 45.7			Blaenau Gwent has a teenage conception rate of 60.4, which is considerably above the rate for the South East (45.7 per 1000). This places a considerable burden on health and social services, either through demand for terminations or for additional benefits and support should pregnancies carry to full term. Higher rates of teenage conception are also often linked to pockets of deprivation.	Population Human Health	ONS (Teenage Conceptions, 2003)
Number of Play Areas	*Static play areas -53* *Visitor play area – 3* *Multi-use games areas (MUGAs) – 8* *Wheeled sports areas – 10* ***Local Play Areas*** *Beaufont - 3* *Cwm – 3* *Badminton – 1* *Rassau – 2* *Ebbw Vale North – 3* *Ebbw Vale South – 4* *Brynmawr – 3*		Local Play Area – 56 Visitor Play Areas – 5 MUGAs – 16 Wheeled Sports Areas - 16		A ratio of 1 play area per 250 children under 14 was originally set (1991 census) to ensure that static play provision was provided across the borough equitably. This ratio will remain the target as demographic figures for this age group have not dramitically changed since 1991		Blaenau Gwent Play Strategy 2004

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Abertillery – 2 *Six Bells – 3* *Llanhilleth – 6* *Cwntillery – 5* *Nantyglo – 7* *Blaina – 5* *Tredegar C & W – 1* *Sirhowy – 3* *Georgetown – 2* ***Visitor Play Areas*** *Abertillery – 1* *Tredegar – 1* *Brynmawr – 1* ***MUGAs*** *Beaufont - 1* *Cwm – 1* *Badminton – 1* *Abertillery – 1* *Llanhilleth – 1* *Cwntillery – 1* *Nantyglo – 1* *Blaina – 1* ***Wheeled Sports Areas*** *Cwm – 1* *Rassau – 1* *Ebbw Vale North – 2* *Brynmawr – 1* *Six Bells – 1* *Cwntillery – 1* *Blaina – 1* *Tredegar C & Wt – 2*		1 play area per 250 children under 14		when the ratio was set.		
General Health of Population	2001 *Proportion with a 'good' general state of health*	2001 **South East** *Proportion with a 'good'*			The County Borough has a significantly lower proportion of	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	59.38	*general state of health* – 64.48 **Wales** *Proportion with a 'good' general state of health – 65.06%*			people with a good general state of health than that of the South East and Wales.		
Proportion of people with a limiting long-term illness	2001 28.26% *People with limiting long-term illness* – 19,798 *People without a limiting long-term illness* – 50,266	2001 **South East** 23.4% **Wales** 23.3% *People with limiting long-term illness* – 675,622 *People* without *a limiting long-term illness* – 2,277,423 **England** 17.9%		**Blaenau Gwent** Standardised limiting long-term illness	Blaenau Gwent has a higher percentage of people with a limiting long-term illness than that of the South East. This could reflect poorer living conditions and standards of health in the county. Given the industrial legacy of the area, there is also a considerable likelihood that some illnesses are linked to manual labour and/or former mine working.	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (Map 65, National SEA of WSP) Neighbourhood statistics 2001 Census
Permanently Sick Persons	*Percentage of people permanently sick (ward data)(1991)* Tredegar C&W - 11.2 Sirhowy - 9.9 Blaina - 9.9 Nantyglo - 9.9 Cwm - 9.8 Llanhilleth - 9.0 Cwmtillery - 8.8 Rassau - 8.6 Six Bells - 8.2 Ebbw Vale North - 8.0 Brynmawr - 8.0 Beaufort - 7.9				Tredegar, Sirhowy, Blaina, Nantyglo and Cwm had high levels of people permanetly sick in 1991. This may reflect poorer the number with limiting long term illnesses, etc from past hazardous industrial work (mining)	Population Human Health	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Badminton - 7.9 Abertillery - 7.5 Georgetown - 7.1 Ebbw Vale South - 7.1						
People of working age with disabilities	2001 *Percentage of people of working age with disabilities'* 21.2%	2001 **Wales** *Percentage of people of working age with disabilities'* – 15.2%			The percentage of people of working age with disablilites in Blaenau Gwent is significantly higher than the percentage for Wales, which further reflects the poor health conditions which exist in Blaenau Gwent.	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (Map 64, National SEA of WSP)
Life expectancy at birth for (i) men (ii) women	2001 *life expectancy at birth – males:* 73.80 *Life expectancy at birth – females*: 78.40	2001 **Wales** *Life expectancy at birth – males:* 75.8 *Life expectancy at birth – females*: 80.3			The significantly lower than average figures for life expectancy for both men and women, compared to figures for Wales, highlights the County Borough's poor health conditions.	Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (Life Expectancy at Birth, 2002-2004)
Death Rates by cause from (a) circulatory disease (b) cancer and (c) external causes	*Death rate per 1,000 population (2001)* 12.7 *Death from circulatory disease per 1,000 (2001)* 40.9 *Death from cancer per 1,000 (2001)* 26.1 *Deaths from all external causes per 1,000 (2001)* *3.0*	**South East** *Death rate per 1,000 population (2001)* 10.8 *Death from circulatory disease per 1,000 (2001)* 39.9 *Death from cancer per 1,000 (2001)* 25.8 *Deaths from all external causes per*			Blaenau Gwent's death rate per 1000 population is above the regional average by just under 2 per 1000. However, in general terms the statistics for the three principal causes are broadly comparable to the regional rates.	Human Health	**Source???**

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		1,000 (2001) *2.8* **Wales** *Death from circulatory disease (2003) -* 8,600 *Death from cancer (2003) – 8,400*					
Prevalence of smoking in all adults	*2004* *Proportion of adult smokers* 34.0%	**2004** **Wales** *Proportion of adult smokers* *31%*		Given the relatively recent introduction of the smoking ban in Wales, it is likely that number of smokers will reduce.	The proportion of adult smokers is 3% higher than the proportion for Wales. Higher numbers of smokers could lead to poorer health and more strain on the health service, with potential decline in economic participation affecting the local economy.	Population Human Health	Digest of Welsh Local Area Statistics 2004
Prevalence of obesity	*Proportion of overweight or obese adults (aged 16+)* 59%	**Wales** *Proportion of overweight or obese adults (aged 16+)* 54%			The proportion adults (aged 16+) who are obese is 59%, which is 5% higher than the Wales proportion. Obesity can lead to health problems which can create strain on the health service, with potential decline in economic participation affecting the local economy	Population Human Health	Welsh Health Survey 2003/04
Proportion of (i) people consuming five or more	*Proportion of people consuming five fruit or vegetables per day* 35%	**Wales** *Proportion of people consuming five fruit or vegetables per day*			The proportion of people eating 5 or more fruit and vegetables per day is	Population Human Health	Welsh Health Survey 2003/04

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
portions of fruit and vegetables per day and (ii) in low-income households.		39% *Average fruit and vegetable consumption* 4.6 potions per day			4% lower than the Welsh average. A high percentage would mean the county is more likely to be of better health, reducing the strain on the heath service.		
Percentage of people aged 16-74 with at least an NVQ level 2 qualifications or equivalent	Jan 2008- Dec 2008 57.1%	**Jan 2008-Dec 2008** **Wales/GB** **65.5%/65.2%** **South East** 43.25% (2001) **Wales** 60.3% (2003)		**Blaenau Gwent** 30.92% (2001) 41.1% (2003) 1999 – 2000 data *are shown by primary school allocated to electoral division.* **Wales** 44% (2001)	The percentage of people with at least NVQ level 2 qualifications was substantially lower than the South East average in 2001, and considerably lower than that for Wales as a whole. There is potential causality between the type of job opportunities available, which do not include a high proportion of high end roles, and possible disincentives to educational achievement. Aspirations may also be lower in the locality as a result of a perceived lack of opportunities.	Population Human Health	ONS, 2001 Census (UV24 – Qualificatio ns)
Proportion of population with at least an NVQ level 4 qualification or equivalent	4,000 (9.5%) (2003)	**South East** 17.38% (2001) **Wales** 22.5% (2003)	**Blaenau Gwent** 9.33% (2001) **Wales** 22.2%		Only 9.3% of Blaenau Gwent's population had at least NVQ level 4 qualifications in 2001 compared to the South East which	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (UV24 – Qualificatio ns) Health and

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			(2001)		had 17.38% and the Welsh average, which was 22.5%. A lack of high skilled employment opportunities may act as a deterrent for further study in the area. In addition, relatively low educational attainment at school may preclude progression into further education.		social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent
Percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE grade A*-C or equivalent	43%	**Wales** 51%		**Blaenau Gwent June 2000** *667 sat GCSE Exams. Of these, 266 pupils achieved five or more A*-C grades (39.8%).* *Less than 50% of pupils achieved five or more A*- C grades in all except one of the county borough's electoral divisions* Llanhilleth - 25.0 Sirhowy - 25.5 Tred C&W - 32.1 Beaufort - 33.3 Georgetown - 34.6 EV North - 36.4 Six Bells - 36.8 Nantyglo - 38.3 Cwm - 38.6	Less than 50% of the school population are achieving 5 or more GCSEs grade A*-C. Llanhillieth and Sirhowy have particular issues with low attainment. This mightreflect poor quality lifestyles, and with less people achieving higher grades the ability to attract investment by higher skilled businesses is less likely. A lower skilled workforce will also have implications in terms of the manner in which the local economy can expand in the future.	Population	Unitary Authority Profiles, WAG Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				Cwmtillery - 40.0 Rassau - 41.5 EV South - 42.6 Blaina - 45.1 Brynmawr - 45.2 Abertillery - 46.3 Badminton - 75.0			
Proportion of the population with no qualifications	13,000 (30.4%) (2003)	**South East** 34.37% (2001) **Wales** 17.8 (2003)	**Blaenau Gwent** 45.02% (2001) **Wales** 33% (2001)	Compared to 2001, the statistics suggest that the trend is moving in a positive direction, with a significant reduction in the proportion of the population with no qualifications.	The high percentage of the population with no qualifications is likely to lead to unemployment or low skilled, low paid work.	Population	ONS, 2001 Census (UV24 – Qualificatio ns) Local Area Labour Force Survey (Mar 2003-Feb 2004)
Number of adults engaged in adult education activities	Number of residents aged 19+ enrolled at further education institutions (2003/04): 4360 6.3% total population	**Wales** Number of residents aged 19+ enrolled at further education institutions (2003/04): 195,960 6.8% total population			The relatively small proportion of the total population enrolled in further education is likely to have a knock on effect on the economy in terms of development of higher skilled, higher paid jobs.	Population	Further Education, Work-Based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics: 2003/04, Welsh Assembly Governmen t
Percentage of non-attendance in primary and secondary schools	*Percent non-attendance for schools within each of the electoral divisions at primary and secondary school level combined* (1999 – 2000)				Tredegar and Ebbw Vale north have relatively higher percentages of non attendance in primary and secondary schools,	Population	Health and social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent Health and

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Tredegar C&W - 11.4 Ebbw Vale North - 10.1 Cwmtillery - 9.8 Rassau - 9.4 Nantyglo - 9.2 Blaina - 9.0 Sirhowy - 9.0 Cwmtillery - 8.9 Llanhilleth - 8.4 Badminton - 8.3 Abertillery - 8.3 Brynmawr - 8.0 Six Bells - 7.8 Georgetown - 7.4 Ebbw Vale South - 7.1 Beaufort - 7.1				likely to lead to lower educational attainment. Low attendance records can also be a reflection on deprivation.		social needs June 2002 Blaenau Gwent
Truancy Rates	*Absenteeism by pupils of compulsory school age in all maintained primary and secondary schools and special schools.* **Primary Schools (2006)** *All absence* – 8.4% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.6 **Secondary Schools (2006)** *All absence* – 10.3% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.8%	**South East Average** **Primary Schools (2006)** *All absence* – 7.7% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.2% **Secondary Schools (2006)** *All absence* – 10.6% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.82% **Wales** **Primary Schools (2006)** *All absence* – 7.5%		**Blaenau Gwent** **Primary Schools** **2002/03** *All absence* – 7.2% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.5% **2003/04** *All absence* – 7.7% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.8% **2004/05** *All absence* – 8.0% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.7% **Secondary Schools** **2002/03**			http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/statistics/schools-2006/sdr143-2006.pdf?lang=en http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/statistics/schools/1152752/sdr24-2007.pdf?lang=en

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Unauthorised Absence – 1.0 **Secondary Schools (2006)** *All absence* – 9.8% *Unauthorised Absence – 1.7%*		*All absence* – 9.9% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.0% **2003/04** *All absence* – 9.9% *Unauthorised Absence* – 2.3% **2004/05** *All absence* – 9.5% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.5% **South East Average Primary Schools** **2002/03** *All absence* – 7.4% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.8% **2003/04** *All absence* – 6.9% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1% **2004/05** *All absence* – 7.2% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1% **Secondary Schools**			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				2002/03 *All absence* – 9.81% *Unauthorised Absence* – 2.59% **2003/04** *All absence* – 9.75% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.83% **2004/05** *All absence* – 9.53% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.76% **Wales** **Primary Schools** **2002/03** *All absence* – 7% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.6% **2003/04** *All absence* – 6.7% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.75 **2004/05** *All absence* – 6.8% *Unauthorised Absence* – 0.7% **Secondary Schools**			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				2002/03 *All absence* – 9.5% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.6% **2003/04** *All absence* – 9.4% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.7% **2004/05** *All absence* – 9.4% *Unauthorised Absence* – 1.7%			
Level of literacy in adult population	*[no data sourced to date]*	**Wales** Entry level or below – 25% Level 1 – 37% Level 2 or above 38%					National Survey of Adult Basic Skills in Wales, 2004, Welsh Assembly Governmen t
Level of numeracy in adult population	*[no data sourced to date]*	**Wales** Entry level or below – 53% Level 1 – 25% Level 2 or above – 22%					National Survey of Adult Basic Skills in Wales, 2004, Welsh Assembly Governmen t

Appendix D Environmental Baseline Data

ATKINS

D.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

D.1.1 Draft TAN5 defines biodiversity and geodiversity and their importance for sustainable development in the following way:

'"Biodiversity" is the term applied to the variety of life on earth and is short for biological diversity. It describes the richness and variety of all living things, from the smallest microscopic organism to the largest tree. "Geodiversity" is the variety of geological environments, phenomena and active processes that make landscapes, rocks, minerals, fossils, soils and other superficial deposits that provide the framework for life on earth... Wildlife and its habitats are of fundamental importance to our future well-being and prosperity because a rich and diverse environment supports a long-term sustainable economy and contributes to a healthier and happier society. Biodiversity is an important indicator of sustainable development. Biodiversity and geodiversity add to the quality of life and local distinctiveness.'

D.1.2 There are two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) adjacent to Blaenau Gwent: Usk Bat Sites and Cwm Clydach Woodlands, each designated under the EC Habitats and Species Directives. Usk Bat Sites is one of the best areas in the United Kingdom for the lesser horseshoe bat. Usk Bat sites SAC is also referred to as Mynydd Llangattock SSSI. Some features of both SAC sites are found to be in favourable condition, whilst others are in an unfavourable condition.

D.1.3 Cwm Clydach SAC is underpinned by Cwm Clydach Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) while Usk Bat Sites is underpinned by Mynydd Llangatwg SSSI, Siambre ddu SSSI, Buskland Coachhouse and Ice House SSSI and Fox Wood SSSI.

D.1.4 There are also three SSSI in the area:

- Cwm Merddog Woodlands,
- Brynmawr Sections (geological site) and
- Mynydd Llangatwg (Mynydd Llangattock).

D.1.5 The Cwm Merddog Woodlands site is in an unfavourable but recovering condition, Brynmawr Sections' condition is unfavourable maintained and the condition of Mynydd Llangatwg is partially favourable and partially unfavourable for different features.

D.1.6 Cwm Clydach is designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR). It is the largest and most representative area of native beechwood in South East Wales. Blaenau Gwent has one Local Nature Reserve (LNR) - the Silent Valley LNR, which includes Cwm Merddog and Coed Ty'n y Gelli SSSIs and covers a total area of 51.62 ha. The parts of the LNR that include SSSIs have been designated as such as a result of the presence of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. The Silent Valley is designated as a Wildlife Trust Reserve (WTR).

D.1.7 The designation of LNRs is in accordance with targets in the community plan and that the Authority aims to designate 2 per year pending resources. 5 candidate LNRs have been currently defined for the County Borough area.

D.1.8 Part of the Brecon Beacons National Park falls within the northern part of the Blaenau Gwent administrative area, and includes Brynmawr Sections and Mynydd Llangattock (Usk Bat) SSSIs and Cwm Clydach NNR.

D.1.9 There are 14 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) sites and three Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). There are 60 SINCs. Figure 3.1 maps all the sites of ecological importance in the Blaenau Gwent area and Figure 3.2 shows the Forestry Commission land management area and its 'Semi-naturalness score'.

D.1.10 Blaenau Gwent is nationally important for breeding lapwings, a scarce and declining bird species in Wales.

D.1.11 The Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan contains key habitat and species as well as protected species. Species and habitats for which action plans have been prepared include:

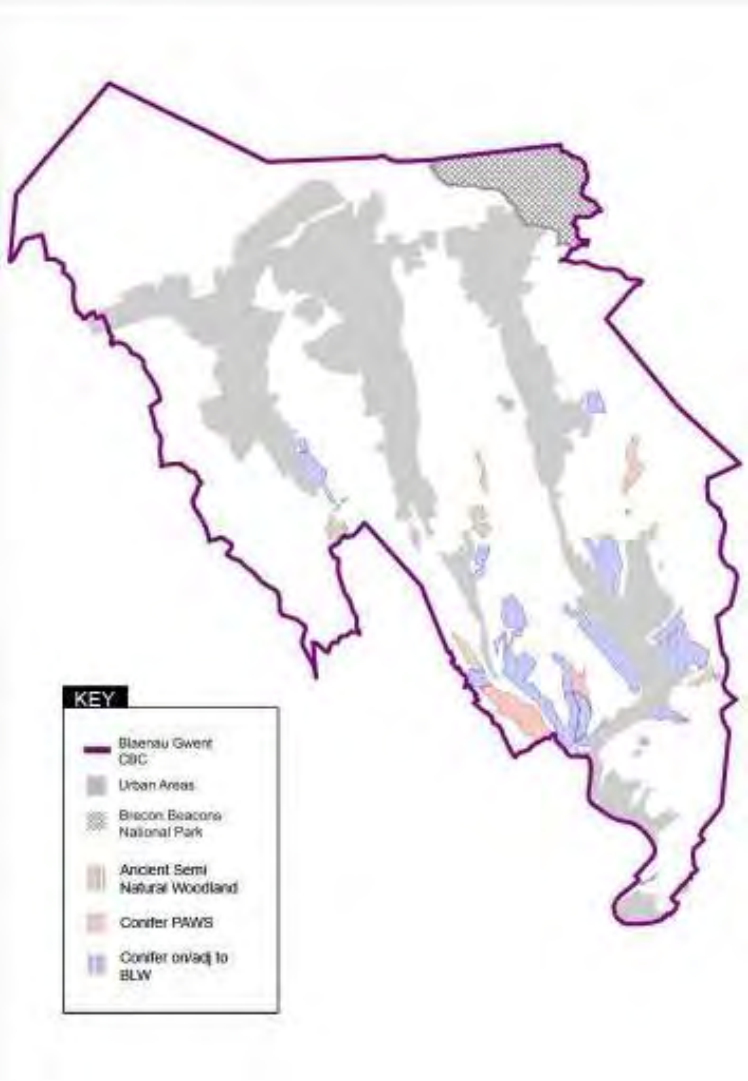
Table D.1 - Blaenau Gwent BAP Species and Habitats Action Plans

Group	Species
Amphibians	Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)
Birds	Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*); Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix)*; Lapwing *(Vanellus vanellus)*
Birds	Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)
Butterflies	Pearl-bordered Fritillary (*Boloria euphrosyne*)
Mammals	Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*)
Mammals	Otter (*Lutra lutra*)
Mammals	Pipistrelle Bat (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)
Mammals	Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*)
Broad Habitats	Calcareous grassland
Broad Habitats	Dwarf shrub heath
Priority Habitats	Blanket bog
Priority Habitats	Mesotrophic lakes
Priority Habitats	Purple moor grass and rush pastures
Priority Habitats	Upland mixed ashwoods
Priority Habitats	Upland oakwood
Priority Habitats	Wet woodland

Figure D.1 - Sites of Ecological Importance in Blaenau Gwent

ecological_map_numbers_labels

Figure D.2 – Woodland



D.2 Cultural Heritage

D.2.1 Blaenau Gwent has 53 listed buildings, recognised for their special historical and architectural importance. The majority are Grade II listed, although of the total, ten fall into the higher category of Grade II*. However, there are also a number of listed buildings in the County Borough that appear on Cadw's register of listed buildings 'at risk', namely:

- British Steel Tinplate Works General Office
- Former Boiler House at Dunlop Semtex Factory
- Ebbw Vale Adult Education Centre
- Stables and Barn at the Fountain Inn
- The Fountain Inn
- Milgatw - Agricultural Range at Milgatw
- Mount Pleasant Stores
- Roundhouse at Roundhouse Farm (1863 AA SW)
- Roundhouse at Roundhouse Farm (17086 AB NE)
- Agricultural Range at Roundhouse Farm
- Former Tredegar Company Shop

D.2.2 Part of the Blaenavon Special Landscape of Historic Interest lies within Blaenau Gwent and part of the Clydach Gorge Landscape of Historic Interest also lies within Blaenau Gwent.

D.2.3 Currently there is one conservation area in Blaenau Gwent, Bedwellty House and Park. Additional conservation area designations under review include:

- Garden City;
- Ebbw Vale;
- St. Michael's Church area in Abertillery;
- St. Illtyds Church area in Brynithel;
- Castle Street and the Circle, Tredegar.

D.2.4 The South East Wales region, which comprises 10 local authority areas, contains approximately 56 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens. Of these, only one falls within the boundary of Blaenau Gwent – the Bedwellty Park (also designated as a conservation area). This site is included in Cadw's 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales'. Blaenau Gwent also has 9 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), which are: -

- St Illtyd Castle Mound;
- Incline Haulage Winding Engine, Mynydd Bedwellty;
- Sirhowy Ironworks;
- Marine Colliery Pumping Engine;
- Clydach Railroad Bridge, Brynmawr;
- Clydach Coal Levels;
- Tredegar Ironworks Cholera Cemetery;
- Y Domen Fawr Round Cairn; and
- Trefil Quarries North

D.3 Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

D.3.1 There are currently no designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the Blaenau Gwent area. However, at the regional level there are AQMAs in place in Cardiff and Newport as a result of significant traffic flows and peak hour congestion.

D.3.2 Data relating to estimated carbon dioxide emissions in 2004 indicate that the County Borough had slightly higher Industrial/Commercial and Domestic emissions in terms of proportions of total emissions than the average proportional breakdowns for the South East Wales authorities. However, as a percentage of the overall regional emissions total, Blaenau Gwent was contributing very little - only 3.5% of Industrial/Commercial and 4% of Domestic emissions in the South East region actually originate from Blaenau Gwent. When emissions are cross-referenced per capita, Blaenau Gwent compares favourably against the South East Wales average, producing 6.5 tonnes per capita as opposed to 9.8 tonnes per capita.

D.4 Water and Flood Risk

D.4.1 The main water courses in Blaenau Gwent are the rivers Ebbw Fach, Ebbw Fawr and Sirhowy.

D.4.2 From 1999 to 2005 the following trends for chemical and biological quality were observed at the sites monitored by the Environment Agency:

- Ebbw Fach (Afon Tyleri - Trib.Henwaun Coll.) - remained ‘B’ (Good) chemical classification in the period 1999-2005. Biological water quality deteriorated from ‘B’ (Good) in 2000 to ‘C’ (Fairly good) in 2003-2004.
- Ebbw Fach (Conf.Trib.Henwaun Coll-Conf.Nant Ystruth) - remained ‘B’ (Good) chemical classification in the period 1999-2005. Biological water quality deteriorated from ‘B’ (Good) in 2000 to ‘C’ (Fairly good) in 2004.
- Ebbw Fach (Ebbw Fawr Conf. - Afon Tyleri) – had a chemical classification of ‘B’ (Good) in 1999-2003, which improved to ‘A’ (Very good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality was classified as ‘D’ (Fair) in 2000. Biological water quality of the site was not assessed in other years.

- Ebbw Fawr (Conf.Ebbw Fach - Conf.Nant Big) – chemical water quality improved from 'B' (Good) in 1999-2003 to 'A' (Very good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality was classified as 'B' (Good) in 2000 deteriorating to 'C' (Fairly good) in 2004.
- Ebbw Fawr (Conf.Nant Big - Conf.Nant Merddog) – chemical water quality remained at 'B' (Good) level in 1999-2003 and then improved to 'A' (Very good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality was assessed as B (Good) in 2000 deteriorating to 'C' (Fairly good) in 2004.
- Ebbw Fawr (Conf.Nant Kendon - Glandwr Bk.) – chemical water quality was classified as 'B' (Good) throughout the years 1999-2003 improving to 'A' (Very Good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality remained C (Fairly good) classification in 2000-2003.
- Ebbw Fawr (Conf.Nant Merddog - Culvert Inlet) – chemical water quality was classified as 'C' (Fairly good) in 1999-2001 deteriorating to 'E' (Poor) in 2001-2003 and slightly improving to 'D' (Fair) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality remained stable at 'C' (Fairly good) level in 2000-2004.
- Ebbw Fawr (Culvert Inlet - Rassau Bk.) – chemical water quality was 'B' (Good) in 1999-2001 deteriorating to C (Fairly good) in 2001-03 and improving to 'B' (Good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality was at D (Fair) level in 2000 and improved to C (Fairly good) in 2002-2003.
- Ebbw Fawr (Glandwr Bk. - Conf.Ebbw Fach) – chemical water quality was 'A' (Very good) in 2005. Biological water quality on this site remained fairly good in 2000-2005.
- Sirhowy (Nant Melyn - Outlet Shon-Shefris Res. – chemical water quality remained at B (Good) level throughout 1999-2003 improving to 'A' (Very good) in 2003/2005. Biological water quality was 'C' (Fairly good) in 2000 improving to B (Good) in 2002 and subsequently declining back to 'C' (Fairly good) in 2005.
- Sirhowy (Nant Yr Helyg - Scotch Peter Trib. – chemical water quality remained at B (Good) level throughout 1999-2003 improving to 'A' (Very good) in 2003-2005. Biological water quality was C (Fairly good) in 2000 improving to 'B' (Good) in 2002 and then deteriorating back to 'C' (Fairly good) in 2005.
- Sirhowy (Scotch Peter Trib.-Nant Melyn) – chemical water quality was 'E' (Poor) in 2003-2005 – a decline from 'C' (Fairly good) in 2001-2003 and D (Fair) in 1999-2001. Biological water quality was assessed as 'E' (Poor) in 2000 improving to 'C' (Fairly good) in 2002 but then deteriorating to 'D' (Fair) in 2005.

D.4.3 Aggregate data for England and Wales for the same period indicate that there was a slight improvement in water quality: an increase from 91.9% (1999) of Good/Fair grades to 93.5% (2005) for chemical water quality and from 94.9% (2000) to 95.4% (2005) for biological water quality.

D.4.4 Water service provision in Blaenau Gwent is the responsibility of Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru. Wales has a relatively high rainfall compared to the rest of the UK, with an average of 1400mm per year compared to 700mm in the south east of England. Companies in Wales are predicting increases in household demand for water over coming years, not just because of rising numbers of households but also because of greater individual consumption. Only 5% of households in Blaenau Gwent have a metered water supply.

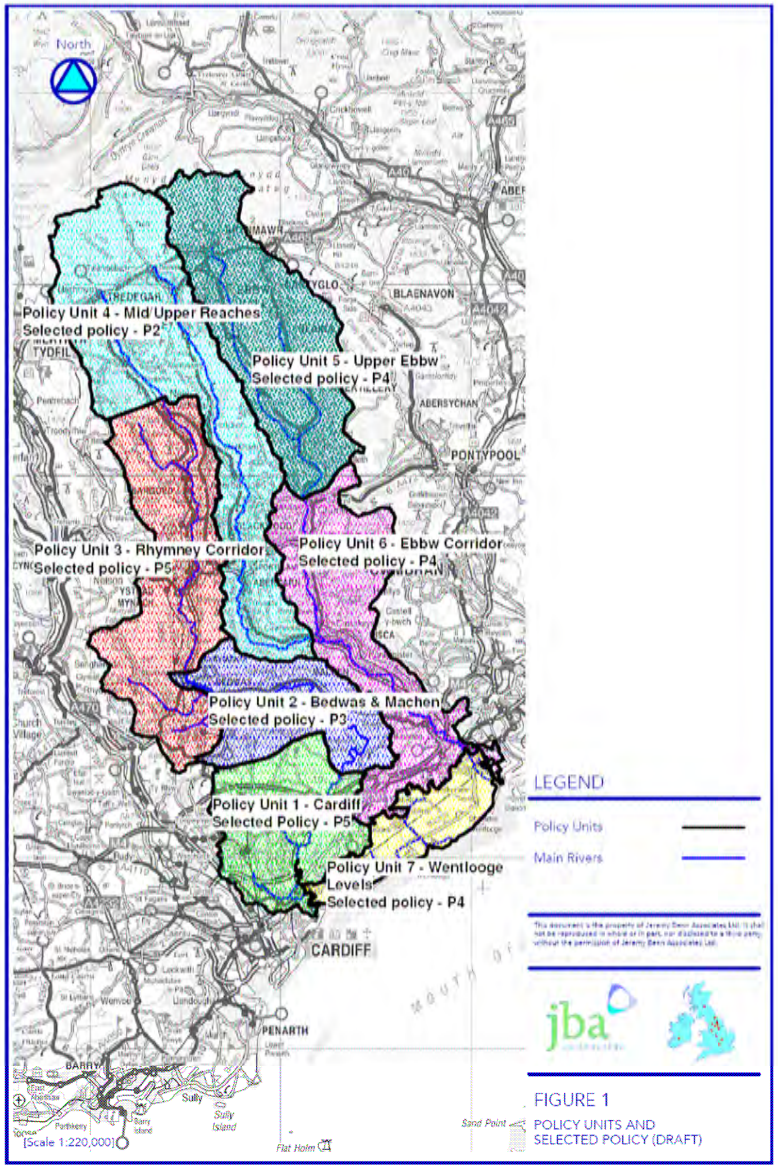
D.4.5 TAN15 Development and Flood Risk (July 2004) is the appropriate framework for guiding planning decisions with respect to flood risk. The policy refers to the Welsh Assembly Government's (WAG) Development Advice Maps (DAM), which are based on Environment Agency Wales' flood outlines. In Blaenau Gwent there are zones of both defended and undefended floodplain (C1 and C2 respectively). The dam maps should be used as a trigger for guiding development away from areas of flood risk.

D.4.6 Flood defences are only present in one location – to the north west of Cwm. These form part of a network of defences for the rivers Ebbw, Llwyd and Sirhowy. They are designed to be effective for a 1 in 100 year flood event and, to date, have performed acceptably.

Figure D.3 - Flood Risk Map for Blaenau Gwent

flood_risks_map

Figure D.4 - Eastern Valleys Catchment Flood Management Plan April 2008


North
Policy Unit 4 - Mid Upper Reaches
Selected policy - P2
Policy Unit 5 - Upper Ebbw
Selected policy - P4
Policy Unit 3 - Rhymney Corridor
Selected policy - P5
Policy Unit 6 - Ebbw Corridor
Selected policy - P4
Policy Unit 2 - Bedwas & Machen
Selected policy - P3
Policy Unit 1 - Cardiff
Selected Policy - P5
Policy Unit 7 - Wentlooge Levels
Selected policy - P4
CARDIFF
PENARTH
BLAENAVON
PONTYPOOL
ABERSYCHAN
TREDEGAR
TYDFIL
BARRY
[Scale 1:220,000]
LEGEND
Policy Units
Main Rivers
jba
FIGURE 1
POLICY UNITS AND
SELECTED POLICY (DRAFT)

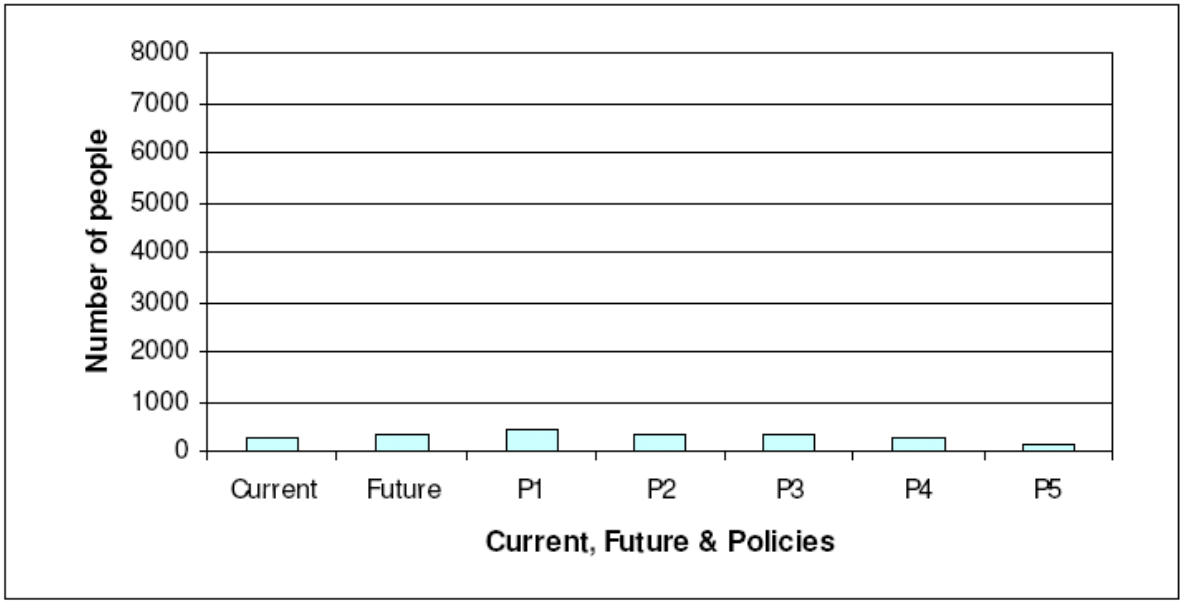
D.4.7 Draft policies for the plan area from the CFMP are:

Upper and Mid Reaches: Reduce existing flood risk management actions (accepting that flood risk will increase with time).

Upper Ebbw: Take further action to sustain the current scale of flood risk into the future (responding to the potential increases in flood risk from urban development, land use change and climate change).

D.4.8 The figures below demonstrate how flood risk in the area is low:

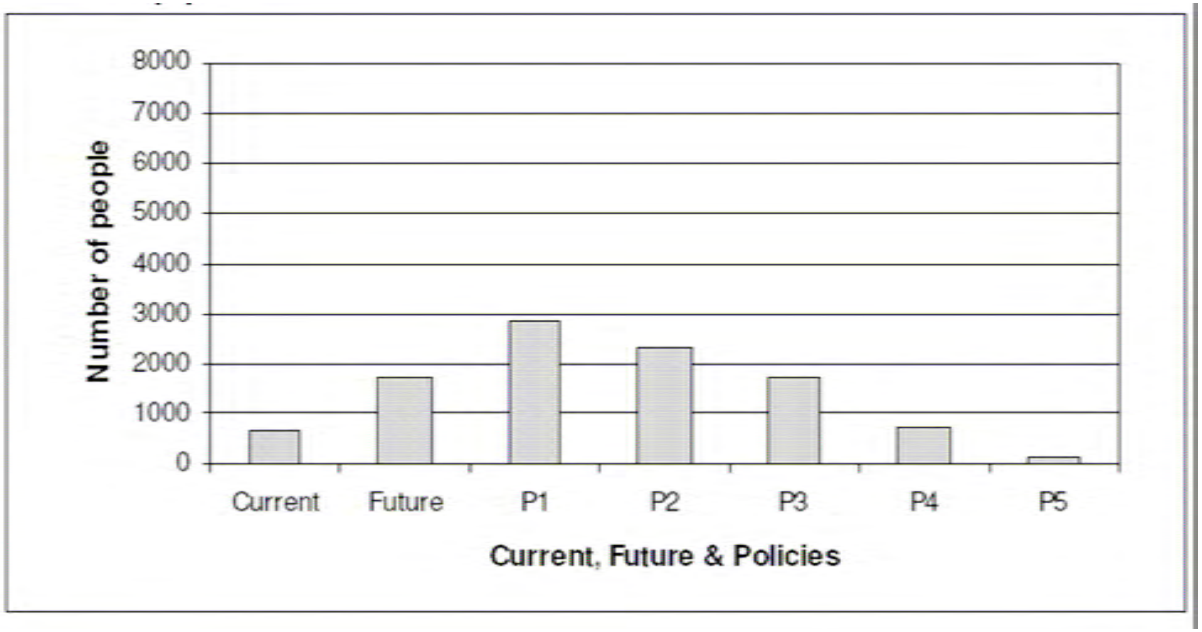
Figure D.5 - Total number of people at flood risk for all policy units and policies: Upper and Mid Reaches



- Policy selected for the Upper and Mid Reaches
- Policy Unit 4: Main Flood Risk (Fluvial); No main areas)
- Reduce existing actions
- The current level of flood risk is low in comparison to other areas of the Eastern Valleys.
- The future level of flood risk is low in comparison to other areas of the Eastern Valleys.
- Some areas within the policy unit may warrant a reduction in current flood risk management activities and maintenance, particularly in rural areas.

- There is little harm to life, community disruption and economic damages both now and into the future.
- Increasing the current flood risk management actions brings little reduction in flood risk in this policy unit.

Figure D.6 - Total number of people at flood risk for all policy units and policies: Upper Ebbw



Policy Unit 5: Upper Ebbw

- Main Flood Risk (Fluvial); Main Areas (Abertillery, Cwm and Ebbw Vale)

Policy 4 – Take further action to sustain current risk

- The future levels of fluvial flood risk are unacceptable and the risks present severe consequences for harm to life.
- Risks for extreme fluvial events (0.1% AEP) are unacceptable.
- There are a significant number of properties in the future that will be at flood risk, including numerous residential properties, and critical and community assets.
- The existing flood defences should be raised in Cwm, Abertillery and Llanhilleth.

- The current level of maintenance should be continued or improved as to help improve conveyance, reducing the impacts of flooding and maintaining water levels.
- The current level of risk is acceptable in this policy unit, reducing damages to this level is economically justifiable.

Water Availability (source: water resources for the future: EA)

D.4.9 Figure D.7 demonstrates that Blaenau Gwent has no additional water available for abstraction during the summer, but has an excess supply in the winter.

Figure D.7 - Surface Water Availability

1. Summer Surface Water

2. Winter Surface Water

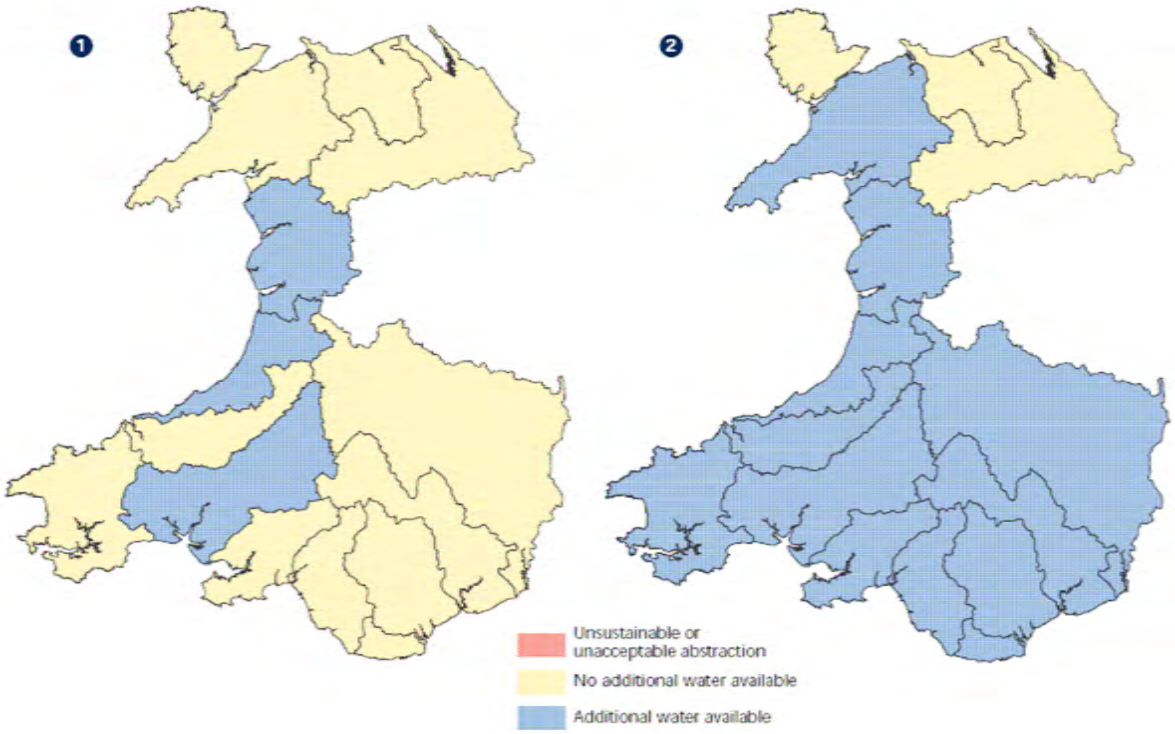
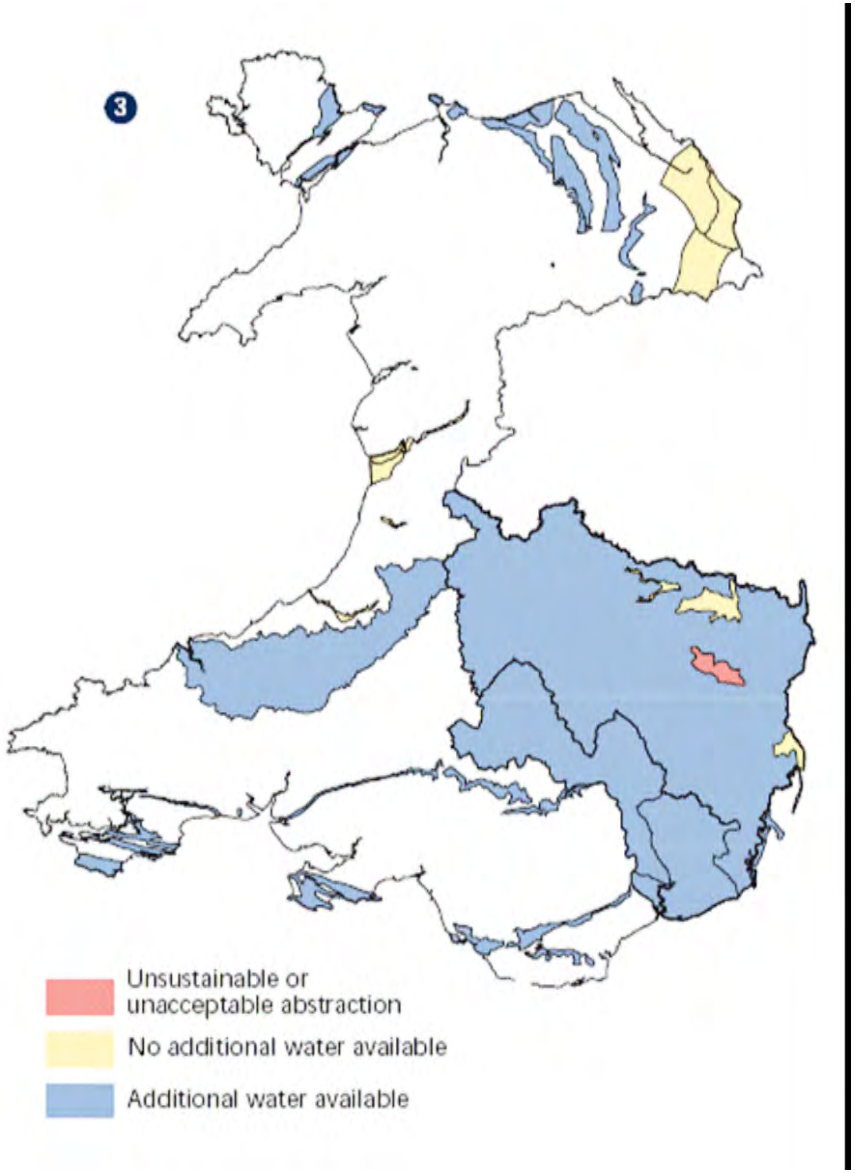


Figure D.8 – Groundwater Availability


3
Unsustainable or unacceptable abstraction
No additional water available
Additional water available

D.5 Waste

D.5.1 In 2004/05, the total municipal waste arisings in Blaenau Gwent were 54,853 tonnes, of which 22.5% was recycled or composted. The total household waste arisings were 44,578 tonnes. The majority of waste originates from industrial and commercial sources (not including special waste) – in 2003 waste from these sources totalled 56,971 tonnes, of which 17,422 tonnes went to landfill (31%). In order for Blaenau Gwent to meet the national maximum landfill 2009/10 target of 37,525 tonnes for the County Borough, based on predicted arisings of 53,883 tonnes for the County Borough, 16,358 tonnes will need to be diverted from landfill. This will require significant alterations to current waste production and management practices in the County Borough.

D.6 Energy

D.6.1 Expressed as a percentage of industrial and commercial energy consumption in the South East Wales region, Blaenau Gwent contributed 4.6% in 2003. The same percentage in respect of domestic energy consumption was 6.4%, with the statistic for transport based energy consumption being just 1%. It should be noted, however, that the relatively low proportional contribution may, in part at least, be explained by the fact that the South East Wales region includes the capital and second cities of Wales, together with the busiest section of the principal east-west road corridor (the M4 motorway from the Severn bridge to J32), which together make a significantly greater contribution to the regional totals.

D.6.2 Figures on national, regional and local gas consumption (Kwh) indicate that Blaenau Gwent uses a higher share of gas domestically when compared to the regional averages, but less industrially than neighbouring authorities. This may potentially be a reflection of Blaenau Gwent's housing conditions - there is a considerable amount of older housing stock in the local authority area that, due to its age, may be less energy efficient and this will be combined with the fact that the altitude results in a relatively cooler climate than neighbouring authorities.

D.6.3 There is no specific data relating to electricity generated from renewable sources within the Blaenau Gwent area alone. However, in 2003 it was estimated that 2.6% of electricity in Wales was generated from renewables, representing a slight increase from 2.44% in 2002. The UK has set a target of producing 10% of electricity from renewable sources by 2010. TAN 8 doesn't identify any areas within the County Borough as having potential for the generation of energy from wind.

D.7 Landscape, Land Use and Soil

D.7.1 The main features of Blaenau Gwent are the deeply incised valleys of the Sirhowy, Ebbw Fach and Ebbw Fawr rivers, which flow in a southerly direction from the relatively high moorland plateau running across the northern extremity in an east to west direction. Much of the natural vegetation has been removed because of the industrialisation of the area.

D.7.2 The largest land use designation in the County Borough is open countryside (45%) and the defined urban area is only 23%. The remainder comprises a combination of other designations including rural settlements and forestry.

D.7.3 Blaenau Gwent has recently proposed a number of Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)[2] which are:

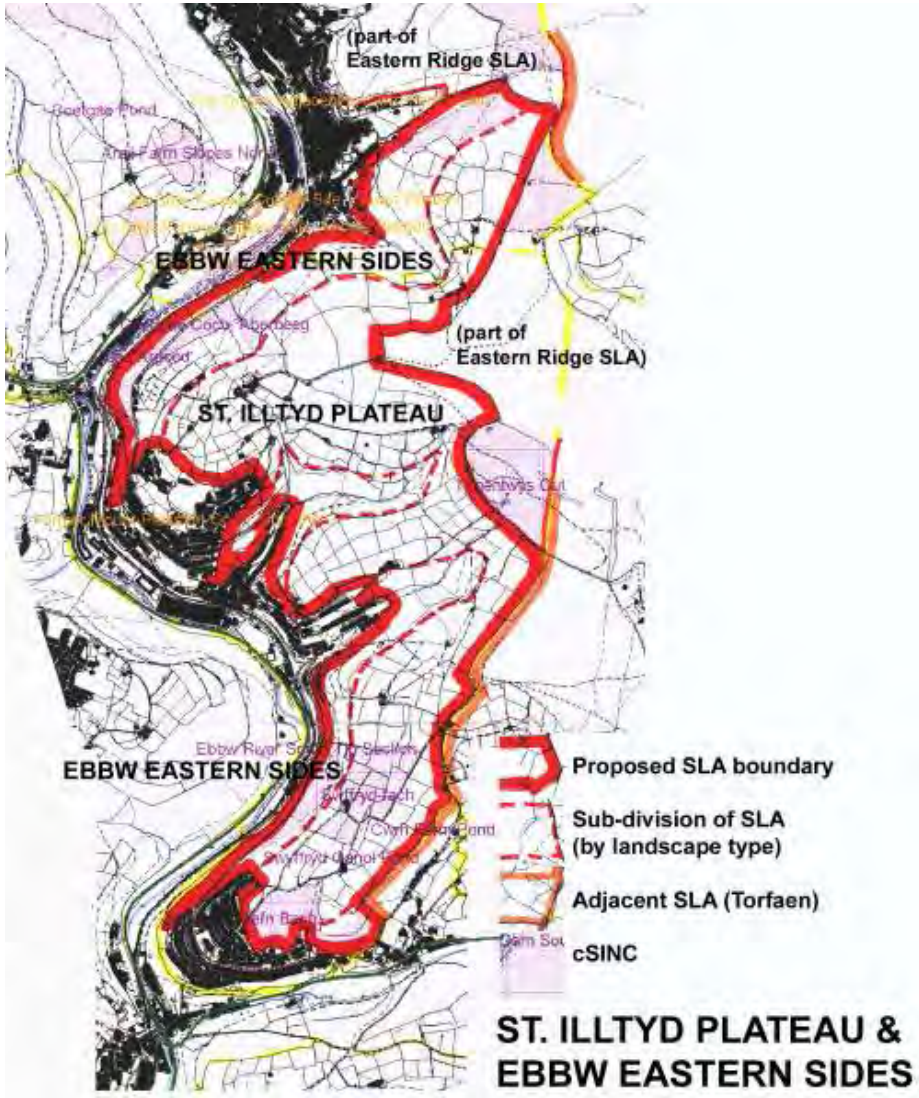
- St Illtyd Plateau & Ebbw Eastern Sides;

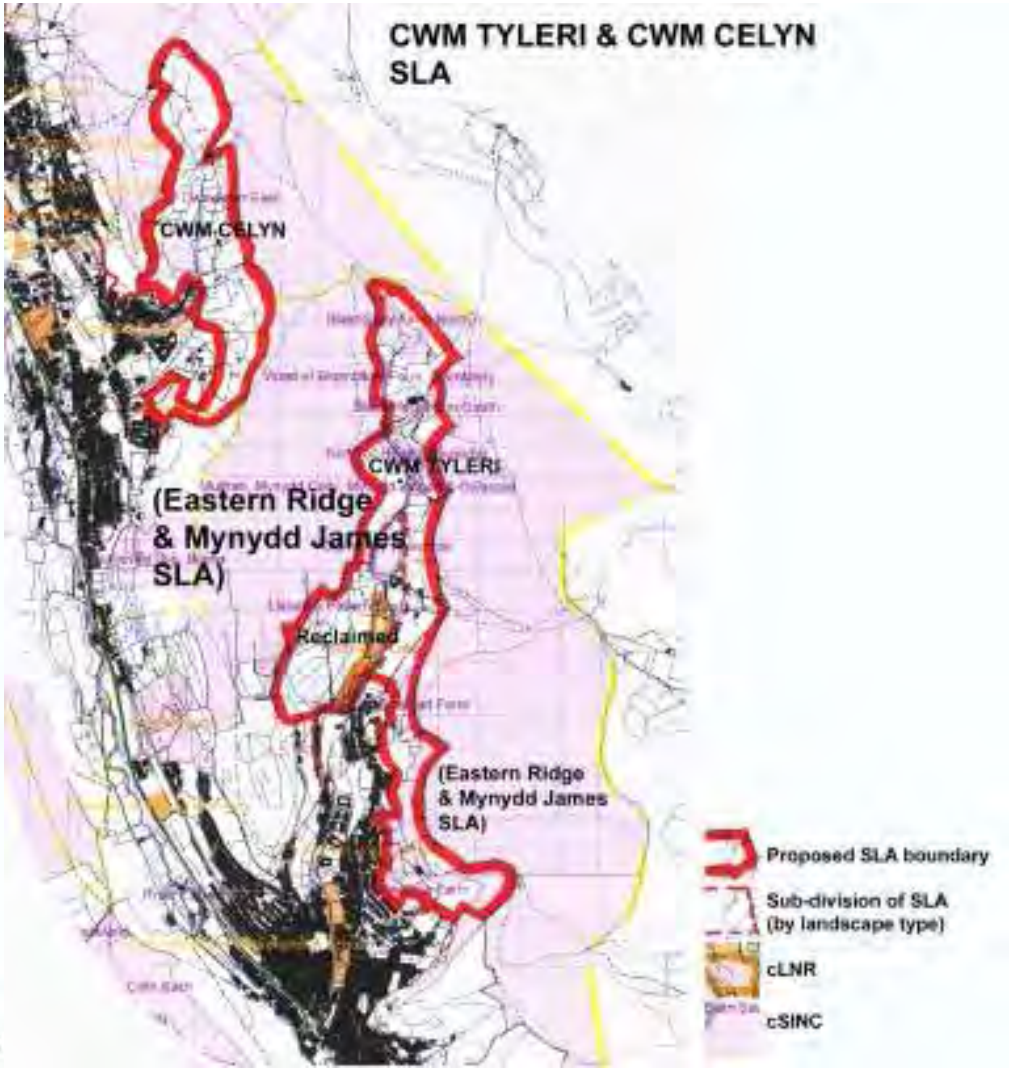
[2] Proposals for Designation of Special Landscape Areas, Bronwen Thomas Landscape Architect, March 2009

- Eastern Ridge & Mynydd James;
- Cwm Tyleri & Cwm Celyn.
- Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn & Cefn yr Arail;
- Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill & Sirhowy Sides;
- Cefn Manmoel:
- Trefil & Garnlydan Surrounds; and
- Beaufort Common.

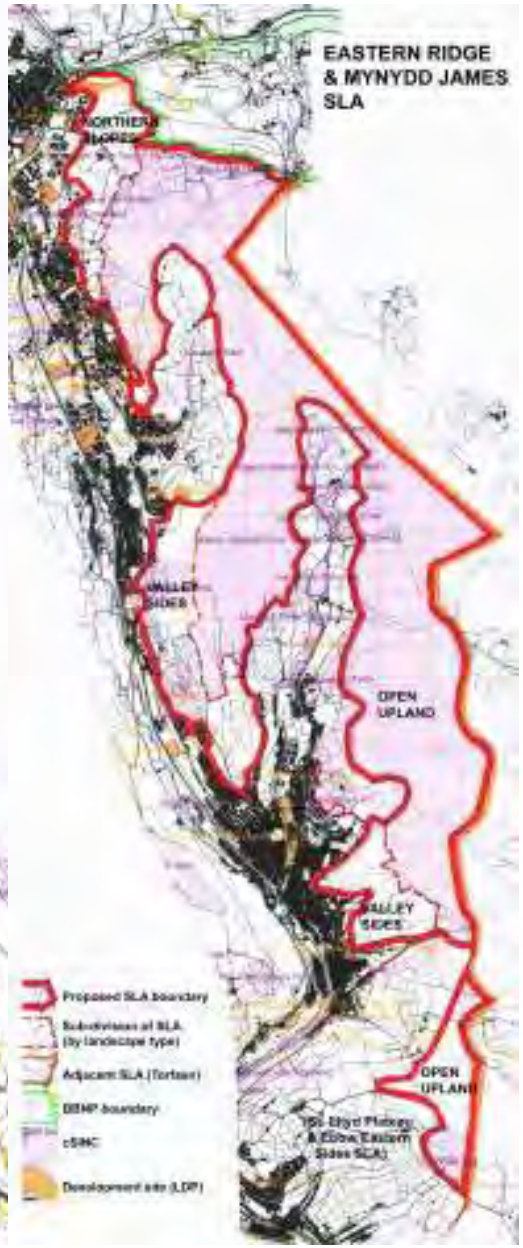
D.7.4 The maps below show the boundaries of these proposed SLAs, which may be subject to revision.

Figure D.9 – Special Landscape Areas

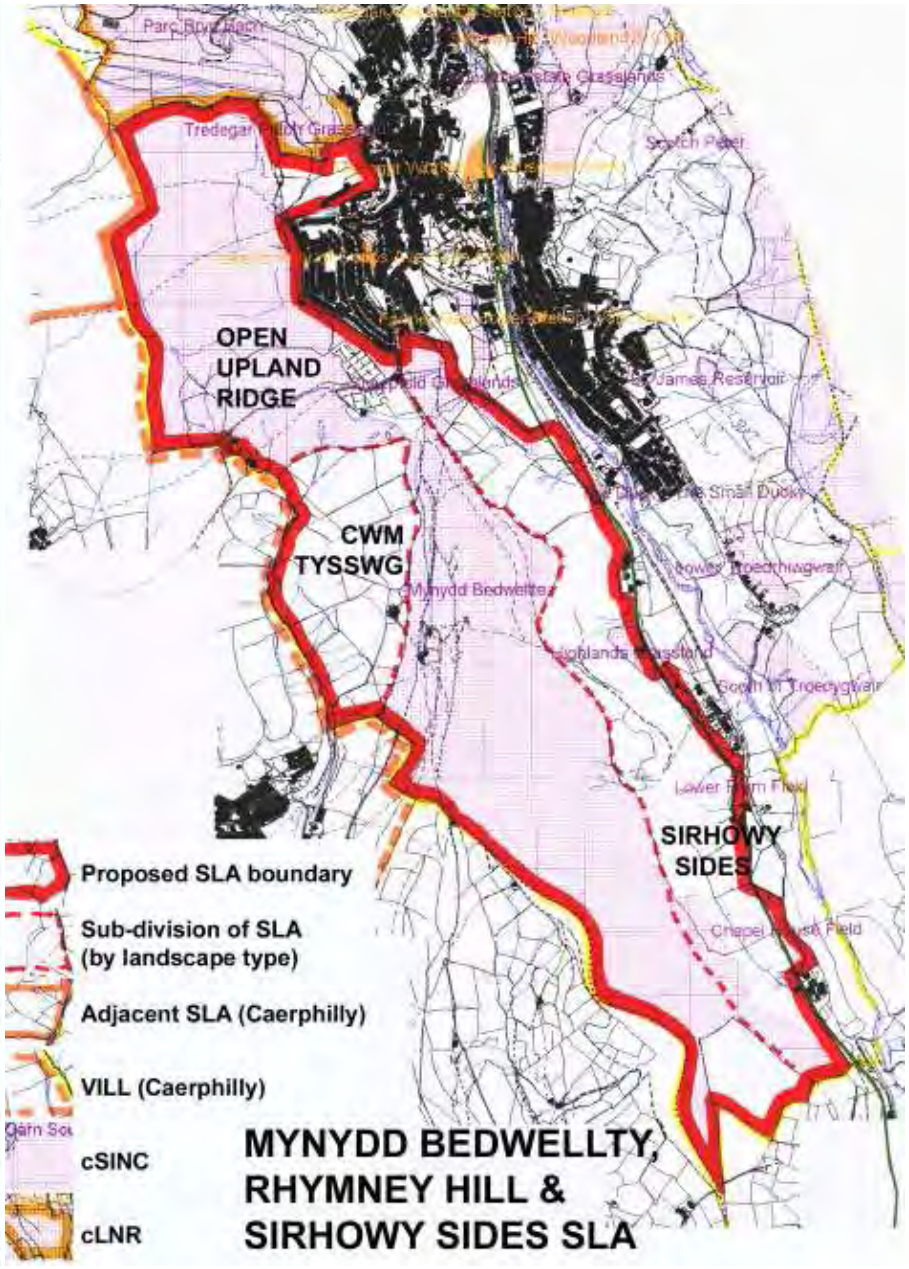




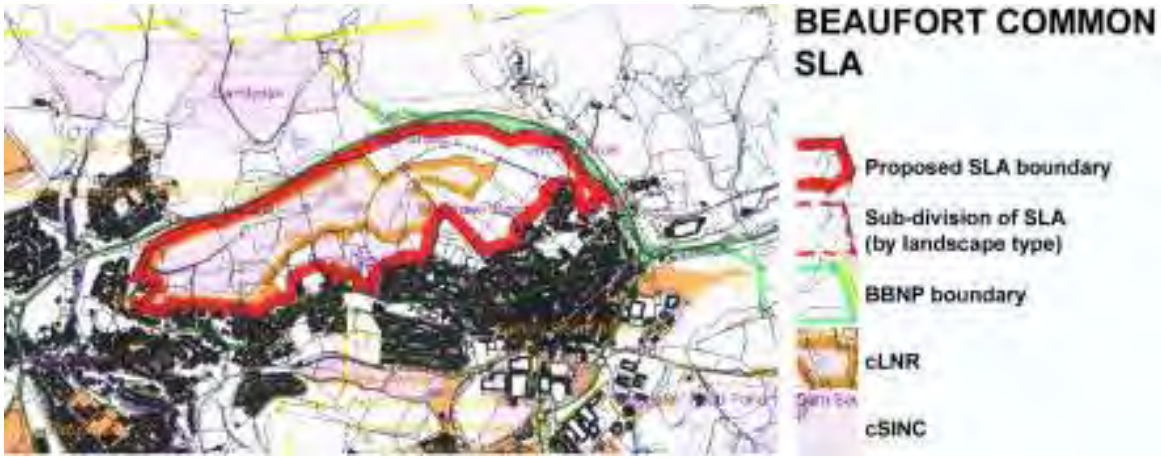
CEFN MANMOEL SLA
Proposed SLA boundary
Sub-division of SLA (by landscape type)
VILL (Caerphilly)
cLNR
cSINC
SIRHOWY SIDES
OPEN UPLAND RIDGE
EBBW FAWR SIDES
MANMOEL PLATEAU


EASTERN RIDGE & MYNYDD JAMES SLA
OPEN UPLAND
Proposed SLA boundary
cSINC

MYNYDD CARN-Y-CEFN & CEFN YR ARAIL SLA
NORTH SLOPES
OPEN UPLAND RIDGE
EBBW FACH VALLEY SIDES
EBBW FAWR VALLEY SIDES
SOUTHERN END
Proposed SLA boundary
Sub-division of SLA (by landscape type)
GWT reserve & SSSI
cLNR
cSINC


OPEN UPLAND RIDGE
CWM TYSSWG
SIRHOWY SIDES
Proposed SLA boundary
Sub-division of SLA (by landscape type)
Adjacent SLA (Caerphilly)
VILL (Caerphilly)
cSINC
cLNR
MYNYDD BEDWELLTY, RHYMNEY HILL & SIRHOWY SIDES SLA

TREFIL AND GARNLYDAN SURROUNDS SLA
Trefil Quarry
OPEN UPLAND
EASTERN PART
SIRHOWY VALLEY
Proposed SLA boundary
Sub-division of SLA (by landscape type)
Adjacent SLA (Caerphilly)
BBNP boundary
cSINC
Development site (LDP)


BEAUFORT COMMON SLA
Proposed SLA boundary
Sub-division of SLA (by landscape type)
BBNP boundary
cLNR
cSINC

D.7.5 Blaenau Gwent has a history of potentially contaminating land uses that may have introduced soil contamination to the area. The 2003 Contaminated Land Strategy Review identified 1607 potentially contaminated sites in Blaenau Gwent of which there were 51 High Risk sites (previous or current uses include gas works, landfill sites, petrol stations and military land); 880 Medium Risk sites; and 676 Low Risk Sites. Sites with a history of contaminative usage that have been remediated include the former British Coal Workshops at Tredegar and the Dunlop Semtex site at Brynmawr.

D.7.6 In Blaenau Gwent there are currently 30 installations regulated under the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations. A list of the processes can be found on the link below. Of these 23 are part B, 2 are A2 and 5 are A1.

Transport

D.7.7 The public rights of way network in the County Borough is 299.4km in length. 69% of this network is footpaths available solely to walkers, or carriageways mainly used a footpaths; Also, the distribution of the network is not even across the County Borough, and there are several factors arising from a lack of maintenance that have lead to restricted usability of this facility. Three factors identified that need improving are: more circular routes- signed and advertised as such; the need to link paths together- defragmentation; and more long distance routes.

D.7.8 In terms of travel distances to work, in Blaenau Gwent the majority of the population travels less than 5km commuting distance. 31% of the County Borough's population relies on the private car for their work journey, with only 6.6% of the population walking or cycling to work. In terms of car ownership, 45.1% of the resident population owns one car only, with 35.1% of Blaenau Gwent's residents neither owning nor having access to a car or van. In comparison to regional and national statistics, in general terms car ownership levels are considerably below average in Blaenau Gwent and a considerably greater proportion of the population is without access to a car.

D.7.9 Currently the nearest rail links are at the Valleys line station at Rhymney and West coast mainline at Abergavenny. Valleys lines provide access to and from Cardiff, which is linked with the Great Western line giving links eastward to London and westward to Swansea, Fishguard and the Republic of Ireland. Rhymney station has a good bus service (Route 20) to Tredegar including Parc Bryn Bach. Abergavenny Station links to the X3 service between Cardiff and Hereford via Pontypool and Cwmbran. The X4 service between Hereford and Cardiff via Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Merthyr and Pontypridd is available within a walking distance to the bus station.

D.7.10 The Ebbw Valley Railway Line, providing an hourly service to Cardiff Central, with six stations, is set to be re-opened to passenger transport in autumn 2007 for the first time since 1962. The stations will be located at Ebbw Vale Parkway, Llanhilleth, Newbridge, Crosskeys, Risca & Pontymister and Rogerstone on brownfield sites, of which only Ebbw Vale and Llanhilleth will be in the Blaenau Gwent County Borough area. Although these stations offer good interchange opportunities with local bus services, new bus routes are needed to connect more settlements, e.g. Tredegar, Brynmawr, Nantyglo and Blaina, with this railway line. National Cycle Network Route 47 crosses the line and runs south, parallel to the railway, from near Crosskeys Station. Cwmcarn Forest Drive, which has an off-road cycle route, is also accessible. The rail service from Abertillery to Newport and Cardiff is due to commence in the near future according to the Abertillery Urban Function Analysis.

D.7.11 The X15 and X16 bus links connect Brynmawr, Nantyglo, Blaina and Abertillery with Newport and Cardiff respectively. Other bus services include the X18 between Ebbw Vale and Newport, and the E3 and E4, both between Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, Abertillery and Brynmawr, and the 22 service between Ebbw Vale and Newport via Pontypool. These bus links provide a good level of service during weekdays and on Saturday, connecting the Blaenau Gwent major towns with the area. Conversely, Sunday service is limited and some lateral connections between valleys are poor.

D.7.12 The area's principal road system provides A-road access to the motorway network (the M4, M5 and M50) and combined with the A470 and A465 Heads of the Valley roads, connects the area with the South East, South West, Midlands and London. Dualling work is being carried out to improve the motorway access.

D.7.13 The nearest airports to Blaenau Gwent are Cardiff International, Bristol and Birmingham. Locals are largely reliant on private transport or car hire to access the airports, as public transport links are limited to the proposed rail link to Cardiff, which will connect with the onward rail link from Cardiff to the airport.

Table D.2 – Baseline Data Tables

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
PM_{10} Concentrations	Background concentrations 2004:15.9 µg/m^3 2005: 16 µg/m^3	South East 2004 - 17 µg/m^3 2005 - 17 µg/m^3		Overall PM_{10} concentrations predicted to decrease slightly within South East region by 2010		Air Climatic Factors Human Health	UK National Air Quality Archive (http://www.airquality.co.uk/) 'Air Quality in Wales', Welsh Air Quality Forum (2005)
NO_2 Concentrations	Background concentrations 2004: 10.1 µg/m^3 2005: 9.8 µg/m^3	South East 2004 - 12 µg/m^3 2005 - 12 µg/m^3		Overall NO_2 concentrations predicted to decrease in the South East region by 2010		Air Climatic Factors Human Health	UK National Air Quality Archive (http://www.airquality.co.uk/) 'Air Quality in Wales', Welsh Air Quality Forum (2005)
National Atmospheric	Benzene – 0.12	South East				Air	http://www.airquality.

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Emissions Inventory (NAEI) levels of key air pollutants (Benzene, 1,3-Butadiene, SO2)	-1.3 Butadiene – 0.02 SO2 – 5.42	Benzene – 0.114 -1.3 Butadiene – 0.28 SO2 – 13.224				Climatic Factors Human Health	co.uk/archive/laqm/laqm.php
Carbon Emissions (tonnes)	Industry & Commercial – 248 (54%) Domestic – 144 (31%) Road Transport – 71 (16%) Land Use Change - -5 (1%) Total - 457 Per Capita CO_2 (tonnes)- 6.5 Domestic per capita CO_2 (tonnes) – 2.0 Percentage of regional emissions total originating from Blaenau Gwent Industry & Commercial – 3.5% Domestic – 4.0% Road Transport – 2.3%	South East nd & Com – 7119 (52%) Domestic – 3628 (26%) Road Transport – 3023 (22%) Land Use Change - - 55 (0.4%) Total – 13,715 Per Capita CO_2 (tonnes)- 9.8 Domestic per capita CO_2 (tonnes) – 2.6 Wales Ind & Com - 16,539 (53%) Domestic – 7954 (25%) Road Transport - 7244 (23%) Land Use Change - - 433 (1.4%) Total – 31,303			The biggest contributors to CO_2 emissions in Blaenau Gwent are industrial and commercial (54%) and domestic (31%) sectors. The Wales averages for these sectors are 53% and 25% respectively. However the Percentage of the regional emissions total originating from Blaenau Gwent is only 3.5% for Industrial and Commercial and 4% for Domestic, meaning Blaenau Gwent is contributing very little to the total. The share of road transport related CO_2	Air Climatic Factors Human Health	Defra 2006: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/regionalrpt/laregionalco2rpt20061127.xls

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Per Capita CO_2 (tonnes)- 10.8 Domestic per capita CO_2 (tonnes) – 2.7			emissions in Blaenau Gwent is lower than the Wales average – 16% and 23% respectively. This suggests there may be a low car ownership rate. Blaenau Gwent onlt contributes 2.3% of the regional Total road transport carbon emissions. Domestic contributions are significantly higher in Blaenau Gwent: 31% compared to the South East and Wales (26% and 25% respectively). This may indicate that there is an above average proportion of energy inefficient housing.		
No. of conservation areas	At the moment there is one conservation area in BG - Bedwellty House and Park (the Park included in Cadw's	The South East Wales region includes a considerable number of designated		Number of designated sites under review and likely to increase.	Despite having a considerable number of sites of heritage	Cultural Heritage Landscap	The Ebbw Vale Works Environme

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales). Identification of areas worthy of conservation will be constantly under review. Possibilities include Garden City, Ebbw Vale, St. Michael's Church area in Abertillery, St. Illtyds Church area in Brynithel, Castle Street and the Circle, Tredegar. One more area is likely to be designated in the near future.	conservation areas and, in comparison; Blaenau Gwent has relatively little protection of areas of heritage interest.			interest, there is only one designation Conservation Area in the authority. This may result in development pressure eroding the character and value of heritage sites, which in turn may reduce the opportunities for tourism in the area.	e	ntal Statement 2007 BGCBC, personal communication with Heritage Officer, 23.04.2007
No. of Listed Buildings and proportion at risk	53 listed buildings with ten listed as Grade II* in recognition of their special historical and architectural importance. The buildings particularly at risk are: -British Steel Tinplate Works General Office - Former Boiler House at Dunlop Semtex Factory -Ebbw Vale Adult Education Centre -Stables and Barn at the Fountain Inn -The Fountain Inn -Milgatw -Agricultural Range at Milgatw	5475 in the South East region (c. 550 per LA area).		Without intervention, it is likely that the conditions of listed buildings will continue to deteriorate and an increased no. will enter the at risk register.	Nearly 20% of all the listed buildings in the area are at risk. Continuation of current trends would place these heritage assets at greater risk; however, the LDP provides an opportunity to improve this through regeneration and development that enhances the character of the surroundings and protects the buildings from further threat.	Cultural Heritage Landscape	http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/leisure/5931.asp Personal correspondence with the BGCBC Heritage Officer on 14.05.07 (new listed building - Aberbeeg Packhorse Bridge).

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	-Mount Pleasant Stores -Roundhouse at Roundhouse Farm (1863 AA SW) -Roundhouse at Roundhouse Farm (17086 AB NE) -Agricultural Range at Roundhouse Farm -Former Tredegar Company Shop						
Archaeological Sites	Bedwellty Park - included in Cadw's Register of 'Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales' *Scheduled ancient monuments:* - St Illtyd Castle Mound -Incline Haulage Winding Engine, Mynydd Bedwellty -Sirhowy Ironworks - Marine Colliery Pumping Engine -Clydach Railroad Section near Brynmawr -Clydach Coal Level -Tredegar Ironworks Cholera Cemetery - Y Domen Fawr Round Cairn and - Trefil Quarries North	Registered Parks and Historic Gardens - South East approx – 56			The South East has approximately 56 registered historic parks and Gardens: out of 10 authorities Blaenau Gwent only has 1 registration - this is a significantly low proportion. There is an opportunity to improve the Area of Blaenau Gwent for tourism and landscape values. The area has a number of scheduled ancient monuments that could provide a	Cultural Heritage Landscape	Blaenau Gwent UDP

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					basis for tourism.		
No. & area of designated sites for biodiversity	***SAC:*** **Usk Bat Sites** (one of the best areas in the United Kingdom for lesser horseshoe bat) , 1686.4 ha (partially in the BG area) European dry heaths, degraded raised bogs, blanket bog, calcareous rocky slopes, caves not open to the public, Tilio-Acerion forests and lesser horseshoe bats **Mynydd Llangatwg** Site condition by feature name: • Blanket bog (other ombrogenous mire) - Unfavourable – judgement (confidence in assessment - high) • Calcareous grassland - Unfavourable – judgement (medium) • Natural inland rock exposures, screes & upland ledges - Favourable – judgement (medium)		The Environment Strategy for Wales Action 32 seeks to achieve a favourable condition for all international, national and local designated sites by 2026. Resources are currently being allocated towards achieving this, for example through CCW's Special Sites project	The total number of SINCs is unknown. The first tranche of designations will include 60 SINCs. Subsequent tranches are planned, but it is unclear how many SINCs these will contain	The area has a limited number of designated sights some which protect important species. The lack of designation and the Current designations do not reflect the valuable resources in the area. However there are plans for 70 new designations which will add to the ability to protect valuable resources and add to potential for a tourism industry	Landscape Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	The Ebbw Vale Works Environmental Statement 2007 Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 2005-2009 BGCBC, personal communication with Biodiversity Officer, 20.04.2007 BGCBC LBAP 2002 SEWBReC, Biodiversity Information Search Results: Blaenau Gwent

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	• Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland - Unfavourable – judgement (medium) • Heathland - Unfavourable – measured (high) • Raised Bog - Unfavourable – measured (high) • Vascular Plant assemblage (with several individually qualifying species) - Unfavourable - judgement (medium but most species doing ok) • Bryophyte Assemblage (with individually qualifying species) - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Lichen Assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Lesser Horseshoe Bats - Favourable - judgement(medium) • Bat Assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Geology - Karst and Caves - Unknown • Geology - Karst and Caves- Unknown • Lesser Horseshoe Bats - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Lesser Horseshoe Bats - Favourable - judgement(medium)						Designations (Sustainability Appraisal LDP), 18/05/2007

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	• Lesser Horseshoe Bats - Favourable - judgement(medium) **Cwm Clydach Woodlands / Coedydd Cwm Clydach,** 28.81 ha (adjacent to plan area) Site condition by feature name: • Geology - Lower Carboniferous - Unfavourable – judgement (confidence in assessment - high) • Geology - Upper Carboniferous - Unfavourable – judgement (medium) • Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland - Favourable – measured (medium) • Vascular Plant assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Fungi Assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) ***SSSI:*** **Cwm Merddog Woodlands** – 23.54 ha Unfavourable condition, recovering **Brynmawr Sections** - (geological site), 4.36 ha:						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Unfavourable maintained Mynydd Llangatwg (Mynydd Llangattock) - 1,681.30 ha Site condition by feature name: • Blanket bog (other ombrogenous mire) - Unfavourable – judgement (confidence in assessment - high) • Calcareous grassland - Unfavourable – judgement (medium) • Natural inland rock exposures, screes & upland ledges - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland - Unfavourable – judgement (medium) • Heathland - Unfavourable – measured (high) • Raised Bog - Unfavourable – measured (high) • Vascular Plant assemblage (with several individually qualifying species) - Unfavourable - judgement (medium but most species doing ok) • Bryophyte Assemblage (with individually qualifying species) - Favourable – judgement (medium)						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	• Lichen Assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Lesser Horseshoe Bats - Favourable - judgement(medium) • Bat Assemblage - Favourable – judgement (medium) • Geology - Karst and Caves - Unknown ***WTR*** **Silent Valley** (SSSI CWM MERDDOG WOODLANDS) 45.70 ha ***National Parks***: The Brecon Beacons National Park ***Country Park*** Brynbach - 121.8249 ha ***NNR*** CWM CLYDACH - 24.26 ha ***LNRs*** • Silent Valley - 51.62 ha (includes Cwm Merddog and Coed Ty 'n y Gelli S.S.S.I.). Some of the reserve has been designated						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	a SSSI – for ancient semi natural Woodland; ***Candidate LNRs*** • Parc Nant-y-Waun - 20.51ha • Sirhowy Hill Woodland & Cardiff Pond - 81.55ha • Beaufort Hills - 81.61ha • Six Bells Colliery Site - 10.31 ha • Garden City - 43.29 ha • Roseheyworth Community Woodlands - 18.75 ha • Trevor Rowson Heritage Park- 9.3 ha • Cwmcellyn Pond - 4.03 ha • Cwmtillery Lakes - 9.88 ha • Parc Bryn Bach – 112.22 ha ***Potential SINCs*** • Mynydd Manmoel - 294.70ha • Rose Heyworth - 18.70ha • Swffryd-fach - 14.39ha • Coalbrookvale - 19.35ha • Bryn-Bach School - 0.56ha • Beaufort Hill Ponds & •						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Woodland - 63.07ha • Bryn Farm, Brynmawr - 19.31ha • Cefn Bach - 8.58ha • Garnlydan - 49.90ha • St. James Reservoir - 1.71ha • Parc Nant-y-Waun - 10.19ha • Six Bells Colliery Site - 10.28ha • Bourneville Slip, Blaina - 23.14ha • Waun y Pound - 17.9 ha • Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn-yr-Arail - 418.00ha • Mynydd Bedwellte - 09.30ha • Waen Rydd Pond Group - 0.19ha • Waun Pwll Dwr Pond Group -0.09ha • Twyn Blaenant Pond Group - 0.03ha • Ty Picca Pond Group - 0.03ha • Tir Watkin Pond Group - 0.18ha • Old Hafordian Pond & Woodland - 2.10ha • Ponds at West Monmoutshire Golf Course - 0.08 ha						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	• South of Troedygwair - 9.81 ha • Garn-Cam-Isaf - 8.03 ha • East of Penrhiwgwingi - 2.43 ha • Cwmcelyn East - 1.69 ha • Cwmcelyn West - 5.75 ha • North of Hendre Gwyndwr - 8.98 ha • Llanerch Padarn West - 6.70 ha • East of Gwastad Farm - 6.53 ha • Coed y Gilfach - 9.54 ha • Coed Argoed - 10.92 ha • Craig Syffryd - 9.84 ha • Sofrydd Wood - 5.04 ha • Sirhowy Hill Woodlands & Cardiff Pond - 83.27 ha • Cwmcelyn Pond -1.40 ha • Cwmtillery Pond -1.28 ha • Shon Sheffrey's Reservoir Banks - 4.38 ha • Waunlwyd - 12.32 ha • Sheepfold Grasslands - 12.36 ha • Tredegar Leisure Centre • Grasslands - 8.65 ha • Highlands Grassland - 3.31 ha • Lower Troedrhiwgwair -7.24						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	ha • Upper Troedrhiwgwair Grasslands -2.73 ha • Pine Tree House Grassland -0.69 ha • North Pen-y-Lan Grassland -0.47 ha • Tredegar Patch Grassland - 3.32 ha • Trefil Village Grassland (1 of 2) -4.61 ha • Trefil Village Grassland (2 of 2) - 1.42 ha • South Pen-y-Lan Grassland - 0.45 ha • Hirgan Fields Grassland - 21.87 ha • Fairview Field - 0.71 ha • Garn-ddu Meadow - 0.90 ha • Lower Farm Field - 1.12 ha • The Fountain Inn Meadows -4.31 ha • Chapel House Field- 4.12 ha • Bedwellty Pits Field -1.64 ha • Blaentillery Farm North - 10.84 ha • Blaentillery Farm South - 4.00 ha • Nine Arches Grassland - 5.53 ha • Milgatw Farm Grassland -						

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	10.71 ha • Coed Troestre - 3.64 ha • West of Blaentillery Farm, Cwmtillery - 3.74 ha • Cwm Big North, Aberbeeg - 5.46 ha • Coedcae Coch, Aberbeeg - 7.19 ha • Industrial Estate Grasslands - 3.72 ha • Darren Due - 0.00 ha • Llanerch Padern East - 2.12 ha • Mulfran, Mynydd Coity, • Mynydd James & Gwastad - 2056.00 ha • Greenmeadow Farm - 37.59 ha • Garden City - 43.33ha						
Population of species and areas of priority habitat	The Local Biodiversity Action Plan provides a framework for reversing the decline of Blaenau Gwent's wildlife resource and includes 14 Habitat Action Plans and 21 Species Action Plans *Species for which action plans have been prepared*: **Group Species** Amphibians Great Crested Newt (Triturus				*Current factors affecting the habitat and associated species:* The most important issue impacting on breeding lapwings and grey partridges is that of development	Landscape Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	http://biodiversitywales.org.uk/English/LocalToYou/area.aspx?id=18 http://www.ukbap.org.uk/lbap.aspx?ID=415 BGCBC LBAP

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	cristatus) Birds Skylark (Alauda arvensis) Grey Partridge (Perdix perdix) Butterflies Pearl-bordered Fritillary (Boloria euphrosyne) Mammals Brown Hare (Lepus europaeus) Otter (Lutra lutra) Pipistrelle Bat (Pipistrellus pipistrellus) Lesser Horseshoe Bat (Rhinolophus hipposideros) Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) Grey Partridge (Perdix perdix) **Priority Habitats:** **Upland Oakwood** Extent: Greater Gwent: Between 500-700 ha Blaenau Gwent: Unknown. More information is needed to fully assess the current status of the upland oak woodland resource in Blaenau Gwent.	Lapwing Current estimated Wales population = 700 pairs Grey Partridge: Current estimated Wales population = 200 - 500 pairs **Priority Habitats:** **- Upland oakwood -** National: Total area of UK Upland Oak woodlands is between 80,000- 110,000 hectares.	Lapwing: No further reduction in breeding numbers. A breeding success of 0.6 fledged young per pair per year (This is the adopted target for the WAG/Blaenau Gwent/RSPB Heads of the Valleys Lapwing Project) Grey Partridge: Halt decline and	Without intervention, it is likely that species will experience further dramatic declines and extinction in Blaenau Gwent	pressure **Upland Oakwood** • Overgrazing mostly by sheep and to a lesser extent rabbits leading to change in the woodland structure, ground flora impoverishment and lack of natural regeneration. • Lack of traditional management practices, such as coppicing, leading to neglect and a reduction in structural and age diversity. • Invasive species such as sycamore can lead to changes in the composition of the woods. • Climate change has potential to change vegetation		2002 WAG/BGCBC/RSPB

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Upland mixed Ashwoods Extent: Greater Gwent: Estimated as inexcess of 600 ha Blaenau Gwent: Unknown **Wet woodland** Greater Gwent: An area of approximately 200- 500 ha is present. Blaenau Gwent: Unknown. More information is needed to fully assess the current status of the wet woodland resource in Blaenau Gwent. **Lowland beech and yew woodland** Greater Gwent: 279 ha Blaenau Gwent: More information is needed on the extent and condition of surviving beech woodland resource in Blaenau Gwent. Beech and yew woodland has not been subject to extensive replanting although much of the woodland is a remnant of former larger stands especially in the west. **Purple moor-grass and**	Wales: An estimate of 39,000 ha, equivalent to 40% of the UK resource.- **- Upland mixed ashwoods** National: The total resource is uncertain, although it is estimated as 67,500 ha in the UK action plan Wales: An estimate of 17,000 ha, equivalent to 25% of the UK resource **Wet woodland** National: The estimated total area of UK wet woodland lies between 50,000 – 70,000 ha. Wales: The estimate for Wales lies between 5,000 – 7,000 ha, equivalent to 10% of the UK resource. **Lowland beech and yew woodland** National: A habitat limited to southern England and Wales	maintain and enhance range (Source : Blaenau Gwent LBAP) Selected targets: - **Upland oakwood** • Identify opportunities for further expansion of existing oak woodland, with a view of expanding it by 10% through planting or natural regeneration. • Encourage the establishment of a Nursery in the area, which uses stock of only local provenance. • Identify and designate appropriate woodlands as SINC's. (By 2003) **- Upland mixed ashwoods** Determine the		communities and atmospheric pollution to damage them. • Invasive bracken halts natural regeneration. **Upland Mixed Ashwoods** *Current factors affecting the habitat and associated species:* • Overgrazing leading to a lack of natural regeneration. • Cessation of traditional management practices, especially coppicing, has led to neglect. • Invasion by non-native species, such as sycamore, leading to changes in the species composition of the woods. • The		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	rush pasture Greater Gwent: Estimated at 420 ha from Phase 1 Survey (1990), approximately 0.75% of the UK resource. Blaenau Gwent: Unknown **Calcareous grassland** Greater Gwent: Unknown 52 ha, consisting of 44 hectares of unimproved habitat and 8 hectares of semi improved habitat recorded within the Phase 1 Habitat Survey of Gwent in 1995 (Westwood et al.). Blaenau Gwent: 4.73ha (estimate-there maybe some overlap between upland and lowland in this figure.) – upland; Unknown – lowland. The limited resource of calcareous grassland has been severely depleted in recent decades and many remaining areas are now fragmented, with many sites containing small pockets of habitat of less than 1 hectare. **Dwarf Shrub heath** Gwent: 340 ha. of Lowland Heath: 2460 ha. of upland heath	with an estimate total area of 30,000 hectares. Wales: An estimate of 3,000 ha, equivalent to 10% of the UK resource. **Purple moor-grass and rush pasture** National: 56,000 hectares Wales: 31,000 hectares **Calcareous grassland** National: 21,900ha - Upland; 33,333ha (estimate) - Lowland Wales: 800ha about 3.6% of the national resource – upland; 1,000 ha at least about 3% of the national resource – lowland. **Dwarf Shrub heath** UK and Ireland: The total area of lowland heath is 290,000 ha.	extent, distribution and condition of the resource over 1ha in BGCBC by 2003. • Identify opportunities for further expansion of existing ash woodland, with a view of expanding it by 15% of the known existing resource through planting or natural regeneration by 2006. • Identify and designate appropriate woodlands as SINC's by 2003. • Ensure the management plans and appropriate active management regimes are in place for all designated sites and other key sites by 2005.		replacement of the woodlands with conifers after felling. A continuing threat is that these woods remain as conifer plantations for a second rotation where the original ground flora remains intact. • Increased ecological isolation resulting from tree / hedgerow removal for agricultural practices. • Climate change has potential to change vegetation communities and atmospheric pollution to damage them. • Invasive bracken halts natural regeneration. **Wet Woodland** *Current factors affecting the*		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Blaenau Gwent: Unknown **Blanket bogs** Greater Gwent: An area of approximately 200- 500 ha is present. Blaenau Gwent: Unknown. More information is needed to fully assess the current status of this habitat in Blaenau Gwent. **Mesotrophic standing waters** Greater Gwent: 5 Candidate lakes are found in Gwent Blaenau Gwent: Approximately 10.9 ha **Ponds and temporary water** *Factors affecting this habitat and associated species:* Greater Gwent: Unknown Blaenau Gwent: Little is known about the extent of small ponds in the borough. • Agricultural in-filling has been responsible for the loss of many farmland ponds. • Industrial and residential development has led to the loss or compromising of urban	National: 58,000 ha of lowland heath - 20% of the world total: 2,112,000 ha. of upland heath Wales: 62,500 ha. **Blanket bogs** National: The estimated total area of UK blanket bog is 1,475,000 ha. Wales: The estimate for Wales lies between 5,000 – 7,000 ha, equivalent to 10% of the UK resource **Mesotrophic standing waters** National: Approximately 600 known or potentially known mesotrophic lakes have been identified as part of the UK Mesotrophic Lakes Inventory but further work is required to quantify the complete resource Wales: A list of 33 sites under consideration as	• Encourage the establishment of a Nursery in the area, which uses stock of only local provenance. **Wet woodland** • Determine the extent and distribution of the resource for all sites > 0.5 ha within BG by 2003. • Maintain current extent and improve condition of existing wet woodlands. Once the condition is known management can be targeted where required. • Identify suitable candidates for designation as SINC by 2003. • Ensure appropriate management regimes are in place for all key wet woodland		*habitat and associated species:* • Natural succession leading to development of drier woodland communities • Habitat loss through clearance and conversion to other land uses. In particular development along rivers or stream corridors. • Manmade and natural changes to the hydrological regime on which the woodland depends e.g. flood alleviation schemes and subsequent economic development, leading to development of drier woodland types • Lack of appropriate management e.g. coppicing and		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	fringe pools and ponds through in-filling and draining. • Land-fill schemes continue to threaten the remaining pond resource. • Competition for alternative land-use, e.g. development • Natural in-filling, from sediment and marsh vegetation. • Rubbish tipping. • Over fishing. • Pollution (including mine water seepage and historical chemical dumping) is an on-going problem on many sites. • Lack of management or inappropriate management threatens many sites. • Occasionally over-enthusiastic management can destroy marginal and shallow water features of biodiversity value. **Gardens** Greater Gwent: Unknown Blaenau Gwent: 25,411 gardens (maximum possible)	mesotrophic lakes has been established. Further information is required to confirm their status **Ponds and temporary water** National: There are 295,000 ponds in Britain. Wales: There are 4,500 ponds in Wales. **Gardens** National: At least 16 million (covering over a thousand square miles). (Readers Digest statistics). Wales: Unknown	sites, by 2006. • Ensure that there is no loss of the current resource. • Create a further 5-7 ha of wet woodland on an existing wet woodland site by 2010 in line with the Greater Gwent Biodiversity Action group objectives. • Encourage the establishment of a Nursery in the area, which uses stock of only local provenance. **Lowland beech and yew woodland** Determine the extent and condition of the beech woodland in Blaenau so that by 2003 all woods over 2 hectares within BG should have been surveyed.		inappropriate grazing etc. leading to lack of regeneration or changes in vegetation structure • Fragmentation of woods leading to increased likelihood of loss of wet wood component through development of drier woodland types • Lack of natural regeneration • Alder disease reduces Alder populations, thus changing the composition of alder woods. • Lack of financial support to encourage appropriate management • Invasion by introduced non native species such as Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan balsam which reduces quality		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			• Maintain current extent of beech woodlands. • Improve the condition of 100% of beech woodland within SSSI's by 2010. • Consider the establishment of a site or sites demonstrating good practice in both retention and management of existing beech woodland and the expansion of those woodlands by 2015. • Initiate colonisation or planting of 10% of the existing beech woodland, expanding on existing woodland sites by 2010 in line with the Greater Gwent Biodiversity Action Group objectives.		of individual woodland sites • Changes in the composition of lower plant communities as a result of atmospheric pollution and global warming. • Water pollution reducing the quality of individual sites • Difficulty with management due to poor access and boggy condition of site. **Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland** *Beech and yew woodland is affected by the following:* • Grey squirrels strip the bark from young trees resulting in the death of the trees and changes in age and species composition.		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			Purple moor-grass and rush pasture Define extent and condition of purple moor-grass and rush pasture by completion of the upland survey and other locations (by 2003). • Secure sympathetic management agreements and/or conservation status (SINC) for at least 25% of purple moor-grass and rush pasture in BG (by 2004). • Seek opportunities to create/recreate 5% of purple moor-grass and rush pasture in BG. (by 2006). **Calcareous grassland** • Arrest the depletion of unimproved		• Invasive woodland trees spreading into beech and yew woodland especially sycamore, Acer pseudoplatanus, rhododendron, Rhododendron ponticum and cherry laurel, Prunus laurocerasus. • The predominant old age structure of existing stands makes them prone to drought, storms and disease. • Grazing of the understory, particularly by sheep preventing natural regeneration. • Many owners of woodland lack expertise/interest or are unaware of the incentives available to correctly manage the woodland. • The loss of mature and dying trees will		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			lowland calcareous grassland throughout the UK. • Prepare and maintain a complete record of the habitat resource in BG by 2003. • Maintain the ecological characteristics of the existing BG resource of calcareous grassland habitat. • Secure appropriate management of calcareous grassland to favourable conservation status by 2010. • Identify sites which can be restored/re-created by an additional 10% of the total BG habitat resource, targeting those sites which are adjacent to or near to existing habitat (via land		have an adverse affect on priority species. • On steep sites some woodland are inaccessible making fencing operations difficult and a low priority. Many sites are unstable and subject to land slide. **Purple moor-grass and Rush Pasture** *Current factors affecting the habitat and associated species:* • Agricultural improvement through drainage, cultivation, reseeding and fertiliser applications. • Inappropriate management, including overgrazing by sheep and too frequent burning.		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			management and land purchases) where appropriate (e.g. Trefil Quarry). Minimum of 1ha by 2006. **Dwarf Shrub heath** • Define extent and condition of dwarf shrub heath by completion of the upland survey and other locations (by 2003). • Secure sympathetic management agreements and/or conservation status (SINC) for at least 25% of dwarf shrub heath in BG – by 2004 • Review existing and proposed tree planting schemes to ensure that dwarf shrub heath is not		• Agricultural abandonment, leading to rankness and scrub encroachment through lack of grazing. • Fragmentation and disturbance by developments such as housing, industry and road construction. • Afforestation. • Inappropriate land reclamation schemes where purple moor-grass and rush pasture is often viewed as 'wasteland'. • Limited applicability of agri-environment schemes such as Tir Gofal. Much purple moorgrass and rush pasture is found on commons where it is difficult, though not impossible, to apply Tir Gofal.		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			adversely affected – by 2002 • Recreate, adjacent to existing blocks of dwarf shrub heath, 5% of the total area by 2005. **Blanket bogs** • Define extent and condition of blanket bog by completion of the upland survey and other locations (by 2003). • Maintain current extent of blanket bogs • Consider the need to protect blanket bogs with Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) status (by 2003) • Create further blanket bog (5 Ha.) by constricting flows in existing mires		• Lack of up to date survey information. • Failure to digitise and analyse existing data. • Lack of awareness of purple moorgrass and rush pasture within the Local Authority, landowners and the public. **Calcareous Grassland** *Specific factors relating to the habitat decline include:* • Industrial and residential development (including sites which are currently proposed for development in Unitary Development Plans). • Agricultural 'improvements', including re-seeding and		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			by 2010 in line with the Greater Gwent Biodiversity Action Group objectives. • Enter into discussions with Commoners Associations to secure sympathetic grazing regimes. (by 2010) **Mesotrophic standing waters** • Define extent and condition of mesotrophic lakes (by 2003). • Maintain and improve the conservation interest of standing open waters • Create new standing open waters of maximum wildlife benefit where possible **Ponds and temporary water**		heavy applications of fertiliser and other chemicals. • Lack of appropriate management by over-grazing, under-grazing and cessation of grazing (which allows the onset of scrub for example) – a particular problem where the habitat is included in common land, where grazing levels can be difficult to influence/control. • Unsympathetic management of road verges and other man-made sites. • Fragmentation, isolation and disturbance of the habitat as a result of residential, industrial or road developments. • Grant aided woodland		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			• Define number and condition of ponds by survey (by 2004). • Maintain and improve the conservation interest of ponds. **Gardens** • Identify those species that are common or rare in BG gardens. (by 2004) • Increase biodiversity in suburban environments.		planting or commercial forestry. • Lack of biological information relating to the habitat and its associations with other habitats/species. • An incomplete inventory identifying the extent of the habitat within Blaenau Gwent – sites may exist which have not yet been identified. • Limited availability of agri-environment grants and in particular specific financial incentives for the management of lowland calcareous grassland. • Lack of awareness of the nature conservation significance of the habitat, and particularly on		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					the part of planning authorities, landowners/managers and national or local government bodies. **Dwarf Shrub Heath** *Factors affecting the habitat and associated species:* • Unsuitable grazing levels – too high or too low • Erosion from recreational vehicles, bicycles and walkers • Invasion by scrub and/or bracken • Heathland fires • Tree planting schemes shading out regenerating heather • Developments especially industrial units • Pipeline		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					developments predominantly gas pipelines • Emissions of nitrous oxide leading to artificial enrichment • Emissions leading to acid rain • Dwarf shrub heath is often on common land where achieving agreed grazing levels that harmonise nature conservation with agricultural land-use can sometimes be difficult •Fragmentation caused by the above factors **Blanket Bogs** *Factors affecting this habitat and associated species:* • Upland afforestation predominantly with coniferous		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					trees • Drainage of upland areas often to improve grazing • Changes in grazing pressure lead to increased disturbance to the habitat • Recreational pressure on uplands causing erosion on peatlands and disturbance to the habitat • Pipelines, Pylons and Windfarms leading to development and destruction of the habitat • Aerial pollution. The result of acid rain is to remove sphagnum from blanket bogs. • Lack of financial support to encourage appropriate management • Burning of moorland • Failure of Tir		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					Gofal to address moorland degradation by unsympathetic management. **Mesotrophic Standing Waters** *Factors affecting this habitat and associated species:* •Eutrophication caused primarily by nitrates or phosphates in sewage or fertiliser run-off. • Acidification may occur locally in areas with sensitive geology and soils, as a result of atmospheric deposition of pollutants. • The delicate balance of nutrients found within mesotrophic lakes means that their biological character is very sensitive to environmental		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					change. Pollution arising from organic matter, silt, heavy metals and thermal discharges represents a major threat to this habitat. Pollution in the form of nutrient enrichment (particularly Phosphorus) often results from contamination with sewage effluent, accidental spillages and run-off from adjacent land used for agriculture and forestry. Algal blooms are a common symptom of enrichment • Lowering of water levels caused by over abstraction of surface or ground water; or by drainage. • Urbanisation and in-filling of		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					ponds. • Inappropriate management on multiple use water bodies where activities (e.g. Recreation, fish farming) are not sensitively managed (e.g. by zoning), and where surrounding habitats are inappropriately managed or neglected. • Fish introduced for sport can also affect the delicate ecological balance of Mesotrophic lakes, through increased competition, release of nutrients and by introducing species such as microscopic crustaceans which play an important role in controlling algal populations. • Changes in surrounding land		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					use that alters the water table, change the pollution load, or degrade or remove valuable adjacent habitat. In particular soil erosion from neighbouring land can add nutrients and reduce water clarity. • Recreation. Water borne traffic can damage aquatic plants and cause a decline in the macrophyte communities, which may favour algal growth. **Gardens** *Factors affecting this habitat and associated species:* • Pesticides and fertilisers are detrimental to biodiversity. • Tidy gardens, where there is a lack of decaying		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					material left for micro-organisms and invertebrates. • Tarmac and patios decrease the natural resource available for wildlife to use. • Alternative land-use, usually in the form of developments that either reduce the size of gardens or totally swallow them. • Drainage of garden pools, ponds and boggy areas reduce habitats suitable for amphibians and aquatic species. • Felling of mature trees and shrubs near to houses reduces opportunities for birds, bats and insects. • Small gardens found in many new housing developments.		

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					• Non-native plants introduced may not favour local wildlife. • Domestic pets can be a threat to wildlife e.g. cats.		
Geodiversity	The main features of Blaenau Gwent are the deeply incised valleys of the Sirhowy, Ebbw Fach and Ebbw Fawr rivers, which flow in a southerly direction from the relatively high moorland plateau running across the northern extremity in an east to west direction. Much of the natural vegetation has been removed because of the industrialisation of the area. The landscape/geomorphology of the Blaenau Gwent area is controlled by Upper Palaeozoic, Upper Carboniferous rocks of the Productive Coal Formation (Lower-Middle Coal Measures) and overlying South Wales Pennant and Grovesend formations (Pennant Measures/Upper Coal Measures). 23 Aspect Areas have been described and recorded in LANDMAP Collector. Evaluations are based on the potential for research and			The geological landscape is relatively robust; in upland plateau areas where the Condition is generally Good. The Trend, where subject mainly to natural weathering and degradation – as across wide areas of the upland plateau - is considered relatively Constant. In coal mining areas, extraction has largely ceased, and reclaimed or made ground in the valleys has been developed. The condition in such areas is more generally Fair, but the trend remains Constant. Management priorities are long-	Coal mining was an important industry, and evidence of previous mining activity remains in the landscape in the form of spoil heaps, tips, mine shafts and areas of made ground. On valley slopes with ancient landslips, renewed instability has resulted from extraction of coal and ironstone.		http://landmap.ccw.gov.uk/files/BLNGWGL170904%5B1%5D.pdf http://www.wefo.cymru.gov.uk/resource/Blaenau_Gwent_Local_Strategy_2003.pdf

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	education as outlined for the Geological Conservation Review (GCR), where Outstanding evaluations are restricted to areas with prime geoconservation sites. Currently there are no RIGS sites listed, which typically include prime educational sites not covered by an SSSI designation. Of the 23 Aspect Areas, 26% are rated as Outstanding or High, 61% as Moderate (which is the default), and 13% low.			term, as is appropriate to a Level 3 study.			
Woodland cover	**Cwm Merddog Woodlands** SSSI near Cwm is a fine example of ancient semi natural woodland, notably beech woodlands at the western extremity of their range. It is a biological SSSI on the Silent Valley Local Nature Reserve. **ASNW/PAWS sites:** Site ID 2051 – ASNW, 1.95ha 2055 – ASNW, 1.13 ha 2082 – ASNW, 7.16 ha 2083 – ASNW, 4.43 ha 2102 – ASNW, 15.53 ha 2114 – ASNW, 12.17 ha		Increase woodland cover by 10% over the next 10 years		The plan to increase woodland cover will provide Blaenau Gwent with a more attractive environment and help to combat Air Quality issues.	Landscape Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	Blaenau Gwent Community Plan 2005-2009 SEWBReC, Biodiversity Information Search Results: Blaenau Gwent Designations (Sustainability Appraisal LDP), 18/05/200

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	2120 – ASNW, 3.05 ha 2131 – ASNW, 2.29 ha 2167 – ASNW, 4.26 ha 2175 – ASNW, 3.26 ha 2181 – PAWS, 12.10 ha 2182 – ASNW, 3.10 ha 2188 – PAWS, 82.72 ha 2209 – PAWS, 2.61 ha 2002 – ASNW, 8.62 ha 2199 – ASNW, 1.34 ha 2305 – ASNW, 1.46 ha						7
Land utilisation	Open Countryside - 45% Defined urban area - 23% Enclosed agricultural land – 20% Urban fringe – 9% Recreation sites – 3%				The area is predominantly Open countryside which may present development opportunity issues. The defined urban area is only 23% and this could mean that opportunities are concentrated and people living outside the urban areas may be at disadvantage with getting access to employment and	Landscape Material Assets	The Countryside and Landscape Strategy 1998

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					services. There is also only a small proportion of recreational sites at only 3%		
Contaminated Land	2003 Contaminated Strategy Review: 1607 potentially contaminated sites, of which: - High Risk (previous or current uses include gas works, landfill sites, petrol stations and military land) - 51 - Medium Risk - 880 - Low Risk - 676 Sites with a history of contaminative usage, which have been remediated: the former British Coal Workshops at Tredegar and the Dunlop Semtex site at Brynmawr.				There is a high proportion of contaminated sites which may present future development issues as they cost of remediation might put investors off. There are only two sites that have had a history of contamination and have been remediated.	Landscape Human Health Soil	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Contaminated Land Strategy, Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division
Water Quality (Biological and Chemical quality classified under the General Quality Assessment (GQA) scheme)	The main water courses in Blaenau Gwent are the rivers Clydach, Ebbw Fach , Ebbw Fawr and Sirhowy Chemical water quality 2003/05:	England & Wales Chemical water quality (percentage length) Good/Fair - 93.5 (2005)		Chemical water quality: Clydach at: • STW Disch.Pt-Conf.Trib.abv B.m'r Rndabt) – A (Very Good),			Environment Agency: River Quality

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Clydach at: • STW Disch.Pt-Conf.Trib.abv B.m'r Rndabt) – B (Good) Ebbw Fach at: • Afon Tyleri - Trib.Henwaun Coll.- B (Good) • Conf.Trib.Henwaun Coll-Conf.Nant Ystruth - B (Good) • Ebbw Fawr Conf. - Afon Tyleri – A (Very good) Ebbw Fawr at: • Conf.Ebbw Fach - Conf.Nant Big – A (Very good) • Conf.Nant Big - Conf.Nant Merddog – A (Very good) • Conf.Nant Kendon - Glandwr Bk. – A (Very Good) • Conf.Nant Merddog - Culvert Inlet – D (Fair) • Culvert Inlet - Rassau Bk. – B (Good) • Glandwr Bk. - Conf.Ebbw Fach – A (Very good) Sirhowy at: • Nant Melyn - Outlet Shon-Shefris Res. – A (Very good) • Nant Yr Helyg - Scotch Peter Trib. – A (Very good)	Poor/Bad - 6.5 (2005) Biological quality (percentage length) Good/Fair - 95.4(2005) Poor/Bad - 4.6 (2005)		2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001. Ebbw Fach at: • Afon Tyleri - Trib.Henwaun Coll.- B (Good), 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 •Conf.Trib.Henwaun Coll-Conf.Nant Ystruth - B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 • Ebbw Fawr Conf. - Afon Tyleri – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good),1999/2001 Ebbw Fawr at: • Conf.Ebbw Fach - Conf.Nant Big – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 • Conf.Nant Big - Conf.Nant Merddog – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good),			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	• Scotch Peter Trib.-Nant Melyn – E (Poor) Biological water quality: 2005: Clydach at: • STW Disch.Pt-Conf.Trib.abv B.m'r Rndabt) – B (Good) Ebbw Fawr at: • Glandwr Bk. - Conf.Ebbw Fach – C (Fairly good) Sirhowy at: • Nant Melyn - Outlet Shon-Shefris Res. – C (Fairly good), • Nant Yr Helyg - Scotch Peter Trib. - C (Fairly good), • Scotch Peter Trib.-Nant Melyn – D (Fair)			1999/2001 • Conf.Nant Kendon - Glandwr Bk. – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 •Conf.Nant Merddog - Culvert Inlet – E (Poor) , 2001/03 and C (Fairly good), 1999/2001 • Culvert Inlet - Rassau Bk. – C (Fairly good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 • Glandwr Bk. - Conf.Ebbw Fach – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 Sirhowy at: • Nant Melyn - Outlet Shon-Shefris Res. – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B (Good), 1999/2001 • Nant Yr Helyg - Scotch Peter Trib. – B (Good) , 2001/03 and B			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				(Good), 1999/2001 • Scotch Peter Trib.-Nant Melyn – C (Fairly good) , 2001/03 and D (Fair), 1999/2001 Biological water quality: Clydach at: • STW Disch.Pt-Conf.Trib.abv B.m'r Rndabt) – C (Fairly good), 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2002 Ebbw Fach at: • Afon Tyleri - Trib.Henwaun Coll.- B (Good), 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2003 and 2004 •Conf.Trib.Henwaun Coll-Conf.Nant Ystruth - B (Good) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2004 • Ebbw Fawr Conf. - Afon Tyleri – D (Fair) , 2000			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				Ebbw Fawr at: • Conf.Ebbw Fach - Conf.Nant Big – B (Good) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2004 • Conf.Nant Big - Conf.Nant Merddog – B (Good) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2004 • Conf.Nant Kendon - Glandwr Bk. – C (Fairly good) , 2000 and C (Fairly good) , 2003 •Conf.Nant Merddog - Culvert Inlet – C (Fairly good) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2004 • Culvert Inlet - Rassau Bk. – D (Fair) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2002, and C (Fairly good) , 2003 • Glandwr Bk. - Conf.Ebbw Fach – C (Fairly good) , 2000 Sirhowy at:			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				• Nant Melyn - Outlet Shon-Shefris Res. – C (Fairly good), 2000 and B (Good), 2002 • Nant Yr Helyg - Scotch Peter Trib. – C (Fairly good) , 2000 and B (Good), 2002 • Scotch Peter Trib.-Nant Melyn – E (Poor) , 2000 and C (Fairly good), 2002 England & Wales Chemical water quality (percentage length) Good/Fair - 91.9 (1999), 94.3 (2002), 93.5 (2005) Poor/Bad - 8.1 (1999), 5.7 (2002), 6.5 (2005) Biological quality			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				(percentage length) Good/Fair - 94.9 (2000), 95.3 (2003), 95.4(2005) Poor/Bad - 5.1 (2000), 4.7 (2003) 4.6 (2005)			
Renewable Energy (RE)	*[no information sourced to date]*		The WAG - 10% of electricity produced from renewable sources by 2010		There is a lack of information relating to the generation and use of renewable energy. This may be an indication that developments in this aspect of energy generation are in their formative stages.	Air Climatic Factors Human Health Soil Material Assets	
Energy Efficiency: Average SAP	*[no information sourced to date]*		Blaenau Gwent Energy Strategy - min 2% energy saving per annum shall be adopted over a three-year period and reviewed		The cumulative target set out in the energy strategy indicates that there is a need to focus on improving energy	Air Climatic Factors Material Assets Human	Blaenau Gwent Energy Strategy

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
			annually.		efficiency within the LA area.	Health	
Annual Energy Consumption (Gwh)	2003 Industry & Commercial – 841.1 Domestic – 780.3 Transport – 252.5	2003 South East Ind & Com -18,333.3 Domestic – 12,203.3 Transport – 24.921.4 Wales Ind & Com 56,294.9 Domestic – 29,554.7 Transport – 24,921.4			Blaenau Gwent's contribution as a percentage of the South East for industrial commercial is 4.6% and 6.4% and 1% for Domestic and Transport respectively. These figures may not be as significant because energy consumption activity is on a much smaller scale than other areas in the south East, which houses the Capital city and second City where energy consumption activity is on a much larger scale	Material Assets Climatic Factors	http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file19335.xls
Average Annual Gas Consumption (KWH)	2003 Average Domestic Consumption – 21,854	2003 South East Average Domestic Consumption -			The average domestic consumption for Blaenau Gwent is 21,854 Kwh, which is higher than the South	Material Assets Climatic Factors	http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file37898.xls

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	Average Industrial and Commercial Consumption – 458,411	19,632.4 Average Industrial and Commercial Consumption – 902,509.6 Wales Average Domestic Consumption - 19,092 Average Industrial and Commercial Consumption – 896,725			East average at 19,632.4 Kwh. This may potentially be a reflection of Blaenau Gwent's housing conditions - there is a considerable amount of public housing stock in the LA area that, due to its age, may be less energy efficient.		
Annual Road Fuel Consumption (Kwh) thousand tonnes	2002 Personal – 13.2 Freight – 6.4	2002 South East Average Personal – 52.9 Freight – 26.12 Wales Personal – 58.6 Freight – 28.1			Currently the fuel consumption is low in comparison with the south east and Wales, but if development is loaded into Blaenau Gwetn as a result of the LDP, it is likely to be siginifcantly altered.	Air Climatic Factors Material Assets	http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file30072.xls
Area of Open Country	*[awaiting data]*					Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		National Area: 996,573 Ha					Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Registered Common Land	*[awaiting data]*	South East: 5,261 Ha National Area: 115,283 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Public Forest	*[awaiting data]*	South East: 20,596 Ha National Area: 99,261 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Other Statutory Access Land	*[awaiting data]*	South East: 556,600Ha National Area: 612,098 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Country Parks	*[awaiting data]*	South East: 1,433 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		National Area: 3,854 Ha					Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Length of Public Rights of Way	299.4Km, comprising: Footpaths: 68% Bridleway: 18% CRB (carriageway mainly used as a Bridleway): 12% CRF (carriageway mainly used as a footpath): 1% BOAT (byway open to all traffic): 1%	South East: 5,744.1 Km National Area: 33,217.6 km		Only 5% of the network is surveyed on an annual basis.	The distribution of the different sorts of rights of way is uneven across the County Borough. The backlog of maintenance of rights of way means that the 68% of rights of way accessible to walkers is not so. The factors restricting access are: Overgrown	Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006 The Blaenau Gwent Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007 (draft)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Use of Public Rights of Way	25% of population use footpaths on a daily basis. Most walk less than 4 miles, some walk 15 miles or more.					Landscape, Human Health, Population, Air	The Blaenau Gwent Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007 (draft)

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Length of National Trail	0 Km.	South East: 19.5 Km National Area: 640.1 km				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of National Park	*[awaiting data]*	South East: 16,910 Ha National Area: 409721 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Historic Landscape	*[awaiting data]*	South East: 41,260 Ha National Area: 410,968 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0Ha.	South East: 11,713 Ha National Area: 83,576 Ha				Landscape	South East – Wales Spatial Plan Area Environmental Profile Draft October 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Travel to Work Method	2001 Train - 75 Bus -1,010 Taxi - 201 Car or Van – 15,507 Motorcycle/Scooter - 142 Bicycle - 146 Walking – 3,135	2001 South East Average Train – 1,106 Bus – 3775.7 Taxi – 281.2 Car/Van – 34,701.6 Motorcycle – 421.8 Bicycle – 784 Walking – 5891.6 Wales Average Train – 646.2 Bus – 2730.1 Taxi – 252.5 Car/Van – 31,169.1 Motorbike – 4,573 Bicycle – 707.4 Walking – 5,301.8		Overall in Wales the trend is towards increased trip rates, with an emphasis on increased road based transport.	There are significantly less people using public transport in Blaenau Gwent than the rest of the south east average. The main emphasis is around use of the car however this is still over 50% less than the average for the south East local authorities. Increased development may significantly alter these figures and place more pressure on the environment with increased car use as Blaenau Gwent does not have the infrastructure to cope with significant increases in road usage.	Air Climatic Factors Soil Human Health Landscape Water	http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk
Distance Travelled to Work	2001 Less 2Km – 6,059 2km – 5Km – 5,993	2001 South East Average Less 2Km – 11,809			People in Blaenau Gwent are travelling significantly less distances	Air Climatic Factors Soil	http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
	5Km -10 Km – 3,696 10km – 20Km – 4,059 20Km – 30Km – 1,684 30Km – 40Km - 646 40Km – 60Km - 325 60+ Km – 345	2km - 5Km – 11,938 5Km -10Km – 10,487 10km -20Km – 9,305 20Km -30Km – 3,603 30Km -40Km – 1,349 40Km -60Km - 325 60+ Km – 345 Wales Average Less 2Km – 11,232 2km -5Km – 9,765 5Km -10Km -9,568 10km-20Km -8,615 20Km -30Km -3,246 30Km -40Km -1,288 40Km -60Km - 939 60+ Km – 1,649			compared to the averages for the south east authorities as a whole. If access to a car is an issue it may be more difficult for people to travel so they are forced to find work in close proximity to their homes. If intense development was to occur around the borough, the distances travelled may significantly increase and may also encourage more people to commute into Blaenau Gwent, which is likely to have environmental consequences.	Human Health Landscape Water	
Road Accidents (Occupants Killed or Seriously Injured)	Jan 01 – Dec 01 - 15 Jan 02 – Dec 02 - 7 Jan 03 – Dec 03 - 15	South East Average Jan 01- Dec 01 - 32.2 Jan 02 -Dec 02 - 26.1 Jan 03 -Dec 03 - 33			The number of people killed or seriously injured in Blaenau Gwent is significantly lower than the averages for	Human Health Population	http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Wales Average Jan 01- Dec 01 - 43.1 Jan 02 -Dec 02 - 41 Jan 03 -Dec 03 - 42.4			South East Wales and Wales as a whole. However if as a result of the LDP there was intense development in the area, then Blaenau Gwent is unlikely to cope as well with increased traffic and these numbers may potentially significantly increase.		
Distance to Services (Miles)	*[no data sourced to date]*	South East **Cycle Path** <0.5 miles – 30% 0.5 – 1 miles -16% 1 – 2 miles - 7% 2 – 3 miles - 3% Over 3 miles - 6% Don't Know - 33% **Bus Stop** <0.5 miles - 87% 0.5 – 1 miles – 8% 1 – 2 miles - 1% 2 – 3 miles - 0% Over 3 miles – 0%					http://www.sewta.gov.uk/PDF/AnnualReport0506.pdf

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Don't Know – 0% **Railway station** <0.5 miles – 16% 0.5 - 1 miles – 20% 1 – 2 miles – 18% 2 – 3 miles – 13% Over 3 miles – 28% Don't Know – 2%					
Car Ownership	2001 All households – 29,585 No car or van – 10,393 (35.1%) 1 car or van – 13,351 (45.1%) 2 car or van – 4,784 (16.2%) 3 car or van – 826 (2.8%) 4+ - 231 (0.85%) Total Vehicles – 26,412	2001 South East All households – 571,600 No car or van – 163,138 (28.5%) 1 car or van – 257,031 (45.1%) 2 car or van – 123,957 (21.8%) 3 car or van – 21,763 (3.8%) 4+ 5,711 (1%) Total Vehicles – 555,856 Wales All households – 1,143,121			The percentage of people in Blaenau Gwent without access to a car or van is 35.1% - this is significantly higher than the south east and Welsh averages at 28.5% and 26% respectively. The public transport in Blaenau Gwent is relatively poor when considered at the regional scale and this, coupled with high numbers of people without car access, means that there may be	Population Human Health Air Climatic Factors	http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		No car or van – 297,665 (26%) 1 car or van – 520,040 (45.5)% 2 car or van – 262,068 (23%) 3 car or van – 49,111 (4.3%) 4+ 14,237 (1.2%) Total Vehicles – 1,254,628			difficulties in access to employment, potentially resulting in higher numbers of people in local lower skilled employment.		
Municipal Solid Waste Arisings (tonnes)	98/99 – 46,350 99/00 – 46,960 99/01 – 43,242 01/02 – 47,530 02/03 – 47,867 03/04 – 50,737 04/05 – 54,853	**South East Average** 98/99 – 70,422.2 99/00 – 69,942.4 99/01 – 71,067.4 01/02 –75,278.2 02/03 – 76,221.5 03/04 – 79,797.5 04/05 – 84,261.7			Blaenau Gwent is producing far less municipal solid waste than the south Wales authority average, however further development is likely to increase this number significantly	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006
Household Waste Arisings (tonnes)	98/99 – 36,415 99/00 – 37,209 99/01 – 35,886 01/02 – 38,142 02/03 – 35,586 03/04 – 38,402 04/05 – 44,578	**South East Average** 98/99 – 60,687.1 99/00 – 63,761.3 99/01 – 61,394.7 01/02 – 63,440.7 02/03 – 65,019.4 03/04 – 67,585.7		Direction of change is broadly towards an increase in household waste arisings.	The household waste arisings for Blaenau Gwent are significantly lower than the south east average. This is likely to be because Blaenau Gwent	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		04/05 – 70,012.1			is less densely populated than other authorities in the region so as a total for the county, produces relatively less than other authorities. However, increased housing development and improvements to existing housing stock are likely to significantly increase household waste.		
Household Waste Arisings (Per Household) (tonnes)	97/98 - DNA 98/99 – 1,321 99/00 – 1,258 99/01 – 1,213 01/02 – 1,289 02/03 – 1,169 03/04 – 1,298 04/05 – 1,507	**South East** 97/98 – 1,092 98/99 – 1,113 99/00 – 1,170 99/01 – 1,126 01/02 – 1,164 02/03 – 1.193 03/04 – 1,240 04/05 – 1,284	By 2009/10 Arisings should be no more than those (for Wales) in 1997/98		The household waste arisings per household since 1998 have been increasing more rapidly than the south east; in 1998 Blaenau Gwent showed 1,321 tonnes per household compared to 1,113 for the south east. Then in 2005 Blaenau Gwent was 1,507 compared to 1,284. Increased	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					housing development is likely to significantly increase these figures; Blaenau Gwent is not as capable of dealing with as high waste productions as other areas in the south east.		
Household Waste Arisings (Per Person) (tonnes)	98/99 – 511 99/00 – 524 99/01 – 509 01/02 – 545 02/03 – 499 03/04 – 557 04/05 – 648	**South East** 98/99 – 455 99/00 – 478 99/01 – 460 01/02 – 476 02/03 – 486 03/04 – 503 04/05 – 519	By 2020 waste arisings per person should be less than 300kg per annum		The waste arisings per person since 1998 in Blaenau Gwent have been increasing more rapidly than the south east; in 1998 Blaenau Gwent showed 511 tonnes per person compared to 455 for the south east. Then in 2005 Blaenau Gwent was 648 compared to 519. Improved hosing stock and development of affordable housing together with increased job opportunities is likely to	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
					increase to the population of the area and these numbers could significantly increase. Blaenau Gwent is also less equipped for dealing with high amounts of waste than other areas in the South East.		
Municipal Solid Waste Recycled or Composted (tonnes)	98/99 – 1,493 (3.2%) 99/00 – 1,476 (3.1%) 99/01 – 1,075 (2.5%) 01/02 – 1,401 (2.9%) 02/03 – 3,102 (6.5%) 03/04 – 9,389 (18.5%) 04/05 – 12,228 (22.3%)	**South East** **98/99** 30,912 (4.4%) **99/00** 37,654 (5.4%) **99/01** 33,253 (4.7%) **01/02** 48,372 (6.4%) **02/03** 82,137 (10.8%) **03/04** 137,074 (17.2%) **04/05** 174,729 (20.7%)		**Blaenau Gwent** ***2006/07 forecast*** 14,832 (25%) ***2009/10 forecast*** 26.695 (40%) **South East Wales** ***2006/07 forecast*** 227,844 (25%) ***2009/10 forecast*** 410,069 (40%)	Blaenau Gwent compares relatively well with recycling to the south east: in 2005 it was 22.5% compared to 20.7% from the south east. Significant development may see more issues related to recycling for Blaenau Gwent as the capacity to cope is less than other areas, which may see them fail to meet their future targets	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006
Land filled Biodegradable		**South East Average**		**Blaenau Gwent**	Blaenau Gwent is sending less	Soil	South East Wales

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Municipal Solid Waste (tonnes)	2002/03 – 27,891 2003/04 – 25,498	2002/03 – 41,774 2003/04 – 40,73.5 **Actual Tonnes** 2002/03 – 417,740 2003/04 – 407,335		***2009/10*** ***Landfill allowance-***20,224 ***Diversion Required***– 20,485 ***2012/13*** ***NWSW target -*** 10,221 ***Diversion Required –*** 35,572 **South East Wales** ***2009/10*** ***Landfill allowance-*** 315,024 ***Diversion Required***– 310,331 ***2012/13*** ***NWSW target -*** 203,667 ***Diversion Required –*** 499,772	biodegradable waste to landfill than the south east. Increased development may, however, have a significant impact on the current situation.	Human Health Air Climatic Factors	Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
Industrial and Commercial Waste by management method 2003/03 (tonnes)	Land Disposal – 17,422 Land Recovery - 257 Re-used – 4,006 Recycled – 18,729 Thermal - 827 Transfer - 2,485 Treatment – 922 Unrecorded/ Unsampled – 12.323 Total – 56,971	**South East Average** Land Disposal 31,164.4 Land Recovery 930.8 Re-used 27,982.3 Recycled 39,991,2 Thermal 2,260.1 Transfer 4,251.9 Treatment 2,733.6 Unrecorded/ Unsampled 22,303.7 Total 131,619.1 **Actual Tonnes** Land Disposal 311,644 Land Recovery 9,308		**Blaenau Gwent** ***Forecast arisings*** ***2008/09 –*** 54,650 ***2009/10 –*** 53,883 ***2010/11*** – 53,257 ***2011/12*** – 52,746 ***2012/13*** – 52,329 ***2013/14*** – 51,992 ***2014/15*** – 51723 ***2016/16*** – 51,457 ***Forecast requirement for diversion from landfill*** ***(2003/03 I&C to Landfill – 17,422)*** ***2009/10*** ***NWSW target*** 37,525 ***Diversion required*** 16,358	Blaenau Gwent is generating less industrial and commercial waste by all management methods than the south east. In order to meet the NWSW landfill in 2009/10 Blaenau Gwent is going to need to divert 16,358 tonnes. Blaenau Gwent's forecasting a predicted reduction in industrial and commercial waste arisings. Increased development could affect these figures	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
		Re-used 279,823 Recycled 399,912 Thermal 22,601 Transfer 42,519 Treatment 27,336 Unrecorded/ Unsampled 223,037 Total 1,316,191		**South East** ***Forecast arisings*** ***2008/09*** 1,186,843 ***2009/10*** 1,170,180 ***2010/11*** 1,156,582 ***2011/12*** 1,145,484 ***2012/13*** 1,136,440 ***2013/14*** 1,129,114 ***2014/15*** 1,123,273 ***2016/16*** 1,117,490 ***Forecast requirement for diversion from landfill*** ***(2003/03 I&C to Landfill – 311,644)*** ***2009/10*** ***NWSW target***			

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
				746,423 ***Diversion required*** 423,757			
Special Waste	1999 – 18,307 2000 – 17,528 2001 – 21,763 2002 – 9,525 2003 – 11,426	**South East Average** 1999 – 25,263.9 2000 – 19,027.6 2001 – 12,995.0 2002 – 10,667.4 2003 – 10,923.7 **Actual Tonnes** 1999 – 252,639 2000 – 190,276 2001 – 129,950 2002 – 106,674 2003 – 109,237	**Blaenau Gwent** **2010** – 14,022 **South East** **2010 –** 152,221	**South East** **2005 – 2015** Linear change from +5% towards -5% pa **2016 – 2025** -1% pa	In 2001 Blaenau Gwent was producing significantly more special waste (17,528) than the south east (12,995). In 2002 it cut that figure by half (9,525) and was under the south east average (10,667.4), but in 2003 it was slightly above again with 11,426 tonnes compared to 10,923.7. Dealing with special waste could become an issue for Blaenau Gwent.	Soil Human Health Air Climatic Factors	South East Wales Regional Waste Group, Annual Monitoring Report March 2006

Indicator	Quantified data (Blaenau Gwent)	Comparators (Quantified data for South Wales and Wales/England)	Targets	Trends	Issue identified	SEA topics	Source
IPPC Sites three separate tiers of regulation A1 These tend to be large and complex processes. Local Authority Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (LA-IPPC) - known as part A2 Installations. Local Authority Pollution Prevention and Control - (LAPPC) - known as part B Installations. These are regulated by Local Authorities and are the most common type of process regulated.	In Blaenau Gwent there are currently 30 installations regulated under the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations. A list of the processes can be found on the link below. Of these 23 are part B, 2 are A2 and 5 are A1						http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/community/1582.asp

Appendix E Strategic Options Assessment

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Table E.1 - Assessment of Options to achieve the 'vision' of the County Borough

Scale of Effect (SE): 0 – no effect; +++ strongly positive; ++ moderately positive; + slightly positive; --- strongly negative; -- moderately negative; - slightly negative; ? effect unknown

	Option 1: Regeneration (continuation of the Unitary Development Plan Strategy) ▪ population decline from the 2006 figure ▪ no new housing allocations (urban containment) and a house build rate of 117 per annum ▪ continuation of the existing employment allocations and strategy ▪ the main towns of Tredegar, Ebbw Vale, Brynmawr, Blaina and Abertillery would be the focus of shopping, commercial, cultural, social and leisure activity ▪ the main expansion of services in Ebbw Vale		**Option 2: Growth and Regeneration** ▪ stems out-migration leading to an increase in population to 71,000 ▪ a house build rate of 200 per annum ▪ emphasis of growth and regeneration in the Heads of Valleys and a regeneration focus in the south of the County Borough ▪ a new hierarchy of towns with Ebbw Vale becoming the regional centre, with Tredegar, Brynmawr and Abertillery becoming district shopping centres. Blaina would become a local shopping centre ▪ specific roles would be provided for town centres, which are currently in decline, in an attempt to encourage their growth. ▪ new employment opportunities to broaden offer This option is based around attempting to address the issues identified at the July 2007 (prioritisation of issues) workshop and is informed by National Guidance, particularly the Wales Spatial Plan and the Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Strategy.		**Option 3: Balanced and Interconnected Communities** ▪ stems out-migration and stabilises population at 2006 levels ▪ the house build rate would be 157 per annum ▪ the emphasis is to spread growth according to the share of population which means it would be allocated in the Ebbw Fach Valley ▪ equalise employment through de-allocating some employment sites in the north and relocating them County Borough wide, close to towns ▪ no retail hierarchy but the number of town centres in the County Borough would be reduced from five to four (Abertillery, Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale and Tredegar) by excluding Blaina ▪ new complementary roles for the town centres. This strategy attempts to address the issues identified and is based on ideology set out in the regional guidance document Turning Heads.	
SA Objective	**SE**	**Comments/Explanation**	**SE**	**Comments/Explanation**	**SE**	**Comments/Explanation**
Economic						
1. To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	--	The option will not lead to the diversification of the economy, as the strategy focuses on large inward investment projects, which are no longer appropriate in the current economic climate.	++	The option will promote economic growth and seeks to specifically diversify the economy through the development of the manufacturing, tourism, leisure and social care sectors.	+	The option seeks to de-allocate land identified for manufacturing and re-allocate sites closer to the main towns. It should be ensured that the sites are appropriate for the diversification of the economy. The towns are to be developed to provide tourism and leisure

						functions alongside retail and other services which will improve and enhance the diversification of the economy.
2. To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	--	The economic development strategy is unsuitable for the current economic climate, and this is unlikely to provide local employment opportunities.	+	The diversification of the economy is likely to lead to an increase in employment opportunities for local people. The location of sites near to the main towns may improve the distribution of opportunities. However, the focus on Ebbw Vale may lead to appropriate opportunities not being well distributed.	+	The allocation of sites for employment closer to the main towns in the area will improve the level and distribution of employment opportunities.
3. To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	--	There is no mention of strengthening the tourism offer through this option and thus this objective is unlikely to be achieved.	++	The option seeks to promote diversification of the economy, with one element being the tourism sector. This will help to further this objective.	++	The option seeks to develop tourism in the main towns.
4. To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	--	The option does not specify where the existing employment allocations are located, and thus the effect on the town centres in the plan area is difficult to determine. However, the current economic climate suggests that the option's strategy for economic growth is unlikely to be successful and this is unlikely to contribute to the town centre's vitality and viability	+	Employment allocations under this option are sought to be located close to the main towns in the plan area, as well as a new focus for retail and facilities to be location in various hubs. This will improve the focus and vitality and viability of these centres. The option seeks to identify sites for housing in the Heads of the Valleys area, and it should be ensured that these allocations are close to town centres.	+	Focusing development on the main towns will help to ensure their vitality and viability. It should be ensured and specified that housing is also provided in these locations.
Social						

5. To meet identified housing needs	--	An urban containment policy due to a continued loss of population under this option will reduce opportunities to meet housing needs in terms of different types and tenures of properties, as a sufficient supply of committed housing sites already have permission.	+	The option seeks to increase the population, and thus seeks to provide further housing to accommodate this desired growth. The option does not mention, however, the types and tenure of housing to be provided. It should be ensured that the provision of housing comprises a mix of types and tenures in accordance with predicted need, in order that people are attracted to the area as a place to live and sustainable, mixed, communities are created.	--	It is unclear how the area will require further housing growth when the aim is to stabilise the population at 2006 levels. This may result in a surplus supply of housing which is not considered a sustainable option.
6. To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	?	The option contains no information as to whether the current housing stock will be improved.	?	The option does not include mention of the need for improve the current housing stock.	?	The option does not include mention of the need for improve the current housing stock.
7. To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	--	An urban containment policy due to a continued loss of population under this option will reduce opportunities to deliver affordable housing.	++	The option provides an opportunity to deliver affordable housing, through the allocation of more sites for housing.	--	The small amount of housing provision is unlikely give rise to significant potential for affordable housing provision.
8. To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	-	As housing developments have already been granted permission, it is unlikely that planning agreements through such permissions will lead to the creation of new schools for these populations. Skills levels may improve through the use of existing facilities, although this is not specified in the option description.	++	The option does not specifically mention the need to improve educational attainment. However, the potential to increase the provision of educational facilities is increased through the release of sites for housing, through which educational sites may be provided through planning agreements. The diversification of employment may also lead to an increase in skills levels.	+	The option does not specifically mention the need to improve educational attainment. However, the potential to increase the provision of educational facilities is increased through the release of sites for housing, through which educational sites may be provided through planning agreements. This opportunity will be minimal however, due to the small number of allocated sites.
9. To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	--	An urban containment policy due to a continued loss of population under this option will reduce opportunities to deliver play space and other community facilities as planning permission has already been granted for housing development. It is unknown where these permissions are in relation to current facilities.	+	This option focuses service provision on the main centre of Ebbw Vale. District Centres seek to provide 'local services' although the types are not specified. The option will likely improve provision of services, especially in Ebbw Vale. It should be specified, however, that improved access to this area by public transport is necessary. The required uses for	- /+	The option seeks that the main towns will be the main service centres and thus may improve facilities and subsequent accessibility to services. However, the option should specify the need for improved accessibility to these centres by sustainable modes for people living outside of these areas. It should also be specified which services and facilities should be provided in

				the district centres should also be specified to ensure all sectors of the community have easy access to essential facilities.		each centre.
10. To promote community health, social care and well-being	--	An urban containment policy due to a continued loss of population under this option will reduce opportunities to deliver community facilities as planning permission has already been granted for housing development. It is unknown where these permissions are in relation to current facilities.	+	This option focuses health provision on the main centre of Ebbw Vale, in the form of a hospital. District Centres seek to provide 'local services' although the types are not specified. The required uses for the district centres should also be specified to ensure all sectors of the community have easy access to health facilities. The option should also promote walking and cycling facilities as a mode of transport to improve health through exercise and improved air quality, which can also contribute to a sense of wellbeing.	-/+	The option seeks that the main towns will be the main service centres and thus may improve facilities and subsequent accessibility to services. However, the option should specify the need for improved accessibility to these centres by sustainable modes for people living outside of these areas. It should also be specified which services and facilities should be provided in each centre, to include health facilities.
11. To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	--	As current permissions for the required housing provision under this option have already been granted, it is unlikely that the enforcement of measures such as those provided in 'Secured by Design' guidance and other ways to design out crime will be implemented.	++	The allocation of new areas for housing and employment give rise to the opportunity for enforcing principles to design out crime. This should be specified in the option.	+	The allocation of new areas for housing and employment give rise to the opportunity for enforcing principles to design out crime, although these opportunities will be minimal. This should be specified in the option.
12. To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	-	This option will result in a further loss of population in the plan area. Therefore it is unlikely that there will be sufficient population of local people to enable cultural enhancement facilities, such as more Welsh-speaking schools, in the County Borough.	+/-	Increasing the population may lead to an increase in the proporation of population unfamiliar with Welsh culture. This may lead to negative effects through diulation. However, an increase in population may help to reinforce the community and strengthen its identity in this valleys location. The provision of cultural facilities may be required through planning agreements as a result of housing developments.	+	Maintaining the population in the area helps to maintain a sense of community and may help to maintain the Welsh culture. The provision of cultural facilities may be required through planning agreements as a result of housing developments, although this potential is minimal.
Environmental						
13. To encourage modal shift from private	?	There is no detail within the option with regards to transportation. The	-/+	The focus of the development of services in Ebbw Vale may lead to an increase in travel	+	The need for this travel to be undertaken by sustainable modes should be specified. The

transport to sustainable transport		employment and housing sites that are already allocated are not demonstrated in terms of their location, so the feasibility of achieving this objective is uncertain.		from the wider area to reach this destination. The need for this travel to be undertaken by sustainable modes should be specified. The option should ensure that an appropriate range of facilities is provided in the district centres in order to improve accessibility and thus reduce the need to travel by private car.		option should ensure that an appropriate range of facilities is provided in the district centres are provided in order to improve accessibility and thus reduce the need to travel by private car.
14. To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	-/+	The option does not detail how biodiversity might be affected. However, the focus on large scale employment projects suggests that large areas of land are likely to be affected, which would be detrimental to biodiversity. However, the loss of population and thus reduction in house building may have a positive effect on biodiversity.	--	An increase in development is likely to lead to a loss of habitats, and thus the biodiversity in the area is likely to decrease. The option should seek to ensure that mitigation measures are in place to minimise this impact, such as the provision of green infrastructure and replacement habitats.	-	An increase in development is likely to lead to a loss of habitats, and thus the biodiversity in the area is likely to decrease. The option should seek to ensure that mitigation measures are in place to minimise this impact, such as the provision of green infrastructure and replacement habitats.
15. To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	-/+	The option seeks to strengthen the attraction and use of town centres, so is likely to encourage the enhancement of these areas, which are likely to include heritage assets. The development of large scale employment and housing sites may lead to the loss of heritage assets or be detrimental to the landscape which is an asset in itself as the areas' industrial and natural heritage.	-/+	The diversification of the economy to focus on tourism is likely to capitalise and thus enhance the heritage assets of the area. This, however, should be specified in the option to ensure that potential negative impacts from the development of housing and employment sites do not occur.	-/+	Developing tourism roles is likely to capitalise and thus enhance the heritage assets of the area. This, however, should be specified in the option to ensure that potential negative impacts from the development of housing and employment sites do not occur.
16. To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	-/+	The strategy to strengthen the attraction and use of the town centres is likely to lead to some re-use of previously developed land. However, the housing and employment site locations and sizes are not indicated. These may therefore be located in greenfield land, which would be contrary to this sustainability objective.	-	The option does not specifically refer to the need to reuse previously developed land as a priority over greenfield land. Business sites are sought to be located 'near' the main towns, which indicates that greenfield development may occur. The use of previously developed land should be prioritised where possible.	-	The option does not specifically refer to the need to reuse previously developed land as a priority over greenfield land. Business sites are sought to be located 'near' the main towns, which indicates that greenfield development may occur. The use of previously developed land should be prioritised where possible.
17. To conserve soil resources and their quality	-/+	The housing and employment site locations and sizes are not indicated. These may therefore be located on greenfield land, which may lead to a detrimental impact on soil resources.	-/+	The housing and employment site locations and sizes are not indicated. These may therefore be located on greenfield land, which may lead to a detrimental impact on soil resources. However, increased development	-/+	The housing and employment site locations and sizes are not indicated. These may therefore be located on greenfield land, which may lead to a detrimental impact on soil resources. However, increased development may also lead to the

		However, increased development may also lead to the remediation of previously contaminated land, which would be beneficial for soil quality.		may also lead to the remediation of previously contaminated land, which would be beneficial for soil quality.		remediation of previously contaminated land, which would be beneficial for soil quality.
18. To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	-	An increase in employment development on a large scale would likely lead to an increase in traffic and thus greenhouse gas emissions. However, this development may lead to the use of greenfield land, which may decrease carbon sequestration. Greenhouse gas emissions may be reduced through the predicted reduction in population which may lead to a decrease in traffic levels. However, as the housing allocations already have planning permission, there is little feasibility within the option to encourage house builders to build more sustainably, thus new housing is likely to contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, creating an overall increase.	--	An increase in development is likely to lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the buildings themselves, as well as the new traffic generated, and the loss of carbon sink capacity. The option should specify the need to minimise these impacts through reducing the need to travel through appropriate layouts and land uses, provision of green infrastructure, and the use of sustainable building techniques and materials.	-	An increase in development is likely to lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the buildings themselves, as well as the new traffic generated, and the loss of carbon sink capacity. The option should specify the need to minimise these impacts through reducing the need to travel through appropriate layouts and land uses, provision of green infrastructure, and the use of sustainable building techniques and materials.
19. To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	-/+	A reduction in population may lead to a decrease in waste generation. However, the strategy to promote large scale employment sites may increase waste levels. Additionally, planning obligations through housing permissions to ensure waste recycling facilities in dwellings are not possible through this option as all necessary housing development already has permission.	--	An increase in development will lead to an increase in the generation of waste. The option should seek to minimise this effect through allocating sites for waste management near to centres of population, as well as within buildings, to move waste up the hierarchy.	-	An increase in development will lead to an increase in the generation of waste. The option should seek to minimise this effect through allocating sites for waste management near to centres of population, as well as within buildings, to move waste up the hierarchy.
20. To maintain current air quality	?	A decline in population may lead to improved air quality locally, through a reduction in traffic levels. The option does not state, however, where housing allocations will be located in relation to	--	A substantial increase in population as well as increased employment development will lead to an increase in traffic. This could be minimised if alternative modes of transport were promoted, as well as the reduction in	-	Increasing development could lead to an increase in traffic. This could be minimised if alternative modes of transport were promoted, as well as the reduction in the need to travel through the provision of specified facilities in the

		employment uses. Therefore new traffic growth that will contribute to local air quality is unknown. Additionally, if the new employment is to comprise certain types of manufacturing, this may have a negative influence on air quality.		the need to travel through the provision of specified facilities in the district hubs to reduce the need to travel hence reduce air emissions. Development of the manufacturing sector may lead to negative implications for air quality. Planting schemes could also provide capacity for the absorption of pollutants.		district hubs to reduce the need to travel hence reduce air emissions.. Planting schemes could also provide capacity for the absorption of pollutants.
21. To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	--	New development is likely to lead to an increase in hard surfacing and a subsequent increase in surface water runoff, which may increase flood risk. The option should specify the need for SUDs as part of any new built development. No new built development should be permitted in the flood plain.	--	The option encourages an increase in development, which will is likely to lead to an increase in hard surfacing and a subsequent increase in surface water runoff, which may increase flood risk. The option should specify the need for SUDs as part of any new built development. No new built development should be permitted in the flood plain.	-	The option encourages an increase in development, which will is likely to lead to an increase in hard surfacing and a subsequent increase in surface water runoff, which may increase flood risk. The option should specify the need for SUDs as part of any new built development. No new built development should be permitted in the flood plain.
22. To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	The option does not mention the potential sourcing of materials for development and should specify that products and resources should have low embodied energy and be sourced sustainably.	?	The option does not mention the potential sourcing of materials for development and should specify that products and resources should have low embodied energy and be sourced sustainably.	?	The option does not mention the potential sourcing of materials for development and should specify that products and resources should have low embodied energy and be sourced sustainably.
23. To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	-	The option does not specify that energy efficient measures will be required through built development and thus, as housing permissions have already been granted, this is unlikely to be achieved.	+	Although the option doesn't specifically mention the need for energy efficiency and the generation of renewable energy, there is potential for the option to specify that this is the case for all new development in the County Borough.	+	Although the option doesn't specifically mention the need for energy efficiency and the generation of renewable energy, there is potential for the option to specify that this is the case for all new development in the County Borough.
24. To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	--	New development is likely to lead to an increase in hard surfacing and a subsequent increase in surface water runoff. This may lead to an increase in flooding which can lead to exceedences of drain capacity. Pollutants then may enter watercourses leading to a reduction in quality. SUDs should be specified as part	--	New development is likely to lead to an increase in hard surfacing and a subsequent increase in surface water runoff. This may lead to an increase in flooding which can lead to exceedences of drain capacity. Pollutants then may enter watercourses leading to a reduction in quality. SUDs should be specified as part of all new development. This	--	New development is likely to lead to an increase in hard surfacing and a subsequent increase in surface water runoff. This may lead to an increase in flooding which can lead to exceedences of drain capacity. Pollutants then may enter watercourses leading to a reduction in quality. SUDs should be specified as part of all new development. This could form part of a

		of all new development. This could form part of a green infrastructure network.		could form part of a green infrastructure network.		green infrastructure network.
25. Protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	-	An urban containment strategy may help to reduce pressure on the landscape through minimising built development. However, the current allocations for both housing and employment uses are not specified in terms of their location. The large scale nature of the employment allocations is likely to have a negative impact on the landscape. Design controls are not specified to reduce this effect.	--	The option does not specify the need to for development to be sensitive to the landscape character. Increased built development is likely to be detrimental to the landscape and thus the potential effects should be minimised through sensitive design.	-	The option does not specify the need to for development to be sensitive to the landscape character. Increased built development is likely to be detrimental to the landscape and thus the potential effects should be minimised through sensitive design.

Appendix F Strategic Policies Assessment (November 2008)

F.1 Strategic Policy Assessments

F.1.1 The individual detailed strategic policy assessments are included on the following pages. The same key applies to all of the assessments and is set out below. Table F.1 shows a summary of the results of the November 2008 assessment of the Strategic Policies.

Key

Terms

Cond	Baseline Condition
Sens	Baseline Sensitivity
Curr	Future
Ftre	Current
Mag	Magnitude
Scale	Geographic extent
T/P	Temporary/permanent
Cert	Certainty
ST	Short term
MT	Medium term
LT	Long term
Sm	Summary assessment

Effects

✓✓	Local	ST-MT	Temp	Low
✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med
-	Reg/Nat	MT-LT		High
?		ST		
×		MT		
××		LT		

Assessment

+++	Strongly positive
++	Moderately positive
+	Slightly positive
0	No effect
-	Slightly negative
--	Moderately negative
---	Strongly negative
+/-	Combination of positive and negative effects / neutral effect

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Figure F.1 - November 2008 Strategic Policies' Assessment

SA Objective		Preferred Policy														
		SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	+++	++	++	+++	+++	++	0	++	+	++	++	++	+	+	0
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	+++	++	++	+++	+++	++	0	+	0	0	+	++	+	+	0
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	++	0	+	++	0	+++	0	0	+	++	+	++	+	0	0
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	++	++	++	++	++	+++	++	+	+	++	++	++	+	0	0
5	To meet identified housing needs	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	-	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	0	+	0	0	0	0	+/-	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	0
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	++	0	0	0	++	++	0	0
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	++	+	+++	++	++	+	+	++	+	++	+++	++	+	0	+
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	++	+	++	++	+	++	0	+/-	++	+	++	++	0	-	-
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	-	++	0	0	+	0	0	0
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	+++	0	+++	+	+	0	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+++	+/-	0	+/-	0
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	+	+	0	+	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0	+	+	-	+/-
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	+/-	0	0	+/-	+/-	++	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0	++	0	-	+
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	+++	+	++	++	++	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0	+	-	0	+/-
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	++	+	+/-	0	++	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+	+	++	-	+
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	-	--	+	-	--	-	--	-	0	-	++	+/-	0	0	+

SA Objective		Preferred Policy														
		SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	SP6	SP7	SP8	SP9	SP10	SP11	SP12	SP13	SP14	SP15
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	-	-	0	--	--	-	--	--	+	-	0	0	0	0	++
20	To maintain current air quality	--	-	+	--	--	+/-	-	-	0	+/-	++	+/-	0	0	+/-
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	-	+	+/-	+	0	-	0	-
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	0	0	+/-	0	+/-	++	+/-	+/-	0	0	0	0	+	0	++
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	0	0	0	0	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	0	0	++	+/-	0	0	0
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	-	++	+/-	+	0	-	-	-
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	+	+	+/-	+	-	+	+/-	+/-	++	+/-	+	++	++	--	-

Table F.1 - Identification of the influence of the SA in the development of the Strategic Policies (November 2008- May 2010)

No.	Preferred Draft Strategic Policy	SA Recommendation (ISAR 2008)	Deposit Draft Strategic Policy (May 2010)	Evaluation Green: SA recommendations integrated into plan Red: SA recommendations not integrated to date.
General SA Recommendations				
	All	It is recommended that the policies refer to the Welsh Assembly Government objectives relating to sustainable design, flood risk and climate change, to ensure that their principles are interwoven. This is likely to have an effect on the focus of the strategy, enabling a more sustainable approach.	SP1: Supporting text identifies that the Ebbw Vale North site and 'The Works' will both meet higher than nationally required targets for design standards. Policy SP7 incorporates sustainable design principles. The requirements for all Council housing to be up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard is included in SP4.	SA recommendations integrated into plan.
	All	The document could usefully be restructured to begin with policies that will cover all development, followed by locationally specific policies. The specific policies should be accompanied by their justifications, rather that the supporting text being in a separate chapter. This may read: policy, reasoning, justification, for each policy.	The LDP is now structured in this way.	SA recommendations integrated into plan.
	New policy recommended	It is noted that the objectives in the strategy support the development of 'education levels and skills through supporting infrastructure development of the Learning Campus, new schools and integrated education services, including life-long learning' as well as to 'create an accessible network of open spaces and high quality leisure infrastructure to promote participation in sport and active recreation to improve health and well-being.' It is recommended that a policy within the document to improve education and skills or community facilities is included.	Education and skills development is now included in policy SP8. **SP9 Green and Healthy Communities** To create green and healthy communities the Council will: a. Protect and improve existing open space, sport and leisure facilities; b. Protect and enhance natural green spaces within the County Borough; c. Further develop activities and provision at Parc Bryn Bach; d. Support the development of the Valleys Regional Park; and b. Promote activity tourism in the Countryside.	SA recommendations integrated into plan.
	All	It is recommended that the document includes a glossary to determine the definitions of key terms used such as 'local character'.		Glossary not included- carry recommendation through to next stage.
	SP1,SP2, SP4 and SP7.	Policies SP1, SP2, SP4 and SP7 include a locationally specific focus. It should be highlighted in the strategy that these sites have been selected on the basis of sustainability criteria.	SP1: supporting text identifies that the strategy area has been identified as a key settlement in the Wales Spatial Plan. Site allocations are assessed in section 6, demonstrating the consideration of sustainable development principles.	SA recommendations integrated into plan.
Locational Strategy				

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Table F.2 – SA Assessment of SP1

SP1 - Heads of the Valleys Area – Growth and Regeneration

The Heads of the Valleys area will be the focus for the County Borough's spatial development. Ebbw Vale will accommodate the majority of new homes, jobs and services and will be promoted as the main hub for Blaenau Gwent. Tredegar and Brynmawr will be the focus for new development serving the growing needs of their respective communities. New development will be located within these centres or in locations highly accessible to them.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhance-ment
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	+++	+++	The establishment of a strong settlement hierarchy supported by a policy that reinforces the concept of directing mixed use development to the most accessible locations should convey considerable benefits in terms of economic growth and the attraction and retention of the workers needed to drive growth.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	+++	+++	The policy supports a high level of investment in growth and seeks to ensure that employment increases in key accessible settlements, distributed across three main locations. This should convey considerable benefits over time.	

3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	++	++	The policy supports the concept of developing a clear settlement hierarchy. This offers the potential to better support tourism development by providing clarity of investment foci - improvement of facilities to support the resident population should also improve the potential offer to people visiting the area.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	By focusing investment in key centres and siting new development in locations that are accessible to these key centres, the policy offers considerable potential to encourage greater town centre vitality, which underpins viability.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High		+	++	+++	++	The policy seeks to direct development to the most accessible locations, including the reinforcement and growth of key settlements through directing investment, which includes the co-locating of employment, homes and all associated facilities and services.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High		+	++	++	++	The policy seeks to direct development to a number of key settlements and locations that are accessible to them. This should help to foster a stronger sense of well-being through environmental enhancement and improved access to facilities and services necessary to deliver benefits against the objective.	

11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	The locational focus of the policy on the key settlements should help to improve the physical environment, which has been identified as a key factor in respect of crime - by delivering improvements to the physical environment and the accessibility of facilities and services, the policy offers the potential to deliver benefits against the objective.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	In seeking to direct development and investment towards key settlements, the policy offers the potential to strengthen the cohesiveness of the towns' offers, which could potentially deliver benefits in terms of encouraging a greater sense of local culture.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	+++	+++	By seeking to focus development on key settlements and locations highly accessible to them, the policy should underpin the aims of the objective.	

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+/-	+/-	+	By focusing development on key settlements and existing developed areas with good transportation links, the policy should help to safeguard connecting countryside from undue fragmentation; however, urban biodiversity value may be threatened by increased development densities and construction on brownfield sites. The Ebbw Vale Sustainable Development Framework includes the development of two major employment sites at Rhyd-y-Blew and Bryn Serth. These have been assessed by BGCBC. Although they contain SINC designations, comprehensive mitigation strategies are being developed to ensure that no significant effects to biodiversity are experienced.	

15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The majority of the heritage assets in the County Borough are within the existing settlements - there is a risk that increased development pressure may threaten certain sites; however, the policy approach will safeguard rural heritage from intrusive development.	There will be a need to ensure that urban development is undertaken in accordance with the Heritage Strategy.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-MT	Temp	High		+++	++	++	+++	The locational focus of the policy on the key settlements should encourage maximisation of the development potential within the existing urban envelope and safeguard against expansion into greenfield development, at least in the short to medium term and possibly into the longer term, which accords with the objective.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		++	++	++	++	Insofar as the policy seeks to direct development to the existing urban areas, it should be effective in safeguarding the quality of soil resources within the countryside and	

																	assist in maximising the development potential of available brownfield land, which may also involve the remediation of contaminated land, resulting in further benefits.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		×	Reg/Nat	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	-	--	-	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in sources of GHG emissions that are unlikely to be completely offset by the potential for a reduction in the need to travel and increased availability of public transport.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		×	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	-	--	-	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in waste arising from construction activity	Construction waste will need to be subject to sustainable management. There is a need to ensure that new development is associated with the

																	and, ultimately, operation upon completion. The opportunities for reuse and recycling are not addressed.	establishment of sustainable waste management opportunities.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		××	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	--	---	--	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in density of emissions sources that are unlikely to be completely offset by the potential for a reduction in the need to travel and increased availability of public transport.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		×	Local	LT	Perm	Low		0	-	-	-	The policy should result in an increase in development densities within the key settlements - these are not currently subject to high levels of flood risk; however, there will be an increase in impermeable	There will be a need to ensure that development is designed to be both flood resilient and reduce the risk of flooding,

																	surfacing that may have the potential to increase risk of localised flooding.	particularly arising from increased run off.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the means of construction. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	-	-	-	The policy should result in an increase in development densities within the key settlements - this will increase the potential for pollutants to enter the water system.	

25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	There is the potential for a slight benefit in the longer term insofar as the locational focus of development within existing settlements should safeguard against adverse effects on the quality and character of the landscape where openness is considered to be of particular importance.	

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Table F.3 – SA Assessment of SP2

SP2 - South of the Borough - Regeneration

The South of the Borough will see a focus on regeneration with appropriate forms of growth to serve local needs. Abertillery will be the focus of new development serving the needs of its respective communities.

SA Objective		Baseline		Trends			Effects						Assessment				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhance-ment
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Regeneration should, over the medium to longer term, be effective in improving local economic conditions and promoting growth within the south of the Borough to complement the focus on the north in other policies.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	In combination with other policies, balancing the focus of growth with a strong regeneration focus in the south of the Borough should help to increase local employment and secure a distribution of opportunities across the Borough.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

	Gwent, complementary to the regional offer																	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	High		+	+	++	++	The policy focuses on delivering regeneration within Abertillery - this should have significant localised benefits in terms of boosting the vitality and viability in this town.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	LT	Perm	Med		0	+	++	+	The wording of the policy is not specific; however, regeneration is assumed to include an element of residential development and there is an emphasis on meeting local needs - in this respect the policy has the potential to deliver localised benefits in the longer term.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	The policy focuses on delivering regeneration within Abertillery - this is assumed to include an element of improvements to existing built development thus the policy has the potential to deliver limited local benefits.	

7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no specific reference to education as part of regeneration. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	The policy refers to the regeneration of Abertillery for residents in the south of the Borough - this should deliver benefits to those communities accessible to the settlement; however, these will be localised in nature.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	+	+	There is no specific reference to health, social care and environmental enhancement (which contributes to well-being) within the policy; however, it is assumed that regeneration activities have the potential to deliver localised benefits over time.	

11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low		0	0	+	+	There is no specific reference to regeneration incorporating emphasis on tackling crime; however, there is evidence of causality between the physical environment and a heightened incidence and fear of crime thus it is considered that regeneration could deliver some benefits against the objective at the local level.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	Insofar as developing Abertillery as a community focus may strengthen the sense of community identity and pride, there is the potential for some localised benefits to arise against the objective.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy does not make specific reference to transport. Consequently there is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	The policy should make specific reference to the improvement of transportation as part of the regeneration activities linked to Abertillery.

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	LT	Temp	Low		0	0	+	+	The policy is considered too locationally specific to effect significant changes; however, in principle by focusing regeneration on an existing settlement there is the potential to safeguard rural biodiversity in the surrounding countryside from undue development pressure.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		-	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy is considered too locationally specific to effect significant changes. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development , where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	+	+	+	The concept of regeneration is assumed to imply that new development will be focused on maximising the potential of previously developed land and restricting growth to the existing urban envelope. The policy is focused exclusively on Abertillery thus any benefits will be localised.	

17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	+	+	+	Insofar as the policy seeks to direct development to an existing urban area, it should be effective in safeguarding the quality of soil resources within the surrounding countryside and assist in maximising the development potential of available brownfield land, which may also involve remediating contamination, resulting in further benefits. However, the effects will be highly localised.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		x	Reg/Nat	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	--	---	--	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in sources of GHG emissions that are unlikely to be completely offset by the potential for a reduction in the need to travel and increased availability of public transport. Effects are likely to be small scale due to the	

																exclusive focus of the policy on Abertillery.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in waste arising from construction activity and, ultimately, operation upon completion. The opportunities for reuse and recycling are not addressed. Effects are likely to be localised due to the exclusive focus of the policy on Abertillery.	Construction waste will need to be subject to sustainable management . There is a need to ensure that new development is associated with the establishme nt of sustainable waste management opportunities .
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	-	-	-	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in density of	

																	emissions sources that are unlikely to be completely offset by the potential for a reduction in the need to travel and increased availability of public transport. Effects will be localised due to the exclusive focus of the policy on Abertillery.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	-	-	The policy may result in an increase in impermeable surfacing that may have the potential to increase risk of localised flooding.	There will be a need to ensure that development is designed to be both flood resilient and reduce the risk of flooding, particularly arising from increased run off.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the means of construction. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development. There	

	generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough																is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Local	LT	Perm	Low		0	0	-	-	The policy should result in an increase in development densities within Abertillery - this may increase the potential for pollutants to enter the water system, although the effects are considered likely to be highly localised.	
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	There is the potential for a slight benefit in the longer term insofar as the locational focus of development on an existing settlement should safeguard against adverse effects on the quality and character of the surrounding landscape where openness is considered to be of particular importance.	

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Table F.4 – SA Assessment of SP3

SP3 - Creating a network of sustainable linked communities to spread regeneration benefits

The development and use of land throughout the County Borough will be determined by the need to ensure that all communities will have good access to Ebbw Vale. This will be achieved by ensuring that there is a network of hubs which have good public transport links with Ebbw Vale.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	An effective transport system is critical in supporting economic growth - the development of a connecting hub network centred on Ebbw Vale should support the objective.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	++	++	The establishment of connected hubs should assist in facilitating a more even distribution of opportunities across the County Borough.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	The policy is not directly linked to promoting tourism; however, the establishment of effective public transport links between networked communities will provide a good support for any tourism growth.	

4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Improved connections via public transport across the County Borough should help to underpin improved vitality in the towns, delivering increased benefits against the objective over time.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		++	+++	+++	+++	The aims of the policy directly align with those of the objective. Effects should be most marked in the medium to longer term as more development comes forward.	

	community																	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	++	++	++	Improved connections via public transport across the County Borough should help to enable a greater proportion of the population to access key services and facilities, as well as providing increased choices.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low		0	0	+	+	Insofar as ensuring that all communities have access to Ebbw Vale, which will offer the greatest range of services and facilities, there is the potential for the policy to deliver some indirect benefits against the objective.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low		0	0	+	+	The establishment of connected hubs should assist in fostering a greater sense of community and support cultural activities.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	+++	+++	The aims of the policy directly align with those of the objective. Effects should be most marked in the medium to longer term as more	

																	development comes forward.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	The policy supports the delivery of a cohesive public transport network across hub settlements and linked to Ebbw Vale - this will be an important element of enabling the maximisation of development potential within the existing urban envelope of settlements across the County Borough, which should deliver benefits against the objective.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to make an accurate prediction of effects.	

18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓	Reg/Nat	LT	Temp	Low		0	0	+	+	The policy has the potential to contribute to a reduction in transport related emissions through the provision of a connected network of public transport.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	LT	Temp	Low		0	0	+	+	The policy has the potential to contribute to a reduction in transport related emissions and subsequent improvement to localised air quality through the provision of a connected network of public transport.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to make an accurate prediction of effects.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to make an accurate prediction of effects.	The development of public transport infrastructure should include a specification

																		to use sustainably sourced products and resources.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to make an accurate prediction of effects.	The development of public transport infrastructure should include a specification to incorporate appropriate filtration in any drainage systems
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to make an accurate prediction of effects.	

Table F.5 – SA Assessment of SP4

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SP4 - Retail Hierarchy

Major retail, administrative and cultural developments will take place in the principal retail centre of Ebbw Vale. The District centres of Tredegar, Brynmawr and Abertillery will be protected and enhanced to improve vitality and viability and ensure they meet the needs of their districts. They will also develop new complementary roles based around historical, recreational and tourism potential. Local shopping centres will be protected and enhanced to provide facilities for local communities.

SA Objective		Baseline		Trends			Effects						Assessment				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High		++	++	+++	+++	Retail is a critical component of the economy and in seeking to protect and enhance the offer and complementary activities across the County Borough; the policy has considerable potential to deliver beneficial effects.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		++	++	+++	+++	The provision of increased retail development at centres across the County Borough, supported by complementary forms of development, can be a key source of increased local job opportunities at a range of levels.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	The policy supports the development of retail in conjunction with historical, recreational and tourism related development in key settlements across	

	to the regional offer																the County Borough, which should deliver benefits for tourism, particularly over the medium to longer term.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High		+	+	++	++	Retail provision and the complementary offer are key to attracting custom in town centres - an improvement to these for local and visitor needs across the County Borough should help to support the objective.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stabl e	Stabl e		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stabl e	Stabl e		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stabl e	Stabl e		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment,	Mod	Med	Stabl e	Stabl e		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	++	++	The policy makes reference to ensuring that complementary recreational and tourism activities are	

	health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community																developed in tandem with retail - this has the potential to deliver some localised benefits over time.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stabl e	Stabl e		✓	Local	LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	Insofar as the policy supports an increase in the range of facilities and services provided at the local level and for regional catchments (in the case of Ebbw Vale) there is the potential for some beneficial effects against the objective.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	There is evidence to suggest causality between criminal activity and a 'lack of things to do'. As such, in seeking to broaden the offer of all key centres in the County Borough, the policy offers the potential to deliver some benefits.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stabl e	Stabl e		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	In supporting additional retail, cultural and other complementary developments within the key settlements of the County Borough, the policy could work with others to support an enhanced cultural identity.	

13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stabl e	Stabl e		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	The policy seeks to bolster the range of facilities and services in key settlements across the County Borough - this will help to increase the appeal of destinations already served by public transport, which could have some benefits against the objective.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stabl e	Impr		?	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Temp	Med		+	+/-	+/-	+	By focusing development onto the existing settlements, the policy may assist in safeguarding against physical expansion of settlements, thus protecting against harmful effects to rural biodiversity. This may offset to some degree by demand for brownfield sites for regeneration.	Policies should include safeguards against adversely affecting the biodiversity resource.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		?	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the types of development proposed and their form, there is the potential for a range of effects in respect of urban heritage assets.	Policies should include safeguards against adversely affecting the heritage resource.

16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stabl e	Stabl e		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	In focusing retail and associated development on existing settlements, the policy should contribute to achieving the objective and delivering maximised development within the existing urban envelope.	Policies should include safeguards against adversely affecting the biodiversity resource.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stabl e	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stabl e	Impr		×	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High		-	--	--	-	The policy encourages increased levels of development, which will increase the sources of emissions of greenhouse gases as well as potentially encouraging an increase in trip generation. It is likely that in combination these will have adverse effects against the objective.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		--	--	--	--	The policy encourages increased levels of development, which is likely to increase waste generation from construction and subsequent operation. The policy	

																	does not reference waste management, thus effects are assumed to be potentially adverse.	
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stabl e	Stabl e		×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		--	--	--	--	The policy involves increase levels of development within the existing settlements - this is likely to increase emissions and development densities, both of which may result in localised degradation of air quality.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stabl e	Stabl e		×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	The policy may result in an increase in impermeable surfacing that may have the potential to increase risk of localised flooding.	There will be a need to ensure that development is designed to be both flood resilient and reduce the risk of flooding, particularly arising from increased run off.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location and type of development as opposed to the means of construction. There is therefore no clear interrelationship	

																	between the policy and the objective.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location and type of development. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		-	-	--	-	The policy should result in an increase in development densities within all key settlements - this may increase the potential for pollutants to enter the water system, although the effects are considered likely to be localised.	
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stabl e	Decl		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	There is the potential for a slight benefit in the longer term insofar as the locational focus of development on existing settlements should safeguard against adverse effects on the quality and character of the surrounding landscape where openness is considered to be of particular importance.	

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Table F.6 – SA Assessment of SP5

SP5 - Employment and Diversification of the Economy

The employment and economic development needs of Blaenau Gwent will be met by the identification of 100 ha of land for employment and business purposes during the plan period. The employment roles of major industrial areas will be identified to assist in the diversification of employment and support the specialisation of manufacturing. Mixed-use sites will be identified close to town centres to enhance town centre based employment in the service sector.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		++	++	+++	+++	The policy is directly aligned with the objective and should achieve significant benefits over the duration of the plan period.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		++	++	+++	+++	The policy is directly aligned with the objective and should achieve significant benefits over the duration of the plan period, particularly as the locational focus covers both existing business locations and new sites close to the key settlements.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	The development of mixed use sites close to town centres should serve to increase the catchment population for town centre facilities and services with the potential for beneficial effects against the objective over time.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	Diversification of the local employment and business opportunities should serve to increase the range and availability of opportunities for vocational and work-place based training and upskilling.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	The locational approach to employment and business development set out in the policy should assist in increasing the accessibility of employment opportunities, which supports the objective.	

10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	There is some evidence to suggest that worklessness and poor health can be linked - by increasing the range and availability of job opportunities locally, the policy offers the potential to deliver some benefits against the objective.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	There is evidence to suggest causality between criminal activity and a 'lack of things to do'. As such, in seeking to broaden the range and availability of employment opportunities in the County Borough, the policy offers the potential to deliver some benefits.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	The policy seeks to group employment in existing centres and adjacent to town centres - this increases the viability of utilising public transport and may convey benefits against the objective in the longer term.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		?	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Insofar as the policy seeks to deliver development predominantly in or adjacent to existing centres, the policy may help to minimise expansion into the countryside. However, benefits may be offset to some degree by biodiversity loss on	

																	brownfield sites.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is unlikely to be a direct relationship between the policy and the objective; however, this will be dependent upon the precise locations of development and as such, effects cannot be accurately predicted.	
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	The policy seeks to deliver increased employment development in existing locations, which should help to secure the re-use of brownfield sites in advance of greenfield.	There is a need to ensure that all new employment development is sited taking biodiversity considerations into account.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	High		+	+	++	++	In seeking to increase employment development in established industrial locations, it is considered likely that the policy will result in the remediation of contaminated land, which should convey benefits against the objective.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✗✗	Reg/ Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High		--	--	--	--	The delivery of the policy will involve substantial new development, which is likely to increase the sources of GHG emissions, both in terms of built development and transport	

																	movements.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		x x	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High		--	--	--	--	The development of 100 ha. of new employment land will result in considerable construction and potentially demolition wastes, as well as operational wastes. There is no reference to how this will be addressed in the policy.	New development should be subject to a sustainable waste management system.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		x x	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		--	--	--	--	The scale of development supported by the policy has the potential to give rise to increased emissions and localised degradation of air quality arising from a combination of built development, processes and transportation.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		x	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		-	-	--	-	There is a risk that the level of new development will introduce a sufficient increase in impermeable surfacing to result in an elevated risk of localised flooding arising from runoff.	All new development should be subject to feasibility testing for SuDS and systems incorporated if appropriate; and designed to be flood resilient.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and	?	?	?	?		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail for this to be accurately assessed.	

	resources																	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		?	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for the policy to make a contribution to this objective; however, no reference is made in the policy thus an accurate prediction of effects cannot be made.	Reference should be made to the need to integrate energy efficiency and renewable energy sourcing into proposals.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		-	-	--	-	There is the potential for development delivered under this policy to increase the risk of groundwater pollution from runoff.	Drainage systems should incorporate appropriate filtration to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		×	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	--	--	-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development, there is a risk that the policy could result in adverse effects through intrusion into the landscape.	

Table F.7 – SA Assessment of SP6

SP6 - Development of the Tourism and Leisure sectors

Foster sustainable tourism and leisure sectors which re-engage local communities with the natural and historic environment and boost the local economy.

SA Objective	*Baseline*	*Trends*		*Effects*		*Assessment*	Commentary	Mitigation

		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		/enhancement
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	There is the potential for the development of the tourism economy to deliver increased economic growth in a currently under-exploited market sector, delivering benefits against the objective.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	++	++	The development of the tourism market may offer some localised opportunities for employment, which are likely to be distributed across the County Borough.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High		++	+++	+++	+++	The policy is aligned with the objective and should deliver considerable benefits over the duration of the plan period.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	+++	+++	Focused investment in delivering tourism development across the County Borough should assist in supporting and, to some extent, catalysing investment to improve town centre vitality and viability.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

	housing stock																	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	There is the potential that development of the tourism economy may offer some localised opportunities for upskilling and vocational training.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	Development in the tourism industry should deliver benefits in terms of increased accessibility of leisure provision, which could deliver localised benefits against the objective.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	There is evidence to suggest causality between health and well-being and the environment - by improving the tourism and leisure opportunities, there is potential for the policy to deliver beneficial effects.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	Crime levels are sometimes attributed in part to a 'lack of things to do'. The policy, through delivering additional activities and recreational opportunities, may have a positive effect against the	

																	objective in some locations.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	Tourism activities often serve to generate a greater sense of identity and foster increased levels of cultural engagement, which could deliver beneficial effects against the objective.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is unlikely to be an inter-relationship between the policy and the objective.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	In promoting sustainable tourism and leisure, the policy offers opportunities to boost biodiversity, which could have localised benefits against the objective.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	The policy seeks to re-engage the local community with the historic environment and draw on heritage assets as a means of developing tourism - this should assist in delivering benefits against the objective.	
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to accurately predict effects against the objective - there is the potential for them to be mixed dependent upon the precise actions supported by the policy.	

	development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.																	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		?	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to accurately predict effects against the objective - there is the potential for them to be mixed dependent upon the precise actions supported by the policy.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		×	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High		-	-	--	-	Development of the tourism economy is likely to involve some built development and increased trip generation, both of which are likely to result in an increase in the sources of GHG emissions in the County Borough, with potentially adverse effects against the objective.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	It is likely that the development of the tourism economy will result in an increase in waste generation both during construction and operation.	Development should be subject to the application of a sustainable waste management system.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to accurately predict effects against the objective - there is the potential for them to be mixed dependent upon the precise actions supported by the policy.	

21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to accurately predict effects against the objective - there is the potential for them to be mixed dependent upon the precise actions supported by the policy.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-MT	Temp	Med		++	++	+	++	The policy promotes sustainable tourism development, which is assumed to include an emphasis on delivering sustainability through both design and construction. This has the potential to deliver benefits against the objective, which are likely to be more marked in the short to medium term when construction activities will be more prevalent.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	There is no specific reference made to this in the policy; however, the reference to sustainability suggests that there is the potential for the policy to be beneficial.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		?	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to accurately predict effects against the objective - there is the potential for them to be mixed dependent upon the precise actions supported by the policy.	

25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	The policy supports the development of sustainable tourism focused on the natural and historic environment, which is likely to convey some benefits against the objective.	

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Table F.8 – SA Assessment of SP7

SP7 - Housing Provision

Provision will be made for the development of 3,000 dwellings during the plan period; broken into the following Housing Market Areas
Sirhowy Valley 800
Ebbw Fawr 1,300
Ebbw Fach Upper 600
Ebbw Fach Lower 300
The Delivery of the houses will be back loaded recognising the step change required to reach the higher figures.
2006-2011 750
20011-2016 1,000
2016-2021 1,250

SA Objective		Baseline		Trends			Effects						Assessment				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	There is the potential for the delivery of additional residential development to support a greater catchment, which in turn could support increased town centre vitality and viability, particularly for Ebbw Vale and Tredegar. Effects likely to increase over time as more development comes forward.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+	++	++	++	The policy will ensure the delivery of additional housing, which should have benefits, although there is no specific reference made to the types of residential development that the policy is seeking to deliver.	There is a need to provide greater clarity regarding the range and variety of units to be delivered.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy is concerned solely with increasing the amount of housing and includes no details regarding refurbishment or tenure - there is insufficient detail to make an accurate assessment.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy is concerned solely with increasing the amount of housing and includes no details regarding refurbishment or tenure - there is insufficient detail to make an accurate assessment.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	Insofar as the policy seeks to direct new residential development to existing centres, there are likely to be some localised benefits in terms of improved co-locating of residential development and key services and facilities.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for the location of residential development to assist in encouraging the use of public transport; however, there is insufficient detail to be able to accurately predict effects.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for residential development to result in a range of biodiversity effects - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue -	

	and their settings																there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		××	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High		-	--	---	--	The policy will result in the delivery of 3000 new dwellings, which will also result in considerable trip generation, all of which will add to the sources of GHG emissions in the County Borough.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		--	--	--	--	The construction of new dwellings will result in considerable waste generation during and post-construction. There is no reference made to a sustainable approach to waste management.	There is a need to ensure that new development is supported by a requirement to adopt a sustainable

																		approach to waste management.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		××	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	--	--	-	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, there is a risk that local air quality will be degraded considerably.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		-	--	--	-	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, there is the potential for flood risk from runoff to be elevated considerably.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for residential development to make use of sustainably sourced products; however, this is not referenced in the policy and therefore it is not possible to accurately predict effects.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for residential development to make a considerable contribution to the objective; however, this is not referenced in the policy and therefore it is not possible to accurately predict effects.	

24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	The policy involves the delivery of 3000 new homes, which will introduce a substantial increase in impermeable surfacing across the County Borough - this presents an increase risk of pollutants entering the watercourse.	There is a need to ensure that new development is supported by drainage systems that incorporate appropriate filtration.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	

Table F.9 – SA Assessment of SP8

SP8 - Affordable Housing

Between 600 and 800 affordable new homes will be provided between 2006 and 2021.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low		+	+	++	++	The provision of affordable housing may help to improve economic growth and diversity through attracting a mix of people from different socio-economic groups to live and work in the area.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low		+	+	+	+	The provision of affordable housing may help to improve employment opportunities through attracting a mix of people	

	opportunities																from different socio-economic groups to live and work in the area, and subsequently, employers.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low		+	+	+	+	The provision of affordable housing may contribute to the vitality and viability of town centres, dependent on its location.	The policy should ensure that a mix of housing, to include a proportion of affordable housing, is provided in the town centres as a wider mix of uses, to improve the vitality and viability of these areas.
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+	--	--	-	The supporting text to the policy suggests that some affordable housing will be provided through sites that are 100% affordable housing. Although this may meet short term housing needs, the sites which are entirely affordable will not lead to the creation of a	Gypsy accommodation is dealt with under policy SP9.

																	mixed community, and thus are not considered to be sustainable.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		++	+/-	+/-	+	The policy's supporting text indicates that investment will be made in the Council's housing stock to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard. This only applies, however, to council housing stock which may mean that a large proportion of housing remains of a low quality.	Suggest that the improvements to council housing stock are included within the policy wording. The strategy should seek to ensure that refurbishments are undertaken using low carbon technologies. The policy should be widened to include requirements to improve existing non-council stock, especially rental properties and for those on low incomes.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	The policy will likely lead to the provision of affordable housing. The range is provided in order to provide flexibility in delivery.	

	housing																	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	The policy is likely to lead to the improvement in accessibility to homes for more sectors of the community.	The policy should seek to specify locations in order to ensure that affordable housing is located close to community facilities.
#	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	+/-	--	+/-	An improvement in the provision of affordable housing will likely improve community well-being. However, in the longer term, sites that are allocated for 100% affordable housing may suffer from social problems due to a lack of social mix.	The policy should ensure that a mix of housing, to include a proportion of affordable housing, is provided in the town centres as a wider mix of uses, to improve the vitality and viability of these areas.
#	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	--	--	-	In the longer term, sites that are allocated for 100% affordable housing may suffer from social problems due to a lack of social mix.	The policy should ensure that a mix of housing, to

																		include a proportion of affordable housing, is provided in the town centres as a wider mix of uses, to improve the vitality and viability of these areas.
#	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective	
#	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for the location of residential development to assist in encouraging the use of public transport; however, there is insufficient detail to be able to accurately predict effects.	
#	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for residential development to result in a range of biodiversity effects - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
#	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	

#	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
#	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
#	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		××	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High		-	--	--	-	The policy will result in the delivery of new dwellings, which will also result in increased trip generation, all of which will add to the sources of GHG emissions in the County Borough.	
#	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		--	--	--	--	The construction of new dwellings will result in considerable waste generation during and post-construction. There is no reference made to a sustainable approach to waste management.	There is a need to ensure that new development is supported by a requirement to adopt a sustainable approach to

																		waste management.
#	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		××	Local	MT -LT	Per m	Med		-	--	--	-	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, there is a risk that local air quality will be degraded.	
#	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		×	Local	ST-LT	Per m	Low		-	--	--	-	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, there is the potential for flood risk from run off to be elevated considerably.	
#	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Per m	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for residential development to make use of sustainably sourced products; however, this is not referenced in the policy and therefore it is not possible to accurately predict effects.	
#	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Per m	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for residential development to make a considerable contribution to the objective; however, this is not referenced in the policy and therefore it is not possible to accurately predict effects.	
#	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Per m	Med		-	-	-	-	The policy involves the delivery of new homes, which will introduce an increase in impermeable surfacing across the County Borough - this presents an increased risk of pollutants entering the watercourse.	There is a need to ensure that new development is supported by drainage systems that incorporate

																		appropriate filtration.
#	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	

Table F.10 – SA Assessment of SP9

SP9 - Gypsy Accommodation

6 pitches for unmet gypsy and traveller housing will be provided between 2006-2021

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		0	+	+	+	The provision of a permanent base for travelling communities offers the opportunity to foster integration with the local community and associated infrastructure, which could bring economic benefits through local use of services and facilities.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	+	+	There is the potential for a slight benefit in the longer term insofar as the identification of permanent sites could help to ensure that unregulated encampments do not adversely affect tourism aspirations.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	+	+	There is the potential for a slight benefit in the longer term depending upon the location of permanent sites, as communities may be encouraged to rely on town centre services and facilities.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	The provision of a permanent base for travelling communities is in direct response to an identified housing need - it is specialist in focus, but should deliver benefits in combination with other housing policies.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT -LT	Perm	Med		0	+	++	+	The provision of a permanent base for travelling communities will enable children within such communities to access mainstream permanent education, which could help to deliver benefits for this sector of the population.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT -LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	The provision of a permanent base for travelling communities will afford this sector of the population the opportunity to benefit from established community facilities. There may also be benefits in terms of well-being arising from the ability to make a permanent home.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	MT -LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Insofar as providing a permanent base for travelling communities will eliminate the need for travelling communities to source their own locations, which may result in trespassing and criminal damage, the policy has the potential to contribute to a reduction in this type of crime across the County Borough.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT -LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	There may be some minor benefits insofar as the establishment of permanent sites for travelling communities offers the potential for encouraging the use of public transport and ensuring that accessibility is a factor in determining the location of sites to be allocated for this use.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	Although there is the potential for unauthorised sites to damage biodiversity, this has not been identified as a key cause of concern in respect of biodiversity. Consequently, effects of formalising site locations are considered likely to be too minor to merit reflection against the objective.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		-						0	0	0	0	Although there is the potential for unauthorised sites to damage heritage assets dependent upon location, this has not been identified as a key cause of concern in respect of biodiversity. Consequently, effects of formalising site locations are considered likely to be too minor to merit reflection against the objective.	
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

	minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.																	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	Although there is the potential for unauthorised sites to damage soil resources, this has not been identified as a key cause of concern in respect of biodiversity. Consequently, effects of formalising site locations are considered likely to be too minor to merit reflection against the objective.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		✓	Local	MT -LT	Perm	Low		0	+	+	+	The provision of a permanent base for travelling communities will afford this sector of the population the opportunity to benefit from established community facilities. There may also be opportunities to ensure that formalised sites are served by mainstream waste management provision.	
20	To maintain current air	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the	

	quality																policy and the objective.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	+	+	+	The formalisation of sites offers the opportunity to ensure that flood risk and resilience to flooding form a consideration in determining the location of sites to be allocated for this use.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	The formalisation of sites offers the opportunity to ensure that sites are served by appropriate water supply and drainage facilities, which can deliver benefits against this objective.	
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High		+	+	++	++	There is the potential for a slight benefit in the longer term insofar as the identification of permanent sites could help to ensure that unregulated encampments do not adversely affect the quality and character of the landscape where openness	

																	is considered to be of particular importance.	

Table F.11 – SA Assessment of SP10

SP10 - Transport Infrastructure Improvements

The Council will support improvements to the existing transport infrastructure where they achieve at least one of the following criteria:
• Increase accessibility between the sub-regional and district/local hubs
• Increase accessibility of the strategic transport network
• Increase accessibility of services and facilities
• Reinforce the role and function of the hubs
• Reduce the need to travel by car

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	The availability of effective transport links is key to underpinning economic growth - delivery of infrastructure improvements should convey some benefits.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Tourism development is heavily reliant upon an effective transportation network - improvements arising from the policy	

	Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer																implementation should therefore convey some benefits.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	++	++	In order to ensure that towns are vital and viable, there is a need to have good accessibility - improvements to the latter should therefore convey benefits in response of the objective.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		++	+++	+++	+++	The policy seeks to achieve improved accessibility across Blaenau Gwent and is therefore directly aligned with the objective. Benefits should increase over time.	

	the community																	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT -LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Insofar as the policy may help to deliver improved accessibility to services and facilities, there is the potential for some localised benefits against the objective.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy addresses transport in a general sense and does not make a distinction between public and private transport modes - as such, there is the potential for the policy to support either, with the resultant effects potentially being mixed in respect of the objective.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		×	Sub-Reg	MT -LT	Perm	Low		+/-	+/-	-	+/-	Theoretically the policy in its current form would support significant new infrastructure development, which could have considerable adverse effects against the objective. However, there is insufficient detail to be accurate in such a prediction.	

15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development supported by the policy, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Insofar as improvements to transport infrastructure may assist in unlocking the development potential of sites, the policy has the potential to deliver a range of positive and negative effects, dependent upon location. There is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy in its current form could support considerable new infrastructure development projects and, as such, could have considerable adverse effects against the objective; however, there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict such effects.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		x	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High		-	--	--	-	The policy supports all types of transportation infrastructure development, which is likely t o support increased transport movements and therefore,	

	dioxide																GHG emissions.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		x	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		-	--	--	-	The policy is considered likely to support sizeable new infrastructure projects, which will result in considerable waste generation. No reference is made to how such wastes might be treated.	There is a need for policies involving substantial construction works to be supported by sustainable waste management systems.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		x	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy addresses transport in a general sense and does not make a distinction between public and private transport modes - as such, there is the potential for the policy to support either, with the resultant effects potentially being mixed in respect of the objective.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy in its current form could support considerable new infrastructure development projects and, as such, could have considerable adverse effects against the objective; however, there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict such effects.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

	products and resources																	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy in its current form could support considerable new infrastructure development projects and, as such, could have considerable adverse effects against the objective; however, there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict such effects.	
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		?	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy in its current form could support considerable new infrastructure development projects and, as such, could have considerable adverse effects against the objective; however, there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict such effects.	

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Table F.12 – SA Assessment of SP11

SP11 - Transport Requirements for new Development

Development proposals will be assessed in relation to:
• Car parking standards set out in the Council's Car Parking Strategy
• Promotion of public transport, walking and cycling
• Protection of the safety of the highway network
• Accessibility to all users
• Pedestrian safety

SA Objective		Baseline		Trends			Effects						Assessment				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT -LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	Locating development in areas accessible by a range of transport modes is likely to attract more investors, services and visitors, thus helping to stimulate economic activity.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓	Local	MT -LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Some indirect positive effects on employment levels are likely, insofar as the policy aims to enhance accessibility for all.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT -LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Tourism development may benefit from the improved accessibility by sustainable transport modes.	

4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT -LT	Per m	Med		++	++	++	++	In order to enhance town centres' vitality and viability, it is important to ensure good accessibility for all users and pedestrian safety. Therefore, this policy should deliver significant benefits against this objective.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Per m	High		++	+++	+++	+++	The policy is directly concerned with improving accessibility for all users as part of new development. Benefits should increase over time.	

10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	Insofar as the policy aims to protect the safety of the highway network, improve accessibility for all users and pedestrian safety, it should have positive effects on community health and social well-being and encourage social integration.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		++	++	+++	+++	The policy is directly concerned with promoting public transport, walking and cycling as part of new development. Benefits should increase over time.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	MT -LT	Perm	Med		0	+	+	+	The policy should help in decoupling transport growth from economic growth and reduce the levels of road transport, which may lead to some reduction in a polluted runoff in the longer term. Therefore, there is the potential for some indirect positive effects.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	The policy supports more sustainable transport modes, including public transport and non-motorised modes, which should help reduce transport related emissions, including GHG emissions.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	The policy supports more sustainable transport modes, including public transport and non-motorised modes, which should help reduce transport related emissions with benefits for local air quality.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	The policy promotes more sustainable transport modes, which is not likely to require large-scale new infrastructure development projects and, as such, may have some positive effects against this objective.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		✓✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Insofar as the policy promotes the use of sustainable transport modes, this will improve transport energy efficiency in the area and thus will deliver positive effects against this objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		0	+	+	+	The policy should help in decoupling transport growth from economic growth and reduce the levels of road transport, which may lead to some reduction in a polluted runoff in the longer term. Therefore, there is the potential for some indirect positive effects against this	

																	objective.	
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	The policy promotes more sustainable transport modes, which is not likely to require large-scale new infrastructure development projects and, as such, may have some positive effects against this objective.	

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Table F.13 – SA Assessment of SP12

SP12 - Planning Obligations

The Council will negotiate planning obligations where appropriate to secure improvements in infrastructure, facilities and services appropriate to the scale, type and location of the proposed development. These obligations may include the provision or improvement of the following:

- Affordable Housing
- Traffic, Transport and Highway Initiatives
- Education Facilities
- Community Development and Recreational Facilities
- Public Open Space
- Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Skills and Labour Market
- Community Safety
- Public Art

SA Objective		Baseline		Trends			Effects						Assessment				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Inclusion of provisions for skills and labour market in planning obligations for new developments should strengthen local economy by securing employment and training and developing new infrastructure to support new developments.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Insofar as planning obligations may include, where appropriate, provisions for skills and labour market, this may create local businesses opportunities and improve local employment levels.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Although this policy is not directly linked with tourism economy, the area's prospects of developing a strong tourism sector will	

	Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer																depend on the quality of its environment and infrastructure provision, which should be enhanced by the provisions of this policy.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓✓	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	Provision of supplementary facilities should make new developments more attractive, increasing their as well as town centres' viability and vitality.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Local	ST - MT	Perm	Med		++	++	+	++	As the policy will require the provision of affordable housing for appropriate size and type of the development, this will deliver positive effects against this objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓✓	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	As the policy will require the provision of education facilities and public art for appropriate size, location and type of the development, this should have positive effects on education and skills levels.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health,	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		++	++	+	++	As the policy requires the provision of education, recreation and other community facilities to be part of appropriate new developments it should help	

	homes and community services for all sectors of the community																improve accessibility to the key services.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓✓	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	As the policy will require the provision of community development and recreation facilities and public open space for appropriate size, location and type of the development, this should have positive effects on community health and well-being and encouraging cohesion and a sense of belonging.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT -LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	Insofar as the policy involves improvements of community safety, it should help promote interaction between residential and community cohesion by stipulating the provision for various facilities for different age groups. This should have positive effects on social behaviour, crime levels and fear of crime.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT -LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	As the policy stipulates the provision for educational and other facilities, this could complement other policies to support and enhance cultural identity.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Sub-Reg	ST -LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy includes the provision for transport initiatives in a general sense but it does not make a distinction between public and private transport modes - as such, there is the	The policy wording could be strengthened by putting a stronger emphasis on

																	potential for the policy to support either. This may lead to a range of both positive and negative effects.	the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure and services.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	As the policy will require biodiversity and geodiversity improvement schemes to be part of an appropriate development, this should have positive effects against this objective.	
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	++	++	++	Provision of public art as part of new development schemes has the potential to enhance the character and visual qualities of the area and improve the settings of heritage assets.	
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	As the policy will require biodiversity improvement schemes and the provision of public open space to be part of an appropriate development, this should ensure the efficient use of land and have positive effects against this objective.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	As the policy will require biodiversity improvement schemes and the provision of public open space to be part of an appropriate development, this should	

																	ensure the efficient use of land and have positive effects against this objective.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy includes the provision for transport initiatives in a general sense but it does not make a distinction between public and private transport modes - as such, there is the potential for the policy to support either. This may result in both increases and relative decreases in transport related emissions, and in particular GHG emissions, from different developments.	The policy wording could be strengthened by putting a stronger emphasis on the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure and services.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective, as planning obligations do not include the provision for recycling infrastructure.	
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy includes the provision for transport initiatives in a general sense but it does not make a distinction between public and private transport modes - as such, there is the potential for the policy to support either. This may result in both increases and relative decreases in transport related emissions, affecting local air quality.	The policy wording could be strengthened by putting a stronger emphasis on the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure and services.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability	Good	High	Stable	Stable		-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

	of all development to flooding																	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		?	Sub-Reg	ST -LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	It is not possible to accurately predict the policy effects on transport efficiency, as the support may be given to both public and private transport. Therefore, the potential effects are mixed in respect of the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		-	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		✓	Sub-Reg	MT -LT	Perm	Med		+	++	+	++	Positive effects on the quality of the local landscape and townscape are likely due to the requirements of biodiversity improvement schemes and the provision for public open space as well as public art to be part of appropriate new developments.	

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Table F.14 – SA Assessment of SP13

SP13 - Built and Natural Environment

The distinctive natural environment of the County Borough will be protected and enhanced. Appropriate development proposals should promote:
• High quality design that reinforces local character, enhances landscape settings, and respects the cultural and historic qualities of individual buildings, landscapes or Conservation Areas;
• Opportunities for the creation, conservation or restoration of designated sites of national and local nature conservation interests.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	The enhancement of the natural and built environment is likely to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus potentially attracting inward investment.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	The enhancement of the natural and built environment is likely to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus potentially attracting inward investment and subsequent employment opportunities.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	High quality built design and the protection of the natural environment may help to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus increasing the potential for visitors to the area.	

4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	ST -LT	Per m	Med		++	++	++	++	High quality built design and the protection of the natural environment may help to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus increasing the potential for visitors to the area as well as potential inward investment, which may enhance the vitality and viability of the town centres.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST -LT	Per m	Med		+	+	+	+	The policy may lead to an improvement in the housing stock of the County Borough.	The policy should specify what it considers to be 'appropriate' developmen t proposals, including new developmen t as well as changes to existing buildings, especially housing.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Indirect positive effects on public health and well being insofar as the policy should help enhance the quality of the environment and engender a greater sense of local identity.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	Indirect positive effects on crime levels and fear of crime are likely as application of high quality design principles may include designing out crime measures. Engendering a greater sense of local identity and belonging to the local community associated with this policy should also help deliver positive effects against this objective.	The policy should include the need to incorporate methods to design out crime, for example using Secured by Design principles.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	Design that reinforces local character and respects cultural and historic qualities of individual buildings and	

																	Conservation Areas has the potential to deliver a greater sense of identity.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST -LT	Perm	High		++	++	++	++	Significant beneficial effects, as the policy supports development proposals that promote opportunities for the creation, conservation or restoration of designated sites of national and local nature conservation interests.	The policy should also seek to protect sites of nature conservation interest that aren't protected by legislation.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST -LT	Perm	High		++	++	++	++	Significant beneficial effects, as the policy supports development proposals that respect the cultural and historic qualities of individual buildings, enhance landscape settings and local distinctiveness.	The policy should include the need to protect the built environment as well as the natural environment as part of its intention in the first line.

16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT -LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	High quality design that respects landscape settings and takes account of environmental constraints should help ensure that the best solutions are identified in order to maximise development potential, which should be beneficial against the objective. The enhancement of character may also encourage the re-use of existing buildings.	The re-use of existing buildings to enhance local character should be specified as a priority.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	MT -LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	High quality design that respects landscape settings and takes account of environmental constraints should help ensure that the best solutions are identified (in particular, brownfield sites potential is explored) in order to maximise development potential, which should be beneficial against the objective.	.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		×	Sub-Reg	ST -LT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	The policy does not include a requirement that new development should be designed in a way to minimise the increased risk of and from flooding.	The policy should include the need for high quality design to incorporate measure to minimise its affects on the natural environment, including SUDs.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		✓	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Assuming that enhancing of local character and, in particular, the appearance of individual historic buildings, may require the use of locally sourced materials, this policy should deliver positive effects against this objective.	The re-use of existing buildings to enhance local character should be specified as a priority as well as the use of locally sourced materials in new and existing development.

23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		0	0	0	0		The policy should include a requirement for development to adhere to sustainable design principles, such as the Code for Sustainable Homes or BREEAM, in order to maximise energy efficiency in the built environment.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Local	ST -LT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	The policy does not include a requirement that new development should be designed in a way to minimise increased surface water run off from new development, which can lead to contamination of surface and groundwater.	The policy should include the need for high quality design to incorporate measure to minimise its affects on the natural environment, including SUDs.

25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST -LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	High quality design that enhances landscape settings and Conservation Areas should result in significant beneficial effects against this objective.	

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Table F.15 – SA Assessment of SP14

SP14- Minerals

The Council will contribute to the regional demand for a continuous supply of minerals by:
• Safeguarding known reserves of coal, sand and gravel, limestone, high quality hard rock taking into account relevant environmental, planning and transportation considerations; and
• Maintaining a 10-year land-bank of permitted aggregate reserves in line with national guidance.

SA Objective		Baseline		Trends			Effects						Assessment				Commentary	Mitigation / enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Reg/Nat	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	The policy may help to maintain the minerals sector of the economy through the preservation of resources.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High		+	+	+	+	Safeguarding mineral resources and maintaining appropriate land banks should support existing and new minerals and minerals-related operations.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	The maintenance of mineral supplies is not likely to improve skills levels.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	

10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		-	-	-	-	Negative effects may occur due to mineral operations' potential impacts on amenity.	
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	There is the potential for some indirect benefits insofar as safeguarding local mineral resources could help maintain local character and distinctiveness of the built environment if the materials are used for this purpose.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy may deliver some positive effects against this objective, as transportation considerations will inform safeguarding of mineral resources.	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more detailed transport policy, supporting sustainable

																However, the continued supply of mineral resources may lead to an overall increase in traffic.	transport such as rail, as part of the Minerals policy.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		-	-	-	-	The Policy may result in some indirect negative effects against this objective, as minerals' operations indirectly supported by this Policy may impact on the local biodiversity. These effects may be minimised or mitigated by taking environmental considerations into account.	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of more detailed policies to protect sites of ecological value and to explore opportunities for biodiversity enhancement during restoration and aftercare, as part of the Minerals policy.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		-	-	-	-	The Policy may result in some indirect negative effects against this objective, as minerals' operations indirectly supported by	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more detailed policy, protecting heritage

																	this Policy may impact on the settings of local heritage assets.	assets and their settings.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low		-	-	-	-	The extraction of minerals may lead to a loss of high quality soils.	The policy should ensure that soil resources are preserved wherever possible.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
20	To maintain current air	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear	

	quality																interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med		-	-	-	-	The Policy may have indirect negative effects against this objective, as mineral operations may affect the quality of local surface and groundwater.	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more detailed policy to control effects on water quality.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		××	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		--	--	--	--	The Policy may have indirect negative effects against this objective, as it supports	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more

																mineral operations, which may impact on the quality of local landscape.	detailed policy to control landscape effects.

Table F.16 – SA Assessment of SP15

SP15 - Waste

The Council will implement a sustainable, integrated approach to waste management, which minimises the production of waste and its impact on the environment, and maximises the use of unavoidable waste as a resource. To assist this aim the following land-use commitments are made:

• All allocated and protected class B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites are designated as potentially suitable locations for new waste management facilities, which provides substantial choice in meeting the estimated land requirement of between 1.4 and 4 ha.

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*						*Assessment*				Commentary	Mitigation/ enhancement
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert		ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship	

	centres																between the policy and the objective.	
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Adequate provision of sustainable waste management facilities may improve accessibility for the local community for household waste recycling.	The policy should ensure that waste management facilities, such as those for recycling, are accessible to all members of the public, to enable the increased recycling of waste.

10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable		×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low		-	-	-	-	The location of waste management facilities close to residential areas may affect residential amenity and the quality of the environment and may have potential to affect human health. Potential effects will be dependent on the nature of the facilities.	The policy should ensure that facilities that may generate harmful emissions are located at an appropriate distance from residential properties and their potential effects are carefully assessed and mitigated. On the other hand, facilities for the collection of materials for recycling should be located within accessible distances to enable their increased use.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the	

																	policy and the objective.	
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Securing of allocations for new waste managements facilities at B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites should help avoid additional land take and negative effects on the local biodiversity in some cases. However, brownfield sites may provide valuable biodiversity habitat, and should be surveyed before use, with mitigation implemented where necessary.	

15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low		+	+	+	+	Securing of allocations for new waste managements facilities at B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites should help avoid additional land take and potential negative effects on the settings of the local heritage assets.	
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Securing of allocations for new waste managements facilities at protected B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites will ensure the best use of previously developed land and will help avoid additional land take. Brownfield sites may provide valuable biodiversity habitat, and should be surveyed	

																	before use, with mitigation implemented where necessary.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Securing of allocations for new waste managements facilities at protected B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites may ensure the best use of brownfield sites and protection of land of high agricultural value.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr		✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+	+	+	+	Adequate provision of sustainable waste management facilities may help to rationalise waste transportation and reduce associated transport emissions. Minimisation of waste production	

																should also help minimise landfill GHGs, i.e. emissions of methane, which have high global warming potential.	
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	+	++	The policy may further the implementation of waste hierarchy principles through adequate provision of sustainable waste management facilities. However, the success of the policy may depend on the location of the waste management facilities as well as their nature.	The policy should specify the types and locations of waste management facilities to be provided. The policy should also specify that all new development should implement measures to ensure that the waste management hierarchy is implemented.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Expected rationalisation of waste transportation should have positive effects on the local air quality. Incineration facilities may have negative	The policy should ensure that potential effects of facilities that may generate harmful emissions are carefully assessed and

																	effects on the local air quality but these are not likely to be significant due to the existing strict regulations.	mitigated.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable		✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	An increase in the development of land may lead to an increase in hard surfacing and thus increase the risk of flooding.	
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?		✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med		++	++	++	++	The policy promotes the use of unavoidable waste as a secondary resource which should deliver benefits against this objective.	
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?		-						0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.	
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr		×	Sub-Reg	ST-MT	Temp	Med		-	-	-	-	Increase in numbers of waste management facilities may have potential	The policy should ensure that potential effects of facilities on ground water

																for ground water pollution.	quality are carefully assessed and mitigated and that there is a provision for monitoring of soil and groundwater quality at waste management sites.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl		×	Local	ST-MT	Perm	Med		-	-	-	-	Landscape effects are likely to be minimal, as new waste management facilities will be located at B2 industrial sites and existing waste management facilities.	The policy should ensure that potential effects of landscape quality are carefully assessed and mitigated.

Appendix G Strategic Site Assessments

G.1 Site Proformas

Table G.1 – Environmental Health Form

ARE THERE ANY NEIGHBOURING LDP DEVELOPMENT SITES THAT MAY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS ONE, HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT: YES/NO

IF YES, PLEASE SPECIFY SITE NAME AND ADDRESS _____

_____

1.1 SUMMARY

SITE IS SUITABLE FOR INTENDED PURPOSE	☐
FURTHER INFORMATION IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO A DECISION ON WHETHER SITE IS SUITABLE FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE DETAIL OF FURTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED _____	☐
SITE IS **NOT** SUITABLE FOR INTENDED PURPOSE BRIEF REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION _____	☐
CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE PROPOSED USE:-	

1. Residential	☐	4. Mixed use	☐
2. General Industrial: B2 General Industry **NOT** offices	☐	5. Retail	☐
B8 Warehousing/Storage	☐	6. Commercial Leisure, eg cinemas	☐
3. Offices	☐	7. Sport and Recreation, eg playing pitches	☐
		8. Community Facilities	☐

APPROVED BY:-

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, SITE ASSESSMENTS

SITE REFERENCE NO.
SITE LOCATION:-
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:-
OFFICER'S NAME:-

1.3 CRITERIA	**OFFICER COMMENTS**	**SITE OBSERVATIONS**	**SIGNATURE**
ODOUR		NONE ☐ POTENTIAL ODOUR NUISANCE ☐	
LIGHT		NONE ☐ POTENTIAL LIGHT NUISANCE ☐	
NOISE - COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL - TRAFFIC		NONE ☐ BS4142 TYPE ASSESSMENT REQUIRED ☐ TAN 11 ASSESSMENT REQUIRED ☐	

- MIXED - OTHER		BOTH ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED NOISE ASSESSMENT REQUIRED	☐ ☐
WASTE		NONE POTENTIAL WASTE ISSUE	☐ ☐
CONTAMINATION		NONE GROUND INVESTIGATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT REQUIRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT DEFRA GUIDANCE (USING THE CLEA MODEL) AND HAVING REGARD TO CLR 7 TO 11. REASON:- _____ _____	☐ ☐

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Table G.2 – Biodiversity Assessment Proforma

To assess the potential impact of proposed developments on biodiversity features

General Site Information

1. Site Name:
2. Site Location:
3. Grid Reference
4. Site Reference No.
5. Site Area:
6. Type of development proposed:
7. General site description:

Biodiversity Assessment

8. Is the site within or adjacent to an International or European Designated Wildlife Site (ie. Special Area of Conservation) including any candidate or proposed sites?

Within	YES	☐	NO	☐
Adjacent to	YES	☐	NO	☐

(Mark extent of site on plan provided and list sites below)

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9. Is the site within or adjacent to a Nationally Designated Wildlife Site including any candidate or proposed sites? (i.e. National Nature Reserve or Site of Special Scientific Interest). *(Underline the relevant designation)*

Within	YES		NO	
Adjacent to	YES		NO	

(Mark extent of site on plan provided and list sites below)

10. Is the site within a Locally Designated Wildlife Site including any candidate or proposed sites? (ie. Local Nature Reserve or Site of Importance for Nature Conservation). *(Underline the relevant designation)*

Within	YES		NO	
Adjacent to	YES		NO	

(Mark extent of site on plan provided and list sites below)

11. Are there records of European Protected Species for this site? (Bats, Otters, Dormice and Great Crested Newts)

YES NO

List species below

12. Are there records for species protected under UK legislation (including Wildlife Countryside Act 1991 (as amended), and The Protection of Badgers Act 1992) (not included above)?

YES NO

List species below

ATKINS

13. Are there records for species protected under the Section 42 of the NERC Act 2006?

YES ☐ NO ☐

List species below

14. Are there any UK Priority Habitats?

YES ☐ NO ☐

List habitats below

15. Are there records for Blaenau Gwent LBAP Species or Habitats (not included above)?

YES ☐ NO ☐

List species and/or habitats below

16. Does the site support habitat suitable for supporting protected species?

YES ☐ NO ☐

List the habitat and potential species below:

Habitat	**Potential Species**

17. Does the site contain "stepping stones" or wildlife corridors (not included above)?

YES ☐ NO ☐

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18. Does the site contain woodland?

YES ☐ NO ☐

19. Is the site listed on the Register of Ancient Woodland?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Ancient Semi natural ☐ Ancient Replanted ☐

(Mark extent on plan provided)

20. Does the site contain Ancient /Veteran Trees?

YES ☐ NO ☐

(Mark Ancient/Veteran Trees on plan provided)

21. Does the site contain hedgerows?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Have any been identified as Important under the Hedgerow Regs?

YES ☐ NO ☐ No survey information ☐

(Mark hedgerows and Important hedgerows on plan provided)

22. Summary of Biodiversity Constraints

23. Are Biodiversity constraints significant enough to prevent development of:

The whole site? YES ☐ ☐

Part of the site? YES ☐ NO ☐

(Identify parts of the site that should be excluded from development)

24. What additional ecological surveys/ assessments will be required for this site?

25. If part of the site can be developed, provide outline mitigation proposals and possible new benefits.

Additional comments / observations:

Biodiversity Summary:

Accept Principle of allocation:

Yes, whole of site ☐
Yes, Part of site ☐
No ☐

Table G.3 – Countryside and Landscape Assessment Proforma

To assess the potential impact of proposed developments on countryside and landscape features

General Site Information

3. Site Name:

4. Site Location:

3. Grid Reference:

7. Site Reference No.

8. Site Area:

9. Type of development proposed:

7. General site description:

Countryside & Landscape Assessment

8. Is the site on the register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historical Interest in Wales?

(*Mark extent of site on the plan provided*) YES ☐ NO ☐

ATKINS

9a) Is the site listed on the register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest

YES ☐ NO ☐

b) Does the site lie within 100m of a site of Special Historic Inte

YES ☐ NO ☐

(*Mark extent of site on the plan provided*)

10. What evaluation grade has the site been designated in Landscape Value on Land Map?

10a. Earth Science

Low ☐ Moderate ☐ High ☐ Outstanding ☐

10b. Biodiversity

Low ☐ Moderate ☐ High ☐ Outstanding ☐

10c. Visual & Sensory

Low ☐ Moderate ☐ High ☐ Outstanding ☐

10d. History & Archaeology

Low ☐ Moderate ☐ High ☐ Outstanding ☐

10e. Culture

Low ☐ Moderate ☐ High ☐ Outstanding ☐

Summary of Landmap characteristics:

11. Does the site lie within a Special Landscape Area on the Unitary Development Plan

YES ☐ NO ☐

12. Does the site lie within a Green Wedge on the Unitary Development Plan

YES ☐ NO ☐

13. Summary of Landscape Constraints

14. Are Landscape constraints significant enough to prevent development of:

The whole site? YES ☐ ☐

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Part of the site? YES ☐ NO ☐

(Identify parts of the site that should be excluded from development)

15. What additional landscape surveys/ assessments will be required for this site?

Additional comments / observations:

Countryside and Landscape Summary:

Accept Principle of allocation:

Yes, whole of site ☐
Yes, Part of site ☐
No ☐

Table G.4 - Highway Assessment Proforma

To assess the potential impact of proposed developments on the existing Highway Network as part of the Local Development Plan (LDP) process.

TITLE
Local Development Plan (LDP) - Highway Assessments
REPORT
ON
Impact assessment of proposed development sites on the existing Highway Network as part of the LDP process

Job Number:

Site Ref No. & Name:

Client:

Distribution:

Completed By: _____ Date: _____

Highway Engineer

ATKINS

Checked By: _____ Date: _____

Principal Engineer -
Highways Planning

General site information

Site Name:

_____

_____

Site Location:

_____

_____

Site Reference No. _____

Site Area: _____

Type of development proposed: _____

General site description:

Potential impact on existing highway network resulting from the proposed development

Is a trip generation calculation/survey required?

☐ **YES – Trip Generation Calculation Survey required**

☐ **NO – No calculation required. (proceed to Question 7)**

1. Estimated Trip generation as result of development:

a. Estimated number of units on site (residential use only): _____

b. Estimated trip generation (if residential – per unit/24hr): _____

c. Estimated Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) generated by the development:

_____ Trips/24hr. _____

d. Estimated hours of peak flow: _____AM_____ _____PM_____

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2. Observations of existing Highway infrastructure to which new access / egress will adjoin:

a. Estimated current Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT):
_____ Trips/24hr. _____

b. Provide detailed description of existing highway conditions: (e.g. Evidence of operational, topographical, environmental and safety issues that exist on both the local and wider road network).

Observations

3. To what extent would the use of this land for the stated purpose impact on the existing highway network in terms of traffic generation?

Estimated increase in vehicular trips on existing network as a result of the development:

a. Estimated increase in total number of trips made: (Use estimated AADT in Q.1c)

_____

b. What is the estimated percentage increase of vehicular trips on the existing highway network as a result of the traffic generated by the development?

$$\frac{\text{Estimated increase in total number of trips}}{\text{Estimated current Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)}} \times 100 = \underline{\qquad\qquad \%}$$

c. Does traffic to and from the development exceed 10% of the two way flow on the adjoining highway?

☐ YES –Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) recommended

☐ NO

d. Does the traffic flow to and from the development exceed 5% of the two-way flow on the adjoining highway where congestion exists?

☐ YES – Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) recommended

☐ NO

4. What implications would this increase in vehicular traffic have on the existing highway network in terms of both creating and or exacerbating existing network problems? (As listed in Q.2b)

Please list all operational, topographical and safety issues:

5. Are there any other candidate LDP development sites in the area that may in conjunction with this one, have a collective negative impact on the surrounding highway network?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please specify site name and implications:

6. Having considered the aforementioned, would you consider the negative impact on the existing network as a result of this development, to be at a level that will require major capacity improvement works in the short to medium future through a Section 106 Planning Agreement.

YES ☐ NO ☐

Recommendations:

Accessibility onto existing highway network

7. Is there an existing access to the site: YES ☐ NO ☐

8. Is the existing access(s) and road it adjoins (i.e. if private drive, farm lane etc) adequate to facilitate the movement of traffic generated by the development? (Refer to Q.1c&e for projected trip generation).

YES ☐ NO ☐

9. Provide general description of existing access point(s) and road? (Mark on plan).

10. Considering the area of the development and the proposed use, how many access points would be recommended? (Mark preferred access point(s) on plan provided).

Number of access points recommended = ☐

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11. If a new access or accesses were required to the site, onto what hierarchy of road would it/they have to adjoin?

County Route (Class 1)	☐	Distributor Route (Class 2)	☐
Residential Road (Class 3 & Unclassified)	☐	Private, Un-adopted/Other	☐

12. What is the potential of physically providing a new access point(s) onto the existing highway network: (Please 'X' appropriate box for each access point).

Easy access obtainable to existing Highway	☐
Relatively easy access obtainable, although some constraints present	☐
Difficult to provide access to site due to numerous constraints	☐
Access cannot be provided due to severity of constraints	☐

13. Would a Section 278 Highway Agreement be required to help facilitate access to the site?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Recommendation:
Please 'X' appropriate box and provide a summary explanation for recommendation:

☐ Site **IS** suitable to be developed for its intended purpose.

Brief reason for recommendation:

☐ Site is **NOT** suitable to be developed for its intended purpose.

Brief reason for recommendation:

General site information

This section is to be completed by using the information provided by the Planning Division and is located at the front of their assessment proforma that is attached to each site plan. The information provides a general

overview of the site including its location, size, number of proposed units (residential), reference number, existing and proposed usage (note: highway assessment to consider Planning Officers recommendation for development type and NOT landowners recommendation) as well as a general description of site conditions.

Potential impact on existing highway infrastructure resulting from the proposed development

The allocation of land for development will, depending on its proposed use, have a varying level of impact on the surrounding highway infrastructure. It is therefore important to try and foresee what the potential impact each type and size of development may have on the existing network hierarchy.

Not all sites will require TRICS survey/calculation and therefore, the highway engineer must determine each site on its individual merits. Sites below 20 no. units may be appraised at the time of the site inspection and if there are no concerns with regards to highway conditions, hierarchy and capacity, then no survey is required.

Using a trip generation database (TRICS) to provide traffic flow data for varying types and sizes of development it is possible to estimate the level of traffic likely to be generated as a result of a proposed development.

Q. 1a – The number of units is dependent on the site area, using the known site area the Planning Division will provide the estimated number of units to be built on the site. The number of units will only be given when considering residential developments.

Q. 2b – This is again dependent on the proposed development type. When considering residential developments you can expect the following number of trips per unit:

Residential use – **8** trips per unit/24hr period

However, to determine the number of trips generated as a result of the following development types you must consider the land area and proposed use of the site and not number of units as per residential sites. The Consultant is required to consult with Highways Planning and the TRICS database when considering trips levels for the following development types:

- Sports/Leisure use
- Mixed use
- Office use
- Industrial use
- Retail use

Q. 1c – To determine the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) generated by a residential development, the following calculation can be performed. However to establish the AADT of other development types (such as above) you are required to consult the TRICS database.

Estimated No. of trips per unit x No. of proposed units on site = AADT

Q. 1 d&e – The estimated hours of peak flow will be provided by the TRIC'S database (see Highways Planning).

Q. 2a – This will give an idea of the existing two-way flow on the adjoining highway. To calculate the estimated traffic flow on the existing highway the consultant is required to:

Conduct an off peak (after 9.00am and before 4.00pm) 10 minute two way count of the traffic flow on the highway. Then carry out the following calculation:

Total vehicles counted x 100 = AADT (Vehicular trips per 24hr period)

Q. 2b – The consultant is required to observe and record site observations in relation to operational, topographical, and environmental issues as well as any safety hazards that might exist on the existing road network.

Q. 3a – Use figure determined in question Q. 1c.

Q. 3b – This calculation will be used to determine the percentage increase of vehicular trips on the existing network as a direct result of the development. This is determined by using the following calculation:

Estimated increase in total number of trips x 100 = % increase in vehicular trips
Estimated current Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)

The 'Estimated increase in total number of trips' is determined from Q. 3a and the 'Estimated current Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) is taken from Q. 2a.

Q. 3 c&d – Will be determined by the percentage given in Q. 3b. The percentage increase in traffic flow on the existing network will establish whether it may be advisable to request a Traffic Impact Assessment prior to the development of the site or not. The determination levels are in accordance with IHT guidance.

Q. 4 – Is the potential increase in traffic generated by the development likely to impact on existing or create new operational or topographical problems on the highway. Capacity and highway safety issues to be considered.

Q. 5 – The highway engineer will be required to observe the spatial plan indicating the location of all the candidate LDP development sites in the Borough. The highway engineer is required to assess whether there will be a collective impact on the network as a result of several developments accessing the same distributor route, access road, roundabout etc.

Sites of concern to be listed and potential implications to highway network stated, for example potential capacity, road safety problems etc.

Q. 6 – This question considers the impact of the proposed increase in traffic generated by the proposed development and whether any works to the existing network carried out via a Section 106 Planning Agreement would be required to allow for the expected increase in traffic levels on the surrounding network.

Accessibility onto the existing highway network

An assessment of existing and potential access points to the development site is required. Whilst it is accepted that most sites may be made physically accessible at a cost, it is important to recognise what constraints may inhibit this and the potential difficulties that must be overcome.

Q. 7 – Asks whether the site can be accessed by vehicles from the existing highway.
Q. 8 – A site may currently be accessible from the highway, however the current access may not be suitable for the proposed development use. The current access may be narrow, un-surfaced etc and form part of a private drive or access lane before joining with the public highway some distance away. It is therefore necessary to consider the existing access and whether it is suitable to handle the volume of traffic generated by the development (use trip generation figures from Q. 1 c&e).
Factors to be considered are access visibility, width, alignments, type of road, lane the access exits onto and its width, class, usage, purpose etc.

Q. 9 – The consultant is required to provide a general description of the existing access point(s) to the site, considering the above factors. Existing access points are to be referenced on a plan and accompanied by photographs.

Q. 10 – The number of access/egress points required to the site is dependent on the size of the development and when considering residential developments the number of units present.

For example under most circumstances, good practice states that a residential development will have one access/egress point for every 300 units on site.

Q. 11 – An important factor that must be considered when assessing potential new access points is Blaenau Gwent's C. B. C's road hierarchy.

Mark the appropriate box(s) for each potential access/egress point required.

The purpose of this hierarchy is to facilitate the efficient use of the highway network and control what transport and development access arrangements may be permitted at what point on the highway.

Q. 12 - The potential to access a site has been graded into four categories of difficulty depending on existing constraints. The consultant must use his/her judgement to assess the potential of providing a suitable access while considering the severity of constraint that may influence access to the site:

1. Easy access obtainable to existing highway
2. Relatively easy access obtainable, although some constraints present
3. Difficult to provide access to site due to numerous constraints
4. Access cannot be provided due to severity of constraints

Q. 14 – A developer and Highway Authority may, if required, enter into a Section 278 Highway Agreement to allow for the execution of works to the highway to allow access to a development site.

The consultant must envisage whether alterations to the existing highway (i.e. widening of existing junction, layout changes, provision of a roundabout, left/right turning lanes, footway changes etc) may be necessary to allow access to the site and therefore whether a Section 278 Highway Agreement will be required to facilitate these works.

Recommendation

The consultant is required to use the evidence that has been collected for the completion of the proforma to determine whether a site 'is' or 'is not' suitable for the proposed development.
The consultant is required to mark an 'X' in the appropriate box and provide a brief summary referencing evidence in the proforma that supports the final decision.

Completion of the proforma

The assessing officer is required to sign and date each completed proforma.

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G.2 Stage 2: Overall Site Appraisal Framework

Table G.5 - Stage 2: Overall Site Appraisal Framework

Site Number:	**Site Name:**	**Area (ha):**
Current Use:	**Proposed Use:**	

	Question	**Response**			**Comments/ Further Information Required**
		Yes	**No**	**?**	
Accessibility and Ease of Movement					
1	Is the site accessible from the public highway?				
2	Is the current highway network capable of accommodating the proposed candidate sites traffic movements?				
3	Is the site located within 400m of a public transport route (bus/train)?				
4	Is the site located within 400m of a range of community services (shops, facilities, etc.)				
Environmental Assets					
5	Is the proposed site in accordance with guidance contained in TAN15: Development and Flood risk 2004?				
6	Is the site Brownfield land? (as defined in Planning Policy Wales, March 2002)				
7	Is the site acceptable in terms of the potential risk of it being contaminated?				
8	Is the site acceptable in terms of				
	a) Ecology?				
	b) Landscape?				
	c) Historical?				
Site Context and Character					
9	Is the site within or adjacent to the existing urban boundary?				
10	Are topographical and ground conditions acceptable in terms of development?				
11	Is the proposed use compatible with existing and proposed adjacent land uses?				
12	Is the site located within close proximity (100m) of existing water, sewerage, electrical, gas and telecommunications services?				
Continuity and Enclosure					
13	Does the pattern relate to the existing settlement pattern and built form?				
Potential Use					
14	Is the proposal acceptable in that it will not result in an unacceptable loss of open space or recreational facilities or community facilities?				
15	Is the site free of any other constraints that would prevent the sites development? (e.g. overhead power lines)				
16	Is the site suitable for development?				
Economic Viability					

17	Is the site developable within the plan period 2006-2021 taking into account market considerations and development costs?				
18	Are all landowners in agreement with the proposed candidate site land use?				
19	Is the land/buildings contained within the proposed candidate site free of restrictive covenants?				

G.1 Stage 4: Assessment against LDP Objectives

Table G.6 - Scoring for Site Appraisal Stage 4

+3 pts	In conformity with the LDP objective	0 pts	Not relevant to LDP objective
-1 pts	Possibly in conflict with the LDP objective / some constraints identified	? -1 pts	Insufficient information is available - a potential for conflict may exist
-3 pts	In conflict with the LDP objective		

Table G.7 - Stage 4 - Assessment of Candidate Sites against the LDP Objectives

Site No	Site Location	Proposed Use	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
A18	Sirhowy Infants School	Community Facility	0	0	0	+3	0	0	0	+3	+3	?	+3	-1	+3	+3	16
A19	Waundeg Housing Site	Community Facility	0	0	0	+3	0	0	0	-1	+3	?	+3	+3	+3	+3	16
A40	Land adj to Bevans Avenue	Community Facility	0	0	0	+3	0	0	0	+3	+3	?	+3	-1	+3	+3	16
C8	Hafod Dawel Site	Community Facility	0	0	0	+3	0	0	0	+3	+3	?	+3	+3	+3	+3	20
D11	Six Bells Colliery Site – Lower Plateau	Primary School	0	0	0	+3	0	0	0	+3	+3	?	+3	+3	+3	+3	20
A15 b	Crown Business Park	Employment	0	0	0	+3	+3	0	0	+3	0	?	0	-1	+3	+3	13
A31	Tafarnaubach (West)	Employment	0	0	0	+3	+3	0	0	+3	0	?	0	-1	+3	+3	13
A32	Tafarnaubach (Central)	Employment	0	0	0	+3	+3	0	0	+3	0	?	0	-1	+3	+3	13

Site No	Site Location	Proposed Use	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
A14	Tredegar Workshops	Employment										?					12
A29	Crown Business Park	Employment										?					11
A33	Tafarnaubach (North)	Employment										?					11
A34	Tafarnaubach (East)	Employment										?					11
A35	Tafarnaubach (South)	Employment										?					11
A30	Crown Business Park	Employment										?					9
B33	Garden Festival C	Employment										?					17
B30	Waun-y-Pound	Employment										?					13
B31	Waun-y-Pound	Employment										?					13
B32	Garden Festival A	Employment										?					13
B29	Waun-y-Pound North	Employment										?					11
B27	Rassau	Employment										?					9
B34	Marine Colliery	Employment										?					9
B25	Rassau Extension West	Employment										?					7
B26	Rassau Extension East	Employment										?					7
B28	Rassau Platform H	Employment										?					7
C16	Rising Sun Upper	Employment										?					13
C19	North of Rising Sun Ind Estate	Employment										?					13
C29	Cwmcrachen Lower	Employment										?					13
C28	Adjacent to Blaen y Cwm	Employment										?					11

Site No	Site Location	Proposed Use	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	School																
D22	Roseheyworth Business Park	Employment										?					13
A39	Parc Bryn Bach	Tourism and Leisure															19
B53	Eastern Valley Slopes	Tourism and Leisure															26
B55	Blue Lakes	Tourism and Leisure															19
B54	Garden Festival	Tourism and Leisure															15
C49	Nantyglo and Roundhouse Towers	Tourism and Leisure															20
C18	Ben Wards Field	Tourism and Leisure															16
C50	Brynmawr Roundabout	Tourism and Leisure															11
C28	Adj to Blaen y Cwm School	Tourism and Leisure															11
D32	Cwmtillery Lakes	Tourism and Leisure															19
D13 b	Six Bells Colliery Site - Middle	Leisure and Recreation															14
A8	Trefil Quarry Extension	Minerals										?					-7
B50	Land at South East of Cwm	Minerals										?					-1
D10	Tirpentwys Cut	Minerals										?					-7
A4	Former Gas Holder Station	Mixed Use										?					16
B14	The Works	Mixed Use															42
B5, B7 & B8	Ebbw Vale North	Mixed Use															32
C22 & C32	NMC Factory, Blaina Road	Mixed Use										?					29
C6	Former	Mixed Use –										?					23

Site No	Site Location	Proposed Use	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	Garnfach School Site	Residential & Community Facility															
B13	Rhyd-y-Blew	Nature Reserve															15
B20	Highlands Road	Nature Reserve															15
B7	Bryn Serth	Nature Reserve															15
A21	Corporation Yard, Ashvale	Residential										?					20
A25	Cartref Aneurin Bevan	Residential										?					20
A26	Greenacres, St Lukes Road	Residential										?					20
A45	Jesmondene Stadium	Residential										?					20
A48	Hill's Bus Depot	Residential										?					20
A43	Business Resource Centre	Residential										?					18
A11	Tredegar Ambulance Station	Residential										?					16
A18	Sirhowy Infants School	Residential										?					16
A19	Waundeg Housing Site	Residential										?					16
A22	Land at Sirhowy	Residential										?					16
A4	Former Gas Holder Station	Residential										?					16
A46	Land to the South of Bevans Avenue	Residential										?					16
A23	Land adj to Bryn Rhosyn	Residential										?					16
A28	Land at rear of Cripps	Residential										?					14

Site No	Site Location	Proposed Use	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	Avenue																
A13	Land North of Bryn Rhosyn	Residential										?					14
A12	North side of Merthyr Road	Residential										?					14
A36	Chartist Way	Residential										?					13
A47	Park Hill Tredegar	Residential										?					13
B37	Froes-y-Barcl	Residential										?					20
B44	Willowtown School	Residential										?					20
B21	Waunlwyd School	Residential										?					16
B20	Highlands Road	Residential										?					14
B19	Vacant site adj Respite Care Centre	Residential										?					12
B16	Lakeside Car Park, Festival Park	Residential															11
B24	Land adj to the Castle, Rassau	Residential										?					10
B35	Nant-y-Croft, Rassau	Residential										?					10
C12	Land to the North of Winches-town	Residential										?					20
C14	Land west recreation ground Chapel Rd	Residential										?					20
C23	Crawshay House, Greenland Road	Residential										?					20
C25	Brynmawr Infants Sch & Old Griffin Yard	Residential										?					20
C26	Land at Pant	Residential										?					20

Site No	Site Location	Proposed Use	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	View, Coed Cae																
C8	Hafod Dawel Site	Residential										?					20
C39	Land to the East of Blaina Road	Residential										?					19
C24	Land rear of Waun-heulog	Residential										?					16
C13	Land to the South-West Waun Ebbw Road	Residential										?					14
C15	Land north of Winches Row	Residential										?					14
C3	Land to the South of Rising Sun Ind. Estate	Residential										?					10
C5	Southlands, Blaina	Residential										?					10
D13 a	Six Bells Colliery Site - Upper	Residential										?					23
D20	Hillcrest View	Residential										?					16
D21	Former Mount Pleasant Court	Residential										?					16
D23	Warm Turn	Residential										?					16
D25	Rosehey-worth Comp School	Residential										?					16
D30	Quarry adj to Cwm Farm Road	Residential										?					16
D24	Rear of Farm Road	Residential										?					14
C40	Extension Cwmcrachen Gypsy site	Gypsy Travellers Site										?					20

Site No	Site Location	Proposed Use	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
A49	Commercial Street, Tredegar	Retail										?					14
B48	Market Street,	Retail										?					17
B39	Gas Holder Site	Retail										?					8
B49	Land at Rhyd-y-Blew	Retail										?					4
C39	Land to the east of Blaina Road	Retail										?					7
D31	Tesco, Abertillery	Retail										?					13
A30	Crown Business Park	Retail Ware-housing & Hotel										?					6
B31	Waun y Pound	Waste										?					12
B47	Silent Valley	Waste										?					8
C41	Extension at Civic Amenity Site, Blaina	Waste										?					16

LDP Preferred Strategy Objectives

1. Develop Ebbw Vale as the main service and retail hub for the County Borough
2. Create a network of vibrant district/local centres (secondary hubs) well linked to the main hub of Ebbw Vale that provide a range of local services and facilities for the local communities
3. Support and deliver the regeneration of the former Ebbw Vale steelworks ensuring that the benefits are spread across the County Borough
4. Increase economic activity through facilitating diversification of the economic base and support for the manufacturing sector by encouraging specialisation
5. Provide a range of employment sites and premises to meet the needs of businesses of all sizes in manufacturing, the technological and service sectors
6. Stem out migration and attract people to the area to create a more balanced population

7. Provide a range of types and tenures of new homes to meet local housing needs and attract people to the area
8. Improve accessibility to services through the promotion of sustainable modes and transport, particularly, public transport, walking and cycling.
9. Improve education levels and skills through supporting infrastructure development of the Learning Campus, new schools and integrated education services, including life-long learning
10. Create an accessible network of green open spaces and high quality leisure infrastructure to promote participation in sport and active recreation to improve health and well-being
11. Capitalise on the unique landscape and natural heritage, foster sustainable tourism and promote community pride
12. Protect, enhance and manage the diversity of the biodiversity resource of Blaenau Gwent through the identification of ecological corridors.
13. Raise the standard of design to improve the quality of the physical and natural environment; and protect and enhance Blaenau Gwent's historic and cultural environment.
14. To minimise further climate change contributions and mitigate its predicted effects on the County Borough

Appendix H Assessment of Significant Effects of Development Management, Allocations and Designations Policies (May 2010)

Effects

✓✓	Local	ST-MT	Temp	Low
✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med
-	Reg/Nat	MT-LT		High
?		ST		
×		MT		
××		LT		

Assessment

+++	Strongly positive
++	Moderately positive
+	Slightly positive
0	No effect
-	Slightly negative
--	Moderately negative
---	Strongly negative
+/-	Combination of positive and negative effects / neutral effect
n/a	Not assessed

Terms

Mag Magnitude
Scale Geographic extent
T/P Temporary/permanent
Cert Certainty

ST Short term
MT Medium term
LT Long term
Sm Summary assessment

Notes

1) Effects (excluding magnitude) and assessment values can be selected from drop-down list, entered directly or pasted/dragged from other cells

2) Effect magnitude is entered by copying and pasting/dragging from key or other cells

Table H.1 – Assessment theme 1: Retail

SP3: The Retail Hierarchy
DM8 Use Class Restrictions in Principal and District Town Centres
DM9 Use Class Changes in Local Town Centres
R1 Retail Allocations
R2 Action Area

		Effects					Assessment					
	SA Objective	Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm	Commentary	Recommendations
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	Retail is a critical component of the economy and in seeking to protect and enhance the offer and complementary activities across the County Borough, the policies under this theme have considerable potential to deliver beneficial effects. The Retail Action Area proposed in policy R2 will include both retail and office development, which is likely to help deliver economic benefits.	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm		++	++	++	++	The provision of increased retail development at centres across the County Borough, supported by complementary forms of development, can be a key source of increased local job opportunities at a range of levels.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	++	++	Insofar as the policies will increase the attractiveness of the town centres, and promote a successful evening economy, the development of tourism will be supported.	None identified.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	High	+	++	+++	++	Policies DM8 and DM9 seek to minimise the impact on the vitality and viability of the town centres through controlling the use classes permitted in retail areas. Retail provision and the complementary offer are key in attracting custom in town centres. The cumulative effect of the policies should contribute to this objective.	It is recommended that the title of the policy SP3 be changed to reflect the second part of the policy relating to vitality and viability of town centres better. This could read for example: 'The Retail Hierarchy and Vitality and Viability of the Town Centres'. It is suggested that the content of policy DM8 and its supporting text be rationalised. This could be done by extracting the important information, relating to the definition of Primary Retail Area and uses promoted within in it, from the policy supporting text and adding it to the policy main text and changing its title accordingly, or a new DM policy could be created.
5	To meet identified housing needs	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	The policies will increase accessibility to retail facilities which will contribute to achievements against this objective. Specifically, SP3 seeks to improve accessibility for disabled people;	Specific accessibility standards could be included within the DM policies, to ensure that new development

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Table H.2 – Assessment Theme 2: Housing

SP4: Delivering Quality Housing
SP5: Spatial Distribution of Housing
DM10 Affordable Housing
DM11 Sites for Gypsies and Travellers
H1 Housing Allocations
GT1 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

		Effects					*Assessment*					
	SA Objective	**Mag**	**Scale**	**Dur**	**T/P**	**Cert**	**ST**	**MT**	**LT**	**Sm**	**Commentary**	**Recommendations**
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	++	++	The LDP seeks the provision of high quality housing to stem out-migration and attract people to the area. This may help to promote economic growth through the creation of an increased workforce. The provision of a range of types and tenures of housing is likely to attract people with a variety of skills. Potential conflicts identified for sites H1.15 - the development of the site will lead to the loss of employment land.	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	✗	Local	ST-MT	Temp	Med	-	-	0	-	Potential conflicts identified for sites H1.15- the development of the site will lead to the loss of employment land. However, the LDP seeks to provide an adequate supply of employment sites elsewhere, which will minimise potentially negative effects from the development of this site for housing over the medium to longer term.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	++	++	There is the potential for the delivery of additional residential development to support a greater catchment, which in turn could support increased town centre vitality and viability, particularly for Ebbw Vale and Tredegar. Effects likely to increase over time as more development comes forward.	None identified.

5	To meet identified housing needs	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	The housing policies in the LDP seek to ensure that the housing provided through development opportunities is reflective of local needs. To this end, the policies seek to provide a sufficient level of affordable and special needs housing, regeneration of existing housing stock, and the provision of sites for gypsy traveller communities. The provision of sites for 100% affordable housing may have negative effects on the objective to achieve sustainable communities, as this type of layout may create social divisions.	It is recommended that the provision of affordable housing is 'pepper potted' throughout housing developments to provide a mix of types and tenures across the County Borough, creating mixed communities comprising a multitude of socioeconomic groups.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	+++	++	Policy DM10 seeks to gain contributions for the reuse or rehabilitation of older housing stock, which may improve the overall quality of housing stock in the County Borough over time.	The policy could specify the standards to which housing should be improved to, such as the Welsh Housing Quality standard referenced in SP4. It is recommended that this specific type of detail be included in the DM policies rather than the strategic policies. A further standard (such as the CfSH) should be referenced in relation to existing private housing.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	Policy SP4 seeks the delivery of approximately 800 units of affordable and special needs housing. Policy DM10 seeks to provide at least 25% affordable housing on sites over a specified size. Policy H1 also identifies 8 potential sites for the provision of 100% affordable housing in accordance with policy DM10.	See recommendations under objective 5. In line with this recommendation, the percentage of affordable housing could be increased on all sites, so that the 100% sites are not necessary. It should be ensured that the affordability of the housing provided is maintained in perpetuity.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	Insofar as the policy seeks to direct new residential development to existing centres, there may be some localised benefits in terms of improved co-locating of residential development and key services and facilities. The sites assessment identifies potential conflicts against this objective for sites H1.47, H1.48, H1.49.	It should be ensured that any potential conflicts are eradicated or mitigated prior to development on site. Accessibility to local services and facilities should be ensured through the provision of walking and cycling facilities and public transport.

10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+/-	+	+	+	Potential conflicts are identified for sites H1.15, H1.47, H1.48, H1.49. The improvement of existing housing stock should help to improve health and wellbeing levels for their occupants. The provision of special needs housing stipulated by Policy SP4 should benefit health of those members of communities with special needs. Overall effects are deemed beneficial.	It should be ensured that any potential conflicts are eradicated or mitigated prior to development on site.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	The expansion of the existing site for gypsies and travellers may have some positive effects against this objective in terms of reducing the likelihood or need to trespass on other land for temporary accommodation purposes.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Insofar as the development of housing will be under the requirements of the accessibility policies, a modal shift may be encouraged. However, site descriptions do not include proximity to local public transport, so a range of effects are possible. Potential conflicts are identified for sites H1.15- the site appears to be accessible by road based transport only.	See recommendation under objective 16. It is recommended that public transport improvements are made to ensure that all housing sites are accessible by public transport.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	✗✗	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	--	-	-	--	Site allocation H1.16 is predicted to conflict with this objective. Potential conflicts are identified for sites H1.45, H1.46, H1.47, H1.48, MU1, and H1.49. Other LDP policies may minimise negative effects predicted.	Where possible, sites should not be allocated in the LDP where they are likely to have negative effects on biodiversity or other assets. Potential conflicts are identified in the supporting documentation providing detailed site information for the LDP where mitigation is proposed. This document should be referenced in the LDP to ensure that mitigation measures are adhered to. Effective implementation of Policy SP10 and DM4 should ensure that any new development incorporates measures to protect and enhance biodiversity, wildlife and geodiversity and seeks to achieve a net gain in biodiversity, therefore offsetting the predicted negative effects to a certain degree.

15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	x	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	-	-	-	-	There are a number of data gaps in relation to the site specific allocations for housing and potential conflicts with this objective. Potential conflicts are identified for sites H1.16, H1.35, H1.48. Any potential conflicts should be mitigated through other LDP policies and the mitigation provided in the LDP supporting documentation.	Potential conflicts are identified in the supporting documentation providing detailed site information for the LDP where mitigation is proposed. This document should be referenced in the LDP to ensure that mitigation measures are adhered to. It is recommended that the data gaps identified are filled, and any mitigation necessary is identified prior to the formal allocation of the sites.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Potential conflicts are identified for sites H1.36, H1.34 and a number of the sites are on greenfield land which is considered to conflict with this objective, although policy SP7 seeks to give preference to the development of brownfield land over greenfield. A shortage of available brownfield sites may mean that the achievement of development entirely on brownfield sites is not possible. Policy DM10 seeks the reuse/rehabilitation of existing older housing stock, which will enable the best use of existing buildings to be made. Supporting text to policy H1 seeks that development densities are reflective of sustainability considerations, which may encourage an efficient use of land.	Development control policies should include a requirement for minimum development densities to ensure that the most efficient use of land is made. Different densities could be specified depending on the location of the site. Where greenfield sites are specified, the density of development should ensure the minimum effect on the land. Higher density development could be required to be close to public transport interchanges/community services and facilities, to improve accessibility for a greater number of people and reduce car dependency. This is related to policy SP7, which could be improved to provide this detail.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	x x	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	--	--	--	--	Potential conflicts are identified for sites H1.36, H1.34. The development of greenfield sites is likely to lead to the loss of agricultural land.	It should be ensured that where greenfield sites are needed for development, the lowest quality of land and soils is prioritised. This detail could be added to point a in SP7.

18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	✗✗	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med	---	--	-	--	The policy will result in the delivery of over 3000 new dwellings, which will also result in considerable trip generation, all of which will add to GHG emissions in the County Borough. Developing to national guidelines for the CfSH may minimise this effect, especially in the longer term where housing will be required to be zero carbon.	See recommendations under objectives 13 and 16 to minimise transport related GHG emissions.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	✗	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	-	-	-	-	The construction of new dwellings will result in considerable waste generation during and post-construction. SP13 seeks to encourage the movement of waste up the hierarchy and reduce waste generated through construction which may minimise potential negative effects over time.	See assessment under sustainability theme 'waste'. Effective implementation of SP13 should help mitigate the predicted negative effects against this objective.
20	To maintain current air quality	✗	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	-	-	-	-	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, the local air quality may be affected.	See recommendations under objectives 13 and 16 to reduce transport related air pollution.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	✗	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	--	--	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, there is the potential for flood risk from runoff to be elevated considerably. This effect will be minimised through policies SP7. Policy DM4 ensures that development accords with national guidance on developing in flood risk areas. The risk of flooding may increase over time, through the effects of increased development along with increased precipitation as a result of climate change.	Effective implementation of policies SP7 and DM4 should help mitigate the predicted negative effects. Policy SP7 could be strengthened by including the requirement to use SUDS where practicable.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for residential development to make use of sustainably sourced products; this is required through policy SP7 elsewhere in the LDP.	Supporting text for development management policies could cross reference the need for the use of recycled or sustainable products and resources in construction, requiring a specific percentage. This could be covered in DM1, as SP7 does not directly require their use, as it just considers that the extent to which they are used is demonstrated.

23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	+++	++	Policy DM10 seeks that contributions are made for the reuse/rehabilitation of existing older housing stock which may improve their energy efficiency. National requirements for sustainable building design are likely to increase the energy efficiency of development over time.	Housing development management policies could specify higher than national standards for energy efficiency in new and refurbished dwellings, to ensure that they are 'future proof' and as energy efficient as possible. This could especially be the case for affordable dwellings, to reduce the potential for fuel poverty.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	✗✗	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	--	--	--	--	Potential conflicts are identified for sites H1.14, H1.16, H1.1, H1.35, H1.36, H1.34, H1.44, H1.45 due to the proximity of water resources including watercourses and mains pipes. The increase in impermeable surfaces through the development of over 3000 dwellings will increase the potential for pollutants to enter water resources through runoff. This may be minimised through policy SP7.	Potential conflicts are identified in the supporting documentation providing detailed site information for the LDP where mitigation is proposed. This document should be referenced in the LDP to ensure that mitigation measures are adhered to. See also recommendation with regards to the use of SUDS under objective 21.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	✗✗	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	--	--	--	--	Potential conflicts are identified for sites H1.44, H1.45, H1.46, H1.47, H1.48, H1.49. Development of over 3000 dwellings, including in greenfield sites, is likely to have a significant effect on landscape quality. Design policies elsewhere in the LDP may minimise these effects.	Potential conflicts are identified in the supporting documentation providing detailed site information for the LDP where mitigation is proposed. This document should be referenced in the LDP to ensure that mitigation measures are adhered to.

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Table H.3 – Assessment Theme 3: Accessibility

SP6: Ensuring Accessibility
DM3 Accessibility
T1 Cycle Routes
T2 Rail Network and Station Improvements
T3 New Roads to Facilitate Development
T4 Regeneration Led Highway Improvements

		Effects					*Assessment*					
	SA Objective	**Mag**	**Scale**	**Dur**	**T/P**	**Cert**	**ST**	**MT**	**LT**	**Sm**	**Commentary**	**Recommendations**
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	The availability of effective transport links is key to underpinning economic growth - delivery of infrastructure improvements should convey some benefits. Policy SP7 seeks that the development of the transportation network will enable economic growth and regeneration, which is in line with this objective. Policy T4 also seeks specific road improvements that will facilitate the regeneration of the area.	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Potential indirect positive effects due to improved accessibility to employment by varied transport modes.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	Tourism development is heavily reliant upon an effective transportation network - improvements arising from the policy implementation should therefore deliver some benefits.	It should be ensured that public transport and walking and cycling routes link to areas of tourism potential to improve their viability.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	In order to ensure that towns are vital and viable, there is a need to have good accessibility - improvements to the latter should therefore deliver benefits in response of the objective.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Potential indirect positive effects due to improved accessibility to education facilities and employment by varied transport modes.	None identified.

9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	+++	+++	The policy seeks to improve accessibility throughout the County Borough, seeking specifically that district hubs are well connected by public transport. District hubs are likely to contain the largest number of community facilities and thus the policies are likely to improve access to them. DM3 seeks that proposals secure appropriate provision for people with special access and mobility requirements.	The policy DM3 should reference the national requirement for Design and Access Statements to accompany all planning applications. Although connections to district hubs by road, rail and bus are specified in policy SP6, the policy could also seek that cycle and walking routes are specifically required to connect residential areas with areas where key services and facilities are provided. This could be added to bullet point number 6 to strengthen the message.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	+++	++	The accessibility policies seek to increase travel by more sustainable modes, which may reduce overall road travel benefitting local air quality. This may also deliver benefits for public health. Additionally, the promotion of walking and cycling routes throughout the County Borough linking key areas may encourage an increase in physical activity, which will have health benefits in the mid to longer term. Other effects may include benefits gained from an increase in social mixing through the use of public transport which could increase social capital and a sense of wellbeing.	It is suggested that the wording of DM3 (b) is modified to change the word 'promotes' to 'prioritises' to better reflect the transport user hierarchy. The proposed cycle network, as shown on the proposals map, could be further improved to provide increased connectivity between routes as some routes seem to be disjointed in places (policy T1).
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low	0	+	+	+	Slight benefits may result from an increase in community wellbeing overall through increased interaction if public transport and other sustainable transport modes usage increases over the medium to longer term. Infrastructure improvements and provision of new routes for cyclists and pedestrians may also add to the feeling of safe neighbourhoods.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.

13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	?	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policies seek to promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport locally, which will have positive effects from a sustainable development perspective. However, the LDP focuses on the provision of road infrastructure as key for achieving regeneration, which will encourage an increase in the use of the private car over more sustainable modes, especially for trips in and out of the plan area. Although the supporting text of policy DM3 references a road hierarchy, this is not clear in either DM3 or SP6.	It is recommended that the approach to delivering regeneration through road improvements is further considered to establish a shift in emphasis to more sustainable modes. For example, highways improvements could include guided bus lanes for inter regional transport alongside the rail improvements already cited. Other improvements to the bus network could also be considered. It is recommended that policy SP6 adheres to the transport hierarchy, including a clearer explanation of the road hierarchy.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	x	Local	ST-MT	Perm	Low	--	-	+/-	-	Policy SP6 seeks to minimise harm to the natural environment, and to encourage more sustainable modes of transport for local trips which may help reduce the need for building new road capacity in the longer term. These measures should help protect biodiversity. Planned road building in the LDP, however, may have negative effects on biodiversity through the loss of land and increased pollution. Effects may be more profound in the short term.	The supporting text for DM3 could include a cross reference to policy T1 and the potential for walking and cycling routes to benefit biodiversity as part of a wider scheme of green infrastructure. Performance against this SA Objective is dependent upon implementation of the provisions of policy SP10 (Protection and enhancement of the natural environment).
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	x	Local	ST-MT	Perm	Low	-	-	+/-	-	Policy SP6 seeks to minimise harm to the natural environment, and encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport for local trips. This may help reduce the need for building new road capacity in the longer term and could help protect the built environment. Planned road building in the LDP, however, may have negative effects on the settings of heritage assets even if the assets themselves are not lost.	Performance against this SA Objective is dependent upon implementation of the provisions of policy SP11 (Protection and enhancement of the built environment).

16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+/-	+/-	+	+	New road development is likely to lead to the loss of greenfield land, which will have negative effects against this objective. However, policy seeks to minimise harm to the natural environment and accessibility improvements which may help to unlock the potential of brownfield sites for development, potentially increasing the use of brownfield sites. Further, if an increase in the use of more sustainable modes of transport is achieved, this will decrease the requirement for road building which will place less pressure on greenfield sites in the longer term.	It should be ensured that the development of road and other transport infrastructure is subject to the same development control requirements as other types of development. This should include minimising the loss of greenfield land.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	See assessment under objective 16.	See recommendation under objective 16.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	×	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	+/-	-	Road improvements envisaged under policy SP6 are likely to lead to an increase in road based transport. The use of public transport, which is less energy intensive compared to a private car, is also promoted by policies within this component. However, if absolute volumes of travelling by both private vehicles and public transport grow, this will lead to an increase in GHG emissions. Policies also seek to increase travel by walking and cycling, which may offset negative effects to some extent. Negative effects may lessen in the longer term, as the modal shift takes place.	The development of a comprehensive public transport system for accessibility throughout the sub region as well as within the plan area should be prioritised over the development of car-based transport improvements to enable more sustainable economic growth.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	××	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	--	--	-	--	The policy is considered likely to support sizeable new infrastructure projects, which will result in considerable waste generation. Waste minimisation is encouraged through policy SP13. Over time, an increased uptake in more sustainable modes for local trips may reduce the need for road construction.	Effective implementation of policy SP7 and SP13 should ensure that new development promotes the use of recycled products and resources in construction and minimises waste generation during construction. However, it is recommended that both policies specify that these requirements apply to all types of development, including transport infrastructure projects.

20	To maintain current air quality	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	-	-	+/-	-	Road improvements envisaged under policy SP6 are likely to lead to an increase in road based transport, potentially affecting local air quality. The use of public transport, which is less energy intensive compared to a private car and is a cleaner option in terms of local air quality effects, is also promoted by policies within this component. However, if absolute volumes of travelling by both private vehicles and public transport grow, this will lead to an increase in GHG emissions. Policies also seek to increase travel by walking and cycling, which may offset negative effects to some extent. Negative effects may lessen in the longer term, as the modal shift takes place.	See recommendation under objective 18.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	Increased road building and the building of other infrastructure for improved accessibility is likely to increase surface water runoff overall. The need for more infrastructure may reduce over time if the use of public transport and other sustainable modes increases. However, this may be offset by a likely increase in precipitation in the longer term as a result of climate change, increasing the potential for flooding events.	It should be ensured that all roads and other infrastructural improvements are designed with SUDS where practicable to result in no net increase in surface water runoff.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Policy SP7 suggests the use of sustainable products or resources in construction, although the extent to which this applies to the construction of road and transport infrastructure is unclear. A range of positive or negative effects are therefore possible.	See recommendation under objective 19.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low	0	+	++	+	Transport energy efficiency should be improved as a result of the promotion of the use of public transport, including rail, and non-motorised forms of transport. Effects may become more pronounced in the longer term.	The following message could be added to policy SP6 as an additional bullet point to support energy-efficiency measures and the use of alternative fuels in transport sector: 'Promote clean and energy-efficient vehicles for public transport fleet'.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	××	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	--	--	--	--	Increased road building and the building of other infrastructure for improved accessibility is likely to increase surface water runoff overall, which can have negative effects on water quality through pollutants entering water resources. The need for more infrastructure may reduce over time if public transport use increases.	See recommendations under objective 21.

25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	✗✗	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	--	-	+/-	-	An increase in the development of road transport is likely to have negative effects on landscape quality overall. Accessibility improvements may help to unlock the potential of brownfield sites for development, which could increase the use of brownfield sites and help to improve landscape quality. Further, if an increase in the use of more sustainable modes of transport is achieved, this will decrease the requirement for road building which will place less pressure on greenfield sites in the longer term. Policy SP6 seeks to minimise negative effects on the natural environment.	Performance against this SA Objective is dependent upon implementation of the provisions of policy SP10 (Protection and enhancement of the natural environment) which requires the protection of the landscape quality.

Table H.4 – Assessment Theme 4: Sustainable Design

SP7: Creating Sustainable High Quality Development
DM1: Design
DM7 Renewable Energy

		Effects					*Assessment*					
	SA Objective	**Mag**	**Scale**	**Dur**	**T/P**	**Cert**	**ST**	**MT**	**LT**	**Sm**	**Commentary**	**Recommendations**
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low	+	++	++	++	Insofar as the design standards may improve the attractiveness of the built environment, this may attract investment in the area leading to economic growth over the medium to long term.	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++	++	An improvement in design standards could improve the quality of the built environment and subsequently help to attract more tourists to the area in the medium to long term.	None identified.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++	++	An improvement in design standards could attract more people to the area as well as increase investment which is likely to enhance the viability and vitality in the town centres over the medium to long term.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.

6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	+++	++	Adherence to national requirements for sustainable design will ensure that the quality of housing in Blaenau Gwent overall is improved.	As recommended under the component for housing, policies could specifically require that housing refurbishments are subject to a higher level of sustainable design than that required by national policy to reflect the greater need for high quality refurbishment in the area than perhaps compared to elsewhere.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects- this element is not included in CfSH or BREEAM requirements. This will be achieved through policies relating to accessibility.	None identified.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	++	++	An improvement in the quality of housing provision through national standards may improve health. Additionally, Secured by Design principles may increase a sense of wellbeing in the community.	None identified.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	Both policies DM1 and SP7 seek that development adheres to 'Secured by Design' principles which could help to design out crime.	SP7 (Creating Sustainable High Quality Development) and DM1 (Design): repetition of the need for 'Secured by Design' principles to be used. It is suggested that sustainable design principles are included in one policy only. It is suggested that the site specific elements of policy SP7 are transferred to policy DM1. This will include policy elements c, d, e, f and g. Strategic design considerations such as avoiding areas of flood risk, prioritising the use of brownfield land and reducing the need to travel should remain in the strategic policy. Policy elements k and l are considered to be overarching

												strategic aims and should be outlined in the first paragraph of the policy, as ultimately the other measures included seek to achieve these aims.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	-	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++	++	Policy SP7 seeks to direct development towards transport corridors or town centres, which could encourage patronage on public transport and reduce the need to travel by car. This effect is likely to increase over time.	None identified.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	Policy SP7 requires that development protects and enhances biodiversity which may help the achievement of this objective.	It is suggested that the strategic policy (SP7) refer to the need for development to be in accordance with a wider green infrastructure strategy/wildlife corridor network to provide more specific relevant to the design policy in relation to biodiversity. The development management policy (DM1) could include a locally specific requirement for land use and ecology to become mandatory credits when undertaking CfSH and BREEAM requirements as required by national guidance.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	Policy DM1 seeks that developments reflect, complement of enhance the character of buildings and their settings which may contribute to the achievement of this objective.	It is suggested that it is unnecessary to include this component within this policy, as it is repeated in other policies in the LDP (e.g. SP11). More usefully, DM content could include detail on how sustainable design and renewable energy schemes could reflect local character, to provide a more positive and proactive policy approach, to enable more sustainable development rather than restrict it. This could be in the form of SPG/Design guidance and is especially important with regards to low and zero carbon energy generating technologies.

16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	Policy SP7 seeks to direct development to brownfield land which may help to minimise the pressure on greenfield land. The policy also seeks that biodiversity is protected as part of development.	None identified.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	Policy SP7 seeks to direct development to brownfield land which may help to minimise the pressure on greenfield land, and subsequently soil resources.	None identified.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	✓✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	The principles included in policy SP7 and DM1, along with national requirements for sustainable design, should reduce GHG emissions overall in new development. This will increase over time as requirements become higher.	GHG emissions could be reduced further through the requirement for more stringent design standards than currently required by WAG. This could bring forward the requirement for zero carbon development.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	The policy DM7 states that anaerobic digestion may be a potential source of energy, which could also help to reduce waste to landfill. The policy SP7 seeks to use recycled products in construction, as well as minimise construction waste, which could help reduce waste generation.	It is recommended that policy DM1 includes a requirement for a specific percentage of recycled or sustainable products and resources used in construction to build up on the message in policy SP7.
20	To maintain current air quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	Locating development in brownfield areas as well as close to transport corridors and town centres may help to minimise travel distances and public transport patronage which may help to reduce increases in air pollution.	None identified.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Policy SP7 seeks to avoid unnecessary flood risk which could have positive effects against this objective. However, this could be interpreted as development may be allowed where flood risk is deemed acceptable due to other overriding reasons which may lead to negative effects.	It is recommended that policy SP7 requires that more vulnerable and highly vulnerable development is avoided in areas of identified high flood risk in line with TAN15 requirements. This would remove the current ambiguity of the policy message with regards to flood risk. Also see recommendations under objective 24.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	✓✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	Policy SP7 seeks to promote the use of sustainably sources products and resources in construction.	See recommendation under objective 19.

23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++	++	Policy DM7 seeks to promote the provision of alternative energy schemes. However, the policy seems to place a large amount of restrictions on potential developments, which may prohibit their realisation.	8.69 It is suggested that policy SP7 include the energy hierarchy principle to provide overarching guidance in the approach to energy in all development. It is recommended that the policy DM7 title be reworded to 'low and zero carbon energy'. It is also suggested that the policy requires a specific percentage of developments' energy to come from low or zero carbon sources matching or exceeding CfSH and BREEAM standards. Although the plan area does not include any Strategic Search Areas (SSAs), SPG could identify where zero or low carbon energy generating methods could be feasible to avoid the potentially negative effects. It is suggested that the list of potentially feasible projects within the policy is reflected in the supporting text. At present, the list of potential projects in the policy and its supporting text are not fully aligned.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	Policy SP7 seeks to reduce surface water runoff which may help to reduce contaminants entering water resources. Other policies in the LDP will also contribute to reducing water pollution. Effects on water resources are also dealt with under national BREEAM and CfSH requirements.	It is suggested that DM1 specifies how the requirement of reducing surface water runoff set out in policy SP7 is to be achieved, e.g. through minimising an increase in impermeable surfaces and using SUDS where practicable.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	Insofar as the design standards will increase the quality of the built environment, effects may benefit landscape quality.	None identified.

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Table H.5 – Assessment Theme 5: Economy and Employment

SP8: Sustainable Economic Growth
DM12 Use Class Restrictions – Business and Industry
EMP1 Employment Allocations
EMP2 Employment Area Protection
ED 1 Education Provision
TM1 Tourism and Leisure

		Effects					*Assessment*					
	SA Objective	**Mag**	**Scale**	**Dur**	**T/P**	**Cert**	**ST**	**MT**	**LT**	**Sm**	**Commentary**	**Recommendations**
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	+++	+++	Policy SP8 identifies that 41-60ha of land will be provided to meet economic development and employment needs. The policy will help to diversify the economy through identifying roles for the major industrial areas which may help more sustainable growth. Policies DM12 and the allocations policies will ensure the delivery of the strategic policy.	Supporting text for policy EMP2 states that the policy is to be read in tandem with policy AW10- it is unclear to which policy this refers as there is no such policy in the Deposit Draft LDP.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	+++	+++	+++	Policy SP8 identifies that 41-60ha of land will be provided to meet economic development and employment needs. The policy is directly aligned with the objective and should achieve significant benefits over the duration of the plan period, particularly as the locational focus covers both existing business locations and new sites close to the key settlements.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	Policy SP8 seeks to encourage the development of tourism, leisure and heritage initiatives in town centres as well as encourage 'activity tourism' in the countryside. Policy SP8 seeks that the tourism industry is encouraged in town centres, which is reinforced through policy TM1 which allocates such sites for implementation.	Promotion of 'Activity Tourism' repeated in policies: SP2 (The Retail Hierarchy); SP8 (Sustainable Economic Growth) and SP9 (Green and Healthy Communities). It is recommended that this element is included in one policy only. It is suggested that this is the policy relating to the diversification of the economy (SP8). Cross referencing to other policies can be made in the supporting text to demonstrate synergistic benefits.

4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	The development of increased employment opportunities alongside the development of the leisure, heritage and tourism industry in the town centres should serve to enhance the vitality and viability of these areas with the potential for increased beneficial effects against the objective over time.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	Policy SP8 seeks to ensure the provision of infrastructure and skills development through employment, which is likely to encourage an increase in skills in the community over time. Further to this, policy ED 1 seeks to provide new sites for the provision of educational facilities to accommodate increasing demand over time.	Policy SP8 seeks that a 'first class learning infrastructure' is put in place to ensure that residents gain the skills they require, as well as the encouragement of local labour agreements. However, how local labour agreements will be implemented through the DM or allocations policies is unclear and further discussion could be made to the implementation of this strategy approach.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The site assessments identify potential conflicts between the SA objective and a large number of the allocations. DM12 permits secondary sites to contain acceptable commercial services, which may include indoor health and fitness or play facilities, which could have beneficial effects on the health of some members of the community. Further to this, ED 1 will seek to ensure that increased demand for education will be met to accommodate increased population levels.	8.81 It should be ensured that any potential conflicts identified as a result of the sites assessment with regard to the SA objective 9 (accessibility) are eradicated or mitigated prior to development on site. Accessibility to local services and facilities should be ensured through co-location of employment development with these facilities or the provision of good access by sustainable transport modes and provision of new facilities and services in the areas of need.

10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++	++	Policy SP8 promotes employment in health and social care employment in town centres, which could increase overall health levels in the community. There is some evidence to suggest that worklessness and poor health can be linked - by increasing the range and availability of job opportunities locally, the policy offers the potential to deliver increased benefits against the objective. Further, DM12 permits secondary sites to contain acceptable commercial services, which may include indoor health and fitness or play facilities, which could have beneficial effects on the health of some members of the community.	None identified.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	There is evidence to suggest causality between criminal activity and a 'lack of things to do'. As such, in seeking to broaden the range and availability of employment opportunities in the County Borough, the policy offers the potential to deliver some benefits.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Beneficial effects are likely to be realised through the encouragement of some employment opportunities in mixed use sites as well as in town centres. Conversely, negative effects may arise through the development of large industrial estates for employment uses, which may generate increased trips by car. The accessibility component indicates that further road building is necessary to accommodate economic growth, which does not provide any mitigation of this potential issue.	See recommendations under the accessibility component- it should be ensured that all employment allocations are easily accessible by a range of safe and convenient public transport opportunities.

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	××	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	--	--	---	---	Potential conflicts identified in the sites assessment for: EMP1.19; MU1; EMP1.18; EMP1.19; EMP1.20; EMP1.11; EMP1.7; EMP1.8; EMP1.4. Potential conflicts identified with a large number of the other allocations. A number of the sites partially comprise areas designated for biodiversity protection. Proposed mitigation measures in the supporting text to the LDP as well as the other related LDP policies (see component 7) will help to mitigate effects on biodiversity although some negative effects are likely. Negative effects may increase over time as linkages between habitats are lost.	It is recommended that sites of known biodiversity value are not carried forward for development. Potential conflicts are identified in the supporting documentation providing detailed site information for the LDP where mitigation is proposed. This document should be cross-referenced in the LDP to ensure that mitigation measures are adhered to. It is recommended that the data gaps identified are filled, and any mitigation necessary identified, prior to the formal allocation of the sites. Habitat linkages should be maintained and enhanced to reduce cumulative effects and the creation of biodiversity 'islands'. A strategic approach should be taken and the framework used to ensure migration of species is possible throughout the site.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	?	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The economic strategy in the LDP seeks to encourage diversification through the use of heritage assets. This is likely to ensure that these are enhanced and conserved to ensure the success of this initiative over time. Non tourism development design will be guided by other LDP policies. Some constraints are identified for some of the development sites, which may lead to overall negative effects. Mitigation measures are identified in supporting LDP text.	None identified.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	××	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	--	--	--	--	Although the LDP approach seeks a the brownfield sites are preferred for development over greenfield, it is unclear as to which category most of the sites fit. Nevertheless, some of these sites have known biodiversity value, mitigation for which is proposed in the LDP supporting text.	Mitigation should include the maintenance of wildlife corridors, and could include green roofs to replace the ground level green space lost and move it skywards.

17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	x	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	--	--	--	--	The development of land for employment is likely to lead to the loss of soil resources and soil quality.	See recommendations under objective 16. In addition, land which has lower quality soils should be developed ahead of higher quality soil areas where greenfield sites are proposed.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	x x	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	--	--	--	The delivery of the policy will involve substantial new development, which is likely to increase the sources of GHG emissions, both in terms of built development and transport movements. This may be minimised through adherence to national BREEAM requirements.	None identified.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The construction of employment facilities will result in considerable waste generation during and post-construction. SP13 seeks to encourage the movement of waste up the hierarchy and reduce waste generated through construction which may minimise potential negative effects over time. Positive effects may arise from the potential use of sites protected for B2 for the location of waste management facilities.	See assessment under sustainability theme 'waste'. It is suggested that waste management facilities is reworded to read 'sustainable waste management facilities' to infer the preferred approach.
20	To maintain current air quality	x x	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	--	--	--	The economic strategy in the LDP seeks to increase employment in both town centre and non town centre locations. Along with the approach to road building elsewhere in the LDP, the development of employment sites is likely to lead to increased trip generation and deterioration of air quality over time.	See recommendations under objective 13.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	x x	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	--	--	---	---	Conflicts identified for sites: ED1.2; EMP1.1; EMP1.15; EMP1.13. EMP1.15 and ED1.2 are wholly within Flood Zone C2. Significant risks to people and property through increased flood risk are likely. This is further exacerbated by the likely increase in hardsurfacing, which will increase surface water runoff throughout the plan area, added to the increase in precipitation likely as a result of climate change.	It is recommended that more vulnerable and highly vulnerable development is not allowed in areas of identified high flood risk in line with TAN15 requirements. Potential conflicts are identified in the supporting documentation providing detailed site information for the LDP where mitigation is proposed. This document should be cross-referenced in the LDP to ensure that mitigation measures are adhered to. It is recommended that the data

												gaps identified are filled, and any mitigation necessary identified, prior to the formal allocation of the sites.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for employment development to make use of sustainably sourced products; this is required through policy SP7 elsewhere in the LDP.	None identified.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	++	++	National guidance and requirements from other LDP policies will ensure that new employment development is energy efficient. These standards will become more stringent over time.	None identified.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	✕✕	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	--	--	--	--	In the site assessments, potential conflicts were identified for sites: EMP1.15; EMP1.13. A number of the sites including these are adjacent to watercourses. Along with an overall increase in development, which is likely to increase hard surfacing and surface water runoff, the potential for pollution to water resources will be significantly increased through employment development. Supporting text to the LDP provides some mitigation in this respect, such as requiring buffers between development areas and watercourses, which may reduce the severity of effects.	Potential conflicts are identified in the supporting documentation providing detailed site information for the LDP where mitigation is proposed. This document should be cross-referenced in the LDP to ensure that mitigation measures are adhered to. It is recommended that the data gaps identified are filled, and any mitigation necessary identified, prior to the formal allocation of the sites.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The majority of the development sites are adjacent or within current industrial estates, although how many of these sites are brownfield is unknown. Therefore a range of positive and negative effects may result.	It is recommended that the quality of the landscape is maintained as far a possible through reducing the development of employment on greenfield sites. This will help to encourage increased potential for the diversification of the economy through the development of tourism industry.

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Table H.6 – Assessment Theme 6: Communities

SP9: Green and Healthy Communities
DM13 Protection of Community and Leisure Facilities
DM14 Protection of Open Space and Access to Open Space
DM15 Provision for Open Space, Recreation and Leisure Facilities
DM2 Amenity
DM6 Infrastructure Provision
CF1 Health Provision
CF2 Community Centre
L1 Indoor Leisure
L2 Formal Leisure Facilities

		Effects					*Assessment*					
SA Objective		**Mag**	**Scale**	**Dur**	**T/P**	**Cert**	**ST**	**MT**	**LT**	**Sm**	**Commentary**	**Recommendations**
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	The requirement for infrastructure and community services and facilities as part of new development will help to provide a basis for the development of a successful community which will have economic benefits.	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	An increase in community facilities may create limited employment opportunities.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	The policies include the provision of leisure facilities which may also help to strengthen the tourism industry.	See recommendations under theme 5- it is recommended that elements relating to tourism are only included within policies seeking employment diversification. Further, site specific initiatives should be excluded from the strategic policies as these are included in the site specific policy relating to tourism (see theme 5).
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	The protection and provision of community facilities may help to enhance the vitality of communities and thus the town centres where they are located.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	The provision of the community centre sites will also involve the provision of some housing which may contribute to meeting housing needs.	None identified.

6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	Affordable housing may be required through policy DM6 where required. The community centre sites will include the additional provision of affordable housing.	None identified.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	Increased provision of community facilities may be required through policy DM6 including educational provision where needed. Along with policies under theme 5 (economy and employment), the community centres allocated in policy CF2 will seek to create a community resource that will include training courses and lifelong learning. This will contribute to the achievement of this SA objective.	None identified.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	The policies in the theme are likely to lead to significant benefits over time to improve the availability of community services and facilities available to the local population and thus improve their accessibility. Policies DM13 and DM14 seek to protect community facilities and open space including access to open space. DM15 seeks additional provision where necessary. Policy DM6 seeks that this provision is provided as part of planning obligations. Specific allocations provided in the LDP may also lead to improved accessibility to community services and facilities in alliance with policies included with the accessibility theme of this assessment. The community centre will host a range of services comprising of early years provision, youth services, youth clubs and after school provision, learning, recreation, community safety, advice and information, community events and carnivals and venue hire.	It is recommended that the focus of the protection of natural greenspace in policy SP9 is changed to avoid repetition with other policies. This may include access to natural greenspace standards from CCW, and read 'Protect and enhance accessibility to natural greenspaces for all members of the community.' A similar approach could be taken in the DM policies which do not reflect the Strategic Policy in that they do not consider natural greenspace as a community facility. The list of relevant community facilities to the policies should be included in the supporting text or a cross reference made to where this is included in the LDP (this may include items from the list of infrastructure in the supporting text to policy DM6).

10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	✓✓	Local	ST-MT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	Policy SP9 may lead to improved health and wellbeing as the policy seeks to protect and improve open space, sport and leisure facilities; natural greenspace; and activity tourism. The DM policies seeking the protection and enhancement of community leisure facilities and open space may help to improve community health and wellbeing. Policy DM2 seeks to protect residential amenity which may help to preserve community wellbeing. Increased provision of community facilities may be required through policy DM6. Increased health provision is allocated in the LDP which could have direct benefits for health levels.	It is recommended that reference to all of the relevant DM policies is included in the Strategic Policy to provide the overall approach in the first section of the LDP. This may include the addition of residential amenity, and other elements necessary for the creation of a 'sustainable community'.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	There is evidence to suggest causality between criminal activity and a 'lack of things to do'. As such, in seeking to broaden the offer of community facilities and services in the County Borough, the policy offers the potential to deliver some benefits. This is especially the case in relation to the provision of the 'Star Centre' which will include youth and after school provision.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	The provision of community facilities to service the local community may reduce the need to travel by car for local trips if development is in accordance with accessibility policies.	None identified.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	Supporting text for Policy DM6 suggests that improvements may be required for green infrastructure where development is related to this. However, it is not apparent that green infrastructure has been identified in the LDP elsewhere to provide guidance for developers in this aspect which may limit potential opportunities.	As recommended under other themes, it is suggested that the development of a green infrastructure strategy is undertaken and included in the LDP to provide a framework for policies relating to air quality, landscape, biodiversity, the built environment as well as the provision of increased accessibility via walking and cycling and the development of SUDS.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	New development will be in accordance with other LDP policies that seek that all new development reflects the local character and heritage of the County Borough.	None identified.

16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	The achievement of this objective will be in accordance with the other LDP policies seeking to prioritise the use of brownfield land over greenfield. The provision of community facilities will provide an efficient use of land as it will provide benefit for a large number of people.	None identified.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	The achievement of this objective will be in accordance with the other LDP policies seeking to prioritise the use of brownfield land over greenfield.	None identified.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	?	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The provision of community facilities to service the local community may reduce the need for people to travel further afield to access the same facilities. This will depend, however, on the types and locations of facilities provided specifically as provision may increase some trip generation and emissions of GHGs. Further to this, an increase in development will increase overall emissions of greenhouse gases from buildings. Adherence to national requirements for BREEAM and CfSH may minimise this effect, especially in the longer term when buildings are expected to be zero carbon.	None identified.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	Infrastructural improvements will be required by policy DM6. This may include waste management facilities including those for recycling where needed.	The supporting text for policy DM6 could specify that provision of infrastructure and community facilities include sustainable waste management infrastructure and facilities.
20	To maintain current air quality	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	The provision of community facilities to service the local community may reduce the need for people to travel further afield to access the same facilities. This will depend, however, on the types and locations of facilities provided specifically as provision may increase some trip generation and emissions of pollutants.	DM policies could include the need for development to try to improve air quality through the provision of vegetation. Linked to policy DM5, the provision and enhancement of open space or green infrastructure could help to provide some air pollution sequestration.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	Infrastructural improvements, such as for flood risk management, may be required by policy DM6. The protection of areas of open space may help to retain areas for the maintenance of surface water runoff levels.	None identified.

22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	Sustainably sourced product and resource use may increase through built development from policies elsewhere in the LDP.	None identified.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	Infrastructural improvements will be required by policy DM6, including renewable power generation. Energy efficiency through design will be required through national guidance and policy DM1 in the LDP.	None identified.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	Infrastructural improvements will be required by policy DM6. The policies will include the retention of areas of open space as well as the redevelopment of existing buildings, so existing surface water runoff levels are likely to be maintained.	None identified.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	Policy SP9 seeks to protect and enhance natural greenspace within the County Borough which may have beneficial effects for landscape quality.	It is suggested that this policy content is unnecessary in this policy as other LDP policies provide the same requirements.

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Table H.7 – Assessment Theme 7: Natural Environment

SP10: Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment
DM4 Environment
DM5 Environmental Protection
DM16 Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment
ENV1 Green Wedges
ENV2 - Special Landscape Areas
ENV3 Land Reclamation Schemes
ENV4 Cemeteries

	SA Objective	*Effects* Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	*Assessment* ST	MT	LT	Sm	Commentary	Recommendations
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	++	++	The enhancement of the natural environment is likely to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus potentially attracting inward investment. Longer-term economic prosperity is dependent on the availability of natural resources and the state of ecological systems and services they provide. The beneficial effects associated with the implementation of these policies will become more pronounced in the longer term.	Reasoned justification of policy DM5 could highlight the importance of healthy ecosystems that are capable of providing ecosystem goods and services to society at the local level to ensure its thriving in the longer term.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++	++	Environmental protection and enhancement is likely to have benefits for the development of the tourism industry, improving local assets which attract visitors to the area. This effect is likely to increase over time.	None identified.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	The allocation of green wedges to prevent settlement coalescence will help to focus development within the town centres thus helping to enhance their viability and vitality.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.

8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	Implementation of policy DM5 should benefit public health by ensuring that there is no unacceptable risk of harm to health in terms of air, light, noise and water pollution, contamination land instability or any other identified risks. The enhancement of the natural environment stipulated under policies within this component should also provide benefits for public health through an increase in green space, enhancing an overall sense of community wellbeing and promoting informal recreation.	None identified.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	ENV3 is concerned with the reclamation of derelict land. A safer environment can be achieved by reclaiming derelict sites, as they can cause a concern in terms of safety.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	The preservation of the local landscape and countryside could help to deliver some benefit toward the protection of welsh culture. Implementation of policy ENV2 - Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) is of particular importance for the delivery of benefits against this objective, as SLAs are considered to be important to the overall landscape, history, culture, biodiversity and geology of the County Borough.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	✓✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	The policies seek to protect both designated and non-designated biodiversity sites, which will ensure that value is maintained throughout the County Borough. Policy SP10 suggests that a network of local wildlife sites and corridors, links and stepping stones is created to protect and enhance the local biodiversity. Policy DM16 specifies that a high degree of connectivity between habitats can help species to survive in light of predicted climate change effects, allowing for easier migration and dispersal.	There is a degree of overlap between policies DM4 (Environment) and DM16 (Protection and enhancement of the natural environment), as they both aim to protect and enhance sites and features of ecological importance. It is recommended that a better differentiation is made between these two policies. This could be achieved through the following: - Policy DM16 could benefit from taking a more holistic approach to the provision and enhancement of multi-functional Green Infrastructure (GI) as supposed to the ecological network. This should include the allocation of linkages and routes as part of a strategic approach that integrates biodiversity interests, enables response to climate change and more sustainable and healthy lifestyles by incorporating interests of cyclists and walkers and improving the accessibility of key recreational and green assets, supporting the urban and rural economy and assisting in the better long term planning and management of green spaces and corridors. Components comprising the GI should be clearly identified, for instance, it should be specified what falls under the definition of open spaces, ecological corridors and stepping stones or network of 'urban green' and other elements. The Plan should include a map showing how the linkages across the County Borough will be made to enhance the GI and ensure that development does not lead to the loss of connectivity. - Following the recommended

												amendments made to policy DM16, policy DM4 could provide a more specific focus on the biodiversity protection and enhancement, including sites of international, national and local value and important ecological habitats, species and features. This should also include the protection of ecological network with a clearer definition of what comprises it. The policy reasoned justification could specify that ecological network also forms part of the multi-functional GI network. - Policies should be renamed to reflect their content if the proposed recommendations are taken on board.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	Policies ENV 2 requires the protection of landscapes that are of historical and cultural importance. Allocation of extensions to the existing cemeteries (ENV4) may also provide some benefits against this objective.	None identified.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	High	+	++	++	++	Policy ENV3 requires reclamation of the derelict land and implementation of policy DM5 should help remediate the contaminated sites where feasible bringing them back into productive use.	None identified.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	High	+	++	++	++	Effects identified for objective 16 will also benefit soil resources and quality. The goals of preserving and enhancing biodiversity sites and features are also deemed beneficial for soil resources conservation.	None identified.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Temp	High	+	+	+	+	Conservation, management and enhancement of habitats and wildlife corridors may have minor positive effects on the level of GHG emissions through providing carbon sink.	None identified.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	Positive effects against this SA objective are associated with the implementation of policy ENV3 and DM5 through the reuse of previously developed land.	None identified.

20	To maintain current air quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	DM5 requires to ensure that new development will not result in unacceptably high levels of air pollution. Conservation, management and enhancement of habitats and wildlife corridors may have minor positive effects on local air quality through sequestration of many pollutants from the atmosphere, including nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide and particulate matter.	None identified.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+/-	+/-	-	-	DM4 requires that new development accords with the national requirements in terms of flood risk. As the policy envisages that in some instances social and economic interests may override flood risk considerations, a combination of positive and negative effects are likely. Negative effects may increase in the longer term as a result of climate change consequences.	As biodiversity is the main focus of DM4, it is suggested that the section on flood risk in this policy and its reasoned justification is extracted to form a separate policy to provide a clear approach to the development in flood risk areas.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	Implementation of Land Reclamation Schemes may provide scope for promoting the use of sustainably sourced products and resources. Therefore, consideration should be given to extending the scope of policy ENV3 to include a requirement for reclamation schemes to use sustainably and locally sourced products and resources.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	DM5 is concerned with the protection of watercourses, ground and surface water, allowing new development where the provision is made for the necessary infrastructure to protect water quality and quantity.	DM5 message in relation to the protection of water could be strengthened through the inclusion of a requirement for SUDS to be incorporated in new development where practicable.

25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	High	+	++	++	++	Policies SP10, DM4, DM16 and ENV2 seek to protect and enhance the local landscape and its features and create new habitat and landscaping as part of new development where appropriate. Development within SLA will have to adhere to the highest possible design standards.	None identified.

Table H.8 – Assessment Theme 8: Built Environment

SP11: Protection and Enhancement of the Built Environment
DM17 New Build Development in the Countryside
DM18 Existing Buildings in the Countryside
SB1 Settlement Boundaries

		Effects					*Assessment*					
SA Objective		**Mag**	**Scale**	**Dur**	**T/P**	**Cert**	**ST**	**MT**	**LT**	**Sm**	**Commentary**	**Recommendations**
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	Policies within the theme will contribute to protecting and enhancing the distinctive image of the County Borough helping to stimulate investments into the area. The local economy will also benefit from promoting heritage tourism (SP11) and conversion of rural buildings for employment use (DM18).	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Policy SP11 aims to promote heritage tourism and its reasoned justification identifies the main projects to this end. This should increase numbers of visitors to the area and should stimulate the creation of new jobs in this sector.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High	+	++	++	++	Policy SP11 aims to promote heritage tourism. It is recognises that heritage assets should not only be protected for its own sake but also harnessed to support heritage tourism for the purpose of regeneration. The policy reasoned justification identifies the main projects to increase attractiveness of heritage assets in the area in line with the Heritage Strategy.	Reasoned justification of policy SP11 could include a concise summary of the ways in which heritage tourism should be promoted according to the Heritage Strategy to improve clarity of the policy.

4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Harnessing and regeneration of heritage assets should bring about benefits to the vitality and viability of the town centres by increasing their distinctiveness and attractive and encouraging an increase in footfall throughout the day and evening through an increase in visitors.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Small scale infill development and conversion for residential purposes in the countryside will provide minor positive effects against this objective.	None identified.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Minor positive effects come through the conversion of abandoned buildings in the countryside.	None identified.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	New development in the countryside necessary for agriculture, farm diversification, forestry, minerals and tourism will help with the retention of local skills.	None identified.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	+	++	++	++	By encouraging appropriate employment uses in the countryside as well as recreation, tourism and leisure proposals and confining major development within the settlement boundaries, policies within the theme help ensure accessibility to the key services and facilities both in rural and urban areas.	Reasoned justification for policies DM17 and DM18 could include criteria to encourage alternative modes of transport for new, expanded or replacement employment development wherever appropriate.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Promotion of recreation, tourism and leisure proposals that are suitable in the countryside (DM17) as well as preserving the countryside from undesirable development should contribute to the well-being of the local communities.	None identified.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Minor indirect positive effects as a result of enhancing local character and identity which may contribute to residents' feelings of belonging to the area and taking pride in it.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	Preservation and enhancement of the County Borough's rich heritage and supporting heritage tourism will help protect and promote the Welsh culture.	None identified.

13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Policies within this theme may improve accessibility as per the comment against the objective 9, potentially stimulating a shift to more sustainable forms of transport.	See the recommendation for objective 9.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+	+	+	Conversion of rural buildings may cause disturbance to the species inhabiting in the abandoned buildings. However, the reasoned justification of policy DM18 refers to the biodiversity SPG to protect biodiversity interests in this case. Preservation of the countryside from undesirable development should deliver benefits for the local biodiversity.	None identified.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	SP11 is concerned with the preservation and enhancement of the local heritage assets both those granted statutory degree of protection and those of local importance.	It is recommended that a new DM policy is included in the LDP that details how the strategic messages in SP11 should be delivered. This can include the following: - alterations and extensions to listed buildings and development within their curtilage - demolition of listed buildings; - demolition of unlisted buildings, structures or features within conservation areas; - new development in conservation areas; - new uses for historic buildings; - development affecting the registered park and garden; - sites and features of archaeological Importance. This would strengthen the LDP performance with regards to this objective.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	Promoting the full use of urban land within the settlement boundaries (SB1) should help optimise the existing brownfield land development opportunities. Policy DM18 promotes renovation and conversion of the existing buildings in the rural areas where this does not affect the quality of the countryside.	It is recommended that the promotion of a sequential approach, starting with the use of previously developed land, is added to the list of the aims in the policy SB1.

17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	SB1 aims to maximise the use of urban land by identifying settlement boundaries. This measure together with the other measures set out in policies DM17 and DM18 help preserve the countryside and land of agricultural value.	None identified.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Some minor positive effects are expected as a result of the improved accessibility as per commentary against objective 9 and preservation of the open and green space acting as carbon sinks.	See the recommendation for objective 9.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	Policy DM18 supports the re-use of rural buildings where this represents a sound solution and contributes to the quality of the countryside. This should help minimise the use of primary resources and improve the level of the re-use of existing buildings and structures.	None identified.
20	To maintain current air quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Positive effects on local air quality are expected as a potential reduction in car use and the need to travel due to concentration of development within the existing settlements and by allowing appropriate employment uses in the countryside. Encouraging rural employment should assist in reducing commuting to the larger centres.	See the recommendation for objective 9.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	-					0	0	0	0	Assuming that enhancing of local character and, in particular, the appearance of individual historic buildings, may require the use of locally sourced materials, this policy may deliver positive effects against this objective.	It is recommended that a requirement for the use of locally sourced materials in new and existing development where practicable is included in either a new policy (as recommended under objective 15) or in the reasoned justification of SP11.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.

25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Although development in the countryside may affect the quality of the local landscape, policy DM17 places a number of restrictions on this type of development and requires a landscape assessment and landscaping scheme for significant development proposals. Protection and enhancement of the local heritage assets and their settings should benefit the quality and character of the local landscape.	None identified.

Table H.9 – Assessment Theme 9: Minerals

SP12: Securing an Adequate Supply of Minerals
M1: Safeguarding of Minerals
M2: Residential Amenity Buffer Zones
M3: Preferred Area of Search

		Effects					*Assessment*					
SA Objective		**Mag**	**Scale**	**Dur**	**T/P**	**Cert**	**ST**	**MT**	**LT**	**Sm**	**Commentary**	**Recommendations**
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High	++	++	++	++	An adequate supply of mineral resources is important for the national, regional and local economy. Policy SP12 seeks to ensure that the County Borough contributes to the local, regional and national demand for aggregate supplies, safeguards nationally important mineral resources and maintains the required land banks.	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Safeguarding mineral resources and maintaining appropriate land banks should support existing and new minerals and minerals-related operations.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	Minerals operations may affect the tranquillity levels of the area and consequently its attractiveness to the visitors. The effects should not be permanent though, as policy SP12 requires a high standard of restoration and aftercare.	The theme could be strengthened if one of the desirable after uses include amenity uses/recreation and wildlife as per recommendation below under objective 14.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	An adequate supply of mineral resources is important for the provision of new housing.	None identified.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.

7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Support for minerals operations and sectors dependant on minerals supply should help retain local skills.	None identified.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Minerals operations may affect the local amenity. However, policies SP12 and M2 seek to minimise the minerals effects on residential areas by establishing residential amenity buffer zones.	The theme could be strengthened if one of the desirable after uses include amenity uses/recreation as per recommendation below under objective 14. See also recommendation under objective 20.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for some indirect benefits insofar as safeguarding local mineral resources could help maintain local character and distinctiveness of the built environment if the materials are used for this purpose.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	✗	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	Transportation of minerals is likely to increase road traffic.	Transport considerations should be included in policy SP12 promoting minerals transportation by non-road transport modes and encouraging locations reducing the need for transportation.

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	x	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	Minerals operations and transportation may disturb local wildlife species and lead to the fragmentation or loss of some habitats. However, these effects should be minimised, as per the requirement in policy SP12.	It is recommended that a new development management policy is included that builds the requirement to ensure a high standard of restoration and aftercare in policy SP12. At the moment there is a lack of interpretation of this requirement. The new policy should include more details requirements for restorations schemes, mechanisms to secure them and it should list desirable after uses. This could include biodiversity/geological conservation, forestry, amenity uses/recreation, agriculture, etc. Policy SP12 requirement in respect of the natural environment protection could be strengthened by including a reference not only to national guidance but also to local guidance.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	x	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	Minerals operations and transportation may affect the settings of the historical assets or archaeological remains. However, these effects should be minimised, as per the requirement in policy SP12.	Policy SP12 could be strengthened by stipulating the requirement to protect not only built heritage but also its settings and archaeological remains.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	x	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	The extraction of minerals may lead to a loss of high quality agricultural land.	See recommendations under objective 14 and 20. Agriculture should be one of the desirable after uses. If mineral extraction is proposed on high-grade agricultural land, government policy requires restoration to the highest standard and as near as possible to the original grade.

18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	Transportation of minerals is likely to increase road traffic and transport related emissions.	See recommendation under objective 13.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	++	++	++	++	Policy SP12 promotes the increased re-use and recycling of construction and demolition material and industrial wastes, reducing the amount of waste produced.	None identified.
20	To maintain current air quality	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	Predicted increase in road traffic may affect local air quality.	See recommendation under objective 13. It is also recommended that consideration is given to the development of a new development management polity that is concerned with the environmental protection building on the requirements in policy SP12. This should include effects on air, soil and water quality as well as noise and light pollution, vibration and visual effects.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	Lack of a coordinated approach towards filling in appropriate sites may result in an increased risk of industrial flooding associated with former mineral workings.	It is recommended that a new development management policy is included that builds the requirement to ensure a high standard of restoration and aftercare in policy SP12. It should address the risk of industrial flooding by requiring timely filling in of suitable former mineral sites.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Re-use and recycling of materials should help reduce the amount of embodied energy in the materials used for construction specified as one of the aspects covered by this objective in the assessment rationale.	None identified.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	Mineral operations may affect the quality of local surface and groundwater.	See recommendation under objective 20.

25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	x	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	Mineral operations may affect the quality of the local landscape through noise, light and visual effects.	See recommendation under objective 20. The supporting text for this suggested new policy could include recommended mitigation measures, e.g. screen planting to mitigate visual and noise effects. See also recommendation for restoration and after uses under objective 14.

Table H.10 – Assessment Theme 10: Waste

SP13: Delivering Sustainable Waste Management
W1 Land for Waste Management

		Effects					*Assessment*					
SA Objective		**Mag**	**Scale**	**Dur**	**T/P**	**Cert**	**ST**	**MT**	**LT**	**Sm**	**Commentary**	**Recommendations**
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	+	+	+	Sustainable waste management practices promoted by SP13 should increase the competitive edge of the local businesses in the longer term.	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.

9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Adequate provision of sustainable waste management facilities should improve accessibility for the local community to household waste recycling.	None identified.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	-	-	-	-	The location of waste management facilities in proximity to residential areas may affect residential amenity and the quality of the environment and may have potential to affect human health. Potential effects will be dependent on the nature of the facilities.	It is recommended that consideration is given to the development of a new development management policy that builds on the reference to the best environmental option in SP13, specifying the criteria to be used in the assessment and other development control considerations. This should include environmental and socio-economic criteria/considerations.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Securing of allocations for new waste management facilities at B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites should help avoid additional land take and negative effects on the local biodiversity.	Brownfield sites may provide valuable biodiversity habitat and should be surveyed before use with mitigation implemented where necessary.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Securing of allocations for new waste management facilities at B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites should help avoid additional land take and potential negative effects on the settings of the local heritage assets.	None identified.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Securing of allocations for new waste management facilities at protected B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites will ensure the best use of previously developed land and will help avoid additional land take.	See recommendation under objective 14.

17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Securing of allocations for new waste management facilities at protected B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites may ensure the best use of brownfield sites and protection of land of high agricultural value. Composting biodegradable waste promoted by the policies within this theme	None identified.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Reference to the proximity principle should help avoid excessive transportation of waste and reduce transport related GHG emissions. Minimisation of waste production and its diversion from landfill should also help minimise landfill GHGs, i.e. emissions of methane, which have high global warming potential.	None identified.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	Implementation of waste hierarchy through the provision of appropriate infrastructure and facilities is the key aim of policy SP13 delivering benefits against this objective.	It is recommended that some of the features in the supporting text of the strategic policy are used for DM policy such as a reference to sites identification process (para 5.89).
20	To maintain current air quality	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Reference to the proximity principle should help avoid excessive transportation of waste and reduce transport related emissions. Enclosed and controlled waste management processes should ensure that air quality impacts are avoided or minimised to acceptable levels in line with legislation standards. However, the implementation of waste policies still has potential to lead to adverse impacts on the environment.	It is recommended that the following message is added to policy SP13: *Encourage waste management practices that do not incur unacceptable adverse impact on the environment or endanger human health.* See recommendation under objective 10.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Re-use and recycling of materials promoted by SP13 should help reduce the amount of embodied energy in the materials used for construction specified as one of the aspects covered by this objective in the assessment rationale.	None identified.

23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Policies within this theme promote resource recovery facilities. W1 allocates sites for waste management facilities that potentially could accommodate anaerobic digestion facilities. Anaerobic digestion is a treatment that results in the production a biogas that can be used to generate electricity and heat.	None identified.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	x	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	Increase in numbers of waste management facilities may have potential for ground water pollution.	See recommendation under objective 10.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	x	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	Landscape effects are likely to be minimal, as new waste management facilities will be located at B2 industrial sites and adjacent to the existing waste management facilities.	None identified.

Appendix I Influence of the May 2010 SA of the Final Deposit Plan Development Management and Allocations and Designations Policies

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Table I.1 – Changes to the policies between May 2010 and April 2011

Note: track changes show all policy changes between May 2010 and April 2011- these include changes made as a result of the SA recommendations but also include additional changes made as a result of other consultee comments, changes to national policy and further development of the LDP evidence base.

Policy Content
Blue: new text ~~Strikethrough: deleted text~~ **Pink: text moved from a different part of the plan or policy (the origin of moved text is not shown)**
DM1 ~~Design~~ New Development *Development proposals will be permitted provided: -* ***1. Sustainable Design*** ***a. Energy efficient design is achieved;*** ***b. The proposal makes efficient and effective use of resources by employing sustainable building techniques, incorporating energy and water conservation measures, and wherever possible, the use of renewable energy;*** ***c. Construction waste and pollution is minimised;*** ***d. Recycled or sustainable products and resources are used in construction; where practicable; and*** ***e. The proposal reduces surface water run off through minimising an increase in impermeable surfaces and using Sustainable Drainage systems, where appropriate.*** ***2. Amenity*** ***a. The development would be compatible with other uses in the locality;*** ***b. There would be no unacceptable impact upon the amenities of neighbouring occupiers; and*** ***c. In the case of residential development including extensions and sub-division of dwellings, dwellings must be of appropriate size to provide satisfactory levels of amenity;*** ***d. There would be no unacceptable risk of harm to health and/or local amenity from unacceptably high levels of noise, vibration, odour or light pollution;*** ***e. The land is made stable and capable of supporting the development without risk of damage to buildings on the site or adjoining land; and*** ***f. Practicable and effective measures are taken to treat, contain or control any contamination.*** ***3. Accessibility***

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Policy Content
Blue: new text ~~Strikethrough: deleted text~~ **Pink: text moved from a different part of the plan or policy (the origin of moved text is not shown)**
a. The proposal has regard for the safe, effective and efficient use of the transportation network; ***b. The proposal ensures that new access roads within developments are designed to an appropriate standard that prioritises the interests of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport before that of the private car;*** ***c. The proposal secures appropriate provision for people with special access and mobility requirements;*** ***d. Parking, appropriate servicing and operational space has been provided in accordance with the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance on Access, Car Parking and Design; and*** ***e. Where a Transport Assessment and Travel Plan is required by national ~~guidance~~ planning policy, they must demonstrate that there will be no adverse impact on trip generation and travel demand.*** ~~b. The development proposal has regard to objectives of sustainability and good design as set out in national guidance;~~ Supporting Information *The Planning and Energy Act 2008 and ~~the Ministerial Interim Planning Policy Statement 01/2009 Planning for Sustainable Buildings~~ Planning Policy Wales sets standards to move towards more sustainable and zero carbon buildings in Wales. The Council will require new development to be built in accordance with sustainability standards set by WAG.* *Blaenau Gwent has plans for an extensive community network (shared cycle/walking routes). Whilst the proposed routes are identified on the proposals maps the full extent of the network is identified in Appendix 7. It is important that new developments are linked to this network.* ~~*Only development proposals which are generally consistent with TAN 12 or sufficiently explain in the Design and Access Statement how local context has been taken into consideration will be permitted. In terms of new dwellings, proposals will also need to accord with the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance on Residential Development.*~~
DM2 Design and Placemaking ***Development proposals will be permitted provided: -*** ***a. They are appropriate to the local context in terms of type, form, scale, mix, and density;*** ***b. They are of good design which reinforces local character and distinctiveness of the area;*** ***c. The development has regard to 'Secured by Design' principles;***

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Policy Content
Blue: new text ~~Strikethrough: deleted text~~ **Pink: text moved from a different part of the plan or policy (the origin of moved text is not shown)**
d. In the case of extensions to buildings, they reflect, complement or enhance the form, siting, materials, architectural details and character of the original building, its curtilage and the wider area; ***e. In the case of proposals for new and replacement shopfronts, roller shutters and signage, they make a positive contribution to the street scene and conform to the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance on Shopfront Design; and*** ***f. In the case of the public realm and key locations such as town centres, major routes and junctions, the character and quality of the built form is to a high standard of design and, where appropriate, includes public art; and*** ***g. Landscaping and planting, where appropriate, is integral to the scheme and enhances the site and the wider context*** Supporting Information *Whilst all design should be of good quality it is imperative that buildings in key locations should provide a good impression of the area as this will raise the image of the area. This adds, not only to the quality of life for local residents, but also enhances the ability to attract potential investors and visitors to the area. Blaenau Gwent has a strong cultural heritage and the Council are keen to ensure that new developments continue to add to the cultural fabric of the area. In considering proposals for public art as part of development schemes, the Council will seek artist commissions that add cultural value to the architecture, landscape design and sense of place.* *The landscape and the natural environment are amongst the most important local resources and needs to be protected and enhanced. This does not mean that there should be no change but there is a requirement for high, quality design solutions that complement or contribute to landscape character. The key is to incorporate areas of established importance and* ensure these are protected and enhanced, for example through their management and the incorporation of new features such as native trees and plants.
DM3 Air and Water Pollution ***Development proposals will be permitted where:*** ***a. They do not have an adverse impact upon the water environment or pose an unacceptable risk to the quality of controlled waters (including groundwater and surface water); and*** ***b. They do not result in airborne emissions which have an unacceptable effect on the health, amenity or natural environment of the surrounding area, taking into account cumulative effects of other proposed or existing sources of air pollution in the vicinity.*** Supporting Information

Policy Content
Blue: new text ~~Strikethrough: deleted text~~ **Pink: text moved from a different part of the plan or policy (the origin of moved text is not shown)**
The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) establishes a strategic approach to water management and a common means of protecting and setting environmental objectives for all ground waters and surface waters. It aims to protect and restore clean water and ensure its long-term sustainable use. *Development will only be allowed where adequate provision is made for the necessary infrastructure to protect water quality and quantity. Consideration will be given to the quality and quantity of the water resource and how this impacts upon the wider environment in terms of preventing further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems associated habitats, fisheries, promoting the sustainable use of water and controlling water abstractions. Planning permission may be granted subject to conditions to secure the necessary measures, or developers may be required to enter into Planning Obligations. Applications that cannot provide adequate protection of watercourses, ground and surface water will be refused.* *The Local Authority's ongoing review and assessment of the air quality within the County Borough has concluded that, based on the information available at present, it is unlikely that any of the air quality objectives that the Council are required to have regard to, are, or are likely to be exceeded in the immediate future. The Council is committed to ensuring the protection of the standard air quality within the Borough and also, where reasonably possible, the improvement of air quality. Development will not be permitted where it is considered that the resultant emissions to air will have an unacceptable impact on the existing and/or future air quality within the Borough or where there will be an unacceptable adverse impact on public health and/or the environment, taking into account the cumulative effects of other proposed or existing sources of air pollution in the vicinity.*
DM~~6~~4 Infrastructure Provision *Proposals for new development will be required to meet the infrastructure needs that it generates, including the improvement or provision of infrastructure, services and community facilities. Where on site provision cannot be achieved, off-site provision or a financial contribution will be required. Arrangements for the provision of infrastructure will be secured by the use of planning conditions attached to a planning permission or planning obligations in legal agreements or via the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Council will seek to ensure that, where appropriate, the impact of new development is mitigated to ensure that it contributes the regeneration of local communities in Blaenau Gwent.* Supporting Information *The introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2010) makes it unlawful for a planning obligation to be taken into account if the obligation does not meet all of the following tests:* *a. necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms* *b. directly related to the development; and* *c. fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.* *Any planning obligation that is entered into will be guided by these tests. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a new charge which local authorities in England and Wales are empowered, but not required, to levy on most types of new development in their areas. The proceeds of the levy will provide new local and sub-regional infrastructure to support the development of an area in line with local authorities' development plans. Blaenau Gwent has yet to determine if it*

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is to adopt a CIL. *Planning obligations generally apply to larger scale development where the provision of certain infrastructure required by the development is necessary to allow the development proposal to proceed. Infrastructure covers a range of services/facilities provided by public and private bodies. In certain cases improvements to or the provision of physical infrastructure may be required, such as: site access/egress and highway improvements beyond the site boundary, transport facilities and related infrastructure (footpaths, cycleways), water provision and treatment, sewerage, flood prevention and drainage, waste disposal, power generation and supply, including renewables, ICT and telecommunications. Where the development would place pressure on community facilities and services that are already near or at capacity, improvements to these services may be sought, such as: affordable housing, schools, recreation and sports facilities, open space, transport (including public transport), allotments, healthcare, community buildings, recycling facilities, public realm improvements to town centres, provision of public art for the benefit of the community ~~and a contribution to the local skills and labour market etc~~. Local labour market agreements will be used to enable local people to secure employment and skills development in the growing construction sector. This is currently in operation at 'The Works' and will look to be extended across the County Borough. Where a development is related to green infrastructure, improvements might be sought for the replacement and/or improvement of features of ecological or geological value and increasing access to green spaces and corridors. This is not an exhaustive list but typical of the type of infrastructure improvements that may be required.* *Depending on the nature and scale of the development proposal, the provision of the required infrastructure could take the form of on-site provision, off-site provision or financial contributions to provide the infrastructure in full or in part.* *The LDP sites that are expected to generate planning obligations are those housing allocations of 10 or more units included in Policy H1, employment allocations included in Policy EMP1, and retail allocations contained in Policy R1. An indication of the particular requirements (what, how and when) is given in ~~the site descriptions contained in supporting documentation~~ Chapter 9-Delivery and Implementation and cross-referenced to Policies DM8 Affordable Housing and DM13 Provision for Open Space, Recreation and Leisure Facilities. ~~The site descriptions that request specific planning obligations are based on evidence that takes full account of their impact on development viability.~~* *On windfall sites the range of requirements sought in relation to development proposals will be determined on a case by case basis, taking into account the location and nature of the development and the local infrastructure on which it would impact.* *In all cases, when a development proposal that would otherwise be refused would be made acceptable by securing the necessary infrastructure improvements via a planning obligation, planning permission will only be granted once the planning obligation has been signed. If such an agreement cannot be achieved the development proposal will be refused.* ***The Council has prepared SPG on Planning Obligations.***

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DM~~7~~5 ~~Renewable~~ Low and Zero Carbon Energy ***Where planning permission is required,*** *development proposals which promote the provision of renewable* ***and low/zero carbon energy*** *such as schemes for energy from* ***onshore wind; landfill gas; energy crops; energy from waste; anaerobic digestion; sewage gas; hydropower; biomass; combined heat and power; and solar*** *will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there is no unacceptable effect upon the interests of nature conservation, character and appearance of the landscape, visual, biodiversity, cultural heritage* ***air quality, odour, noise*** *and residential amenity.* *Development proposals should be designed to minimise resource use during construction, operation and maintenance.* Supporting Information *In September 2009, changes were made to the permitted development rights to make provision for the installation of certain types of microgeneration by householders without the need for planning permission, namely solar photovoltaic and solar thermal panels, ground source heat pumps and flues for biomass heating. There are further proposals to extend the permitted development rights in relation to microgeneration to cover the installation of technologies on non-domestic and domestic premises.* *The Blaenau Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Study (2011) identifies that there is potential to generate electricity and heat from renewable and low/ zero carbon technologies. These technologies include: onshore wind; landfill gas; energy crops; energy from waste; anaerobic digestion; sewage gas; hydropower; biomass; and combined heat and power. Although not assessed in the study there may also be potential for solar photovoltaic technology. The need to harness energy from renewable sources will be carefully balanced, with the impact of nature conservation, character and appearance of the landscape, visual, biodiversity, cultural heritage, air quality, odour, noise and residential amenity. The Local Development Plan seeks to ensure that any adverse local effects are identified and mitigated for through the planning process.* In determining proposals for the generation of hydro electricity, the issue of flooding will be an important consideration. With regard to anaerobic digestion, in order to protect residential amenity, proposals will only be permitted on sites identified for waste through policy W1 or ~~appropriate for B2 use through policy DM12.~~ employment sites that are allocated or identified as a primary or secondary site through policy DM11, EMP1 and EMP2. Small-scale digesters, for example on farms utilising their own waste, may be exempt from this requirement. TAN 8 identifies areas in Wales which are considered to be the most appropriate locations for large scale wind farm development; these areas are referred to as Strategic Search Areas (SSAs). There are no identified SSAs in Blaenau Gwent. Further advice on renewable energy related development will also be contained in the Supplementary Planning Guidance on Renewable Energy and the Renewable Energy Study.

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~~**DM4 Environment**~~ ~~Development proposals will be permitted provided: -~~ ~~a. Landscaping and planting, where appropriate, is integral to the scheme and enhances the site and the wider context;~~ ~~b. There would not be unacceptable harm to trees, woodlands and hedgerows that have natural heritage value or contribute to the character or amenity of a particular locality;~~ ~~c. Biodiversity interests are protected in accordance with national guidance; and~~ ~~d. The development accords with national policy requirements in terms of developing in areas at risk of flooding.~~ ~~Supporting Information~~ ~~There are two Special Areas of Conservation that lie adjacent to Blaenau Gwent's Local Planning Authority boundary; these are Cwm Clydach Woodlands and the Usk Bat site. There are 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Cwm Merddog Woodlands and Brynmawr Sections within Blaenau Gwent. There are a number of locally important sites – Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Local Nature Reserves, which are distributed across the Borough. Work is in progress to designate another 5 Local Nature Reserves and a number of SINCS. The Policy aims to protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of these wildlife habitats and the native species that depend on them. Planning Proposals that affect internationally and nationally designated sites will be assessed in accordance with National Planning Policy.~~ ~~As a general principle, the Plan seeks to locate development away from the floodplain (refer to Constraints Map), with new highly vulnerable development having been allocated outside of Zone C2 of the flood plain, wherever possible. However, where new development within Zone C of the floodplain (as defined by Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15: Development and Flood Risk) is necessary to assist regeneration, particularly where there is derelict brownfield land, some flexibility is necessary to enable the risks of flooding to be addressed whilst recognising the negative economic and social consequences if policy were to preclude investment in existing urban areas, as this could undermine the role and function of such settlements.~~
~~**DM5 Environmental Protection**~~ ~~Development proposals will not be permitted where they would cause or result in an unacceptable risk of harm to health and/or local amenity because of: -~~

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~~a. Air pollution;~~ ~~b. Light pollution;~~ ~~c. Noise pollution;~~ ~~d. Water pollution;~~ ~~e. Landfill gas;~~ ~~f. Contamination;~~ ~~g. Land instability; and~~ ~~h. Or any identified risk to public health or safety.~~ ~~Unless it can be demonstrated that measures can be taken to overcome any significant adverse risk to public health and / or impact upon local amenity.~~ ~~Supporting Information~~ ~~This Policy will ensure that developments that would result in unacceptably high levels of noise, light and / or air pollution are located away from residential areas and other sensitive uses.~~ ~~Development will only be allowed where provision is made for the necessary infrastructure to protect water quality and quantity. Planning permission may be granted subject to conditions to secure the necessary measures, or developers may be required to enter into Planning Obligations. Applications that cannot provide adequate protection of watercourses, ground and surface water will be refused.~~ ~~Planning permission should only be granted on contaminated or unstable land if the contamination or instability is capable of being satisfactorily remediated before development commences, or if the development is suitable having regard to the extent of the contamination or instability. The responsibility for determining the extent and effects of contamination or instability rests with the developer, who must ensure that land is suitable for the development proposed.~~
DM~~8~~5 Use Class Restrictions in Principal and District Town Centres Development proposals incorporating a change of use of ground floor premises **in Principal and District Town Centres** will be subject to the following restrictions: a. ~~No new A3~~ **Only A1** uses will be permitted within the Primary Retail Area.

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b. **Within the town centres,** in order to minimise the impact on vitality and viability no more than 3 Hot Food Takeaways and/ or Public Houses should be located in close proximity. The number of Hot Food Takeaways, at street level, should be equal to or no greater than **7**.0% and the number of public houses should be equal to or no greater than **4.**0% **of the total number of units**.

c. **Within the town centres,** the change of use of the ground floor units to residential use will not be permitted.

Supporting Information

This Policy applies to the Principal Town Centre of Ebbw Vale and the District Town Centres of Brynmawr, Tredegar and Abertillery.

The boundaries of the Primary Retail Areas are shown on the Proposals Map and are also shown on plans in Appendix 5.

~~The Primary Retail Areas are intended primarily for A1 use.~~ The clustering of A1 uses is considered beneficial for the vitality, viability and attractiveness of the town centres. To avoid long term vacancies in ground floor units that would have a detrimental effect on the character and appearance of the primary retail frontage, planning applications would need to be supported by evidence of a 12 month history of vacancy or a lack of response to genuine efforts to market the premises for the preferred use over a significant period. ~~Non-A1 uses which would lead to or unacceptably increase the concentration of similar uses, or reduce the retail character of the area will be resisted. Particular attention will be paid to situations where the application relates to units occupying a prime or prominent location within the Primary Retail Area, or units with substantial floorspace or frontage. These units often provide a focus to the Primary Retail~~ Area ~~and their release to non-A1 units can also harm vitality and viability. To protect the retail core of the town centres, new A3 uses will not be permitted.~~

Outside the Primary Retail Area, a diversity of uses are encouraged. Mixed use developments combining retailing with entertainment and ~~food and drink~~ leisure uses should be encouraged to promote lively centres as well as reducing the need to travel to visit a range of facilities. Leisure uses can benefit the town centres, and with adequate attention to safeguarding amenities can contribute to a successful evening time economy.

The significant increase in the number of hot food takeaways and public houses within the town centres has led to concern being expressed by local residents in the area on the vitality of the shopping areas and residential amenity. This Policy aims to protect the character and function of the town centres through firstly controlling the percentage of hot food takeaways at ground floor level and public houses, and secondly the number of hot food takeaways and public houses located in close proximity within the town centres. The Retailing Background Paper sets out the reasoned justification to these approaches. Detailed guidance on Hot Food Takeaway and Public Houses in Town Centres is contained in the Supplementary Planning Guidance.

DM~~9~~7 Use Class ~~Changes~~ Restrictions in Blaina Local Town Centre

*1. ~~Within the~~ **Development proposals incorporating a change of use of ground floor premises in Blaina** Local Town Centre ~~of Blaina, the change of~~*

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*~~use of ground floor premises~~ will be ~~permitted where~~ **subject to the following restrictions**:* *~~The proposed use provides a complementary role to the retailing function of the Centre.~~* a. *In order to minimise the impact on vitality and viability no more than 3 Hot Food Takeaways and/ or Public Houses should be located in close proximity. The number of Hot Food Takeaways, at street level is equal to or no greater than **7.0**% and the number of Public Houses is equal to or no greater than **4.0**% **of the total number of units**.In the case of a change of use to residential, the unit must have been vacant for a minimum of 12 months **and/or genuine efforts have been made to sell the premises.*** Supporting Information ~~The Local hub of~~ Blaina is expected to act as a Local Shopping Centre, principally serving the residents of Nantyglo and Blaina. The emphasis will be on convenience (food) shopping with an element of day-to-day comparison (non-food) shopping. A range of facilities and uses will be encouraged consistent with the scale and function of the Centre, to meet people's day-to-day needs.
DM~~10~~ 8 Affordable Housing *Where there is evidence of need, the Council will ~~require~~ **seek** at least ~~25~~**10**% affordable housing on ~~sites~~ **all residential proposals** that:* a. *Contain ~~20 units~~ **10** or more **dwellings**; or* b. *Exceed ~~0.6~~ **0.28** ha in gross site area; or* c. *Exceed the threshold in (a) or (b) above for adjacent sites.* ~~On sites of 10 to 19 units, contributions will be sought for the reuse / rehabilitation of existing older stock in the relevant housing market area.~~ Supporting Information *Affordable housing for the purpose of the land use planning system is housing where there are secure mechanisms in place to ensure that it is accessible to those who cannot afford market housing, both on first occupation and for subsequent occupiers (TAN2, 2006, paragraph 5.1). Affordable housing includes Social Rented Housing, which is provided by local authorities and registered social landlords, and Intermediate Housing, which is housing where prices or rents are above those of social rent but below market housing prices or rents.* *The Blaenau Gwent Local Housing Market Assessment (2006) identified a need for 86 additional affordable units in Blaenau Gwent per year over the next five years. This need is made up of 46 social rented units and 40 intermediate units. However, the Council will take a flexible approach to stipulating the type of housing to ensure the development meets the need of the local area (as set out in the Local Housing Market Assessment) and assists in the delivery of mixed*

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and balanced communities. *When adjacent sites taken together exceed [the above] thresholds affordable housing will be sought.* *The Council's Empty Property Strategy identifies over 200 properties that are long term vacant. These properties can have a significant adverse impact on the character and appearance of a settlement. In order to address this issue the Council will, in certain circumstances, seek financial contributions from developers to bring back empty properties into beneficial occupation as affordable dwellings. Further advice on affordable housing requirements is contained in Supplementary Planning Guidance on ~~Affordable Housing~~ Planning Contributions.*
DM9 Rural Exception Sites ***Affordable housing development for local needs will be supported as an exception to policy provided the development is acceptable in terms of relevant development management policies and provided that:*** ***a. Evidence exists in the form of a local housing needs survey that there is genuine demonstrable need in the settlement for such accommodation;*** ***b. There are no allocated sites coming forward within the development boundary which could meet this need;*** ***c. Satisfactory arrangements can be made to ensure that the dwellings are retained as affordable housing for local needs in perpetuity;*** ***d. The proposal adjoins and forms a logical extension to the development boundary whilst avoiding ribbon and fragmented patterns of development;*** ***e. The proposal would not form an intrusive feature in the landscape;*** ***f. The siting, layout, scale, design, density and materials of the proposal are sympathetic and appropriate to the size and character of the settlement*** ***In the interests of creating and maintaining sustainable mixed communities, proposals will only be considered for sites of 10 units or less.*** Supporting Information *Rural exception sites for affordable housing will only be appropriate where there is a genuine local need for affordable housing within the settlement in question and where the need cannot be met on an alternative site. Strict criteria have been identified to ensure that unsuitable developments that would detrimentally affect the environment will not be approved.*
DM~~11~~10 Sites for Gypsies and Travellers *New sites will be permitted where:*

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a. *The site is well related to community facilities and services;* b. *The site is already appropriately screened or capable of being adequately screened and landscaped;* c. *The site is capable of being provided with foul and surface water drainage, including appropriate infrastructure and facilities to manage wastes;* d. *The site can accommodate residential and home-based business uses without detriment to the amenity and character of the area;* e. *The site has well defined boundaries; and* f. *In the case of a transit or touring site, it has good access to the primary highway network.*
DM~~12~~ 11 Use Class Restrictions – Employment ***In accordance with Policies EMP1 and EMP2,*** *development proposals on major industrial areas will be subject to the following restrictions:* ***1. On sites allocated as Strategic Sites, development will only be permitted if it is:*** ***a. Within use class B1 and B2.*** ***b. To provide an ancillary facility or service to the proposed employment use.*** *2. On sites allocated or identified as Business Parks, development will only be permitted if it is:* *a. Within use class B1.* *b. To provide an ancillary facility or service to the proposed employment use.* *3. On sites allocated or identified as Primary Sites, development will only be permitted if it is:* *a. Within use classes B1, B2, B8.* *b. An appropriate Sui Generis use.* *c. To provide an ancillary facility or service to the existing and proposed employment use.* *4. On sites allocated or identified as Secondary Sites, development will only be permitted if it is:*

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a. Within use classes B1, B2 or B8. *b. An appropriate Sui Generis use.* *c. To provide an ancillary facility or service to the existing and proposed employment use.* *d. An acceptable commercial service.* Supporting Information *The purpose of this Policy is to adopt a flexible approach to employment to best serve to fulfil the land requirements in terms of B1, B2 and B8 uses as well as facilitate continued economic growth within Blaenau Gwent in a diverse and sustainable fashion. The Policy also seeks to protect existing employment land and premises which are increasingly under pressure to be developed for non-employment uses.* *Proposals for a Sui Generis use, which exhibits the characteristics of B1, B2, B8 uses are considered acceptable on sites allocated or identified as Primary and Secondary sites. Examples of appropriate Sui Generis uses would include a builder's merchant, vehicle depots and taxi control offices.* *Ancillary uses which fall outside the B-class uses, which support the wider function of employment sites and do not affect the integrity of these sites may be permitted on sites allocated as Strategic Sites, Business Parks, Primary and Secondary Sites. Examples include cafes and crèches.* *Every industrial site that is allocated or identified as a primary or secondary site and is not within a flood risk area ~~protected for use class B2~~ is considered suitable, in principle for the location of waste management facilities. This commitment is also referred to in Policy SP13, and both fulfil the requirements of the ~~National Waste Strategy and~~ Regional Waste Plan.* *Examples of commercial services which might be considered acceptable on a site allocated or identified as a secondary site would include indoor health and fitness, play facilities, training facilities, day nurseries and a commercial and vehicle repair and maintenance businesses and other uses that are not considered appropriate in a town centre location. ~~This will not extend to retail sales.~~*
DM~~13~~ 12 Protection of Community and Leisure Facilities *Proposals that would result in the loss of a community and/or leisure facility will not be permitted unless:* a. *A comparable replacement facility is provided by the developer either on site or in an accessible location which is served by public transport or by foot or cycling; or*

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b. *It can be demonstrated that the facility is surplus to requirements.* Supporting Information *With regard to criterion b of this Policy, planning applications will need to be supported by appropriate evidence in order to demonstrate that the facility is surplus to requirements. A list of community facilities can be found in the Community Facilities Background Paper.*
DM~~15~~ 13 Provision for Open Space, Recreation and Leisure Facilities *Where there is quantitative or qualitative deficiency in open space, recreation and leisure facilities, provision will be sought in conjunction with all new residential developments **of 10 or more** units, based on a minimum of 2.4 hectares of recreational open space per 1000 projected population.* Supporting Information *This Policy will help enhance the existing network of green spaces and provide increased opportunities for healthy recreation and leisure activities. A recent assessment of open space provision highlights a deficiency of outdoor sports and play space across Blaenau Gwent. Further information is available in the Leisure Background Paper.* ~~A recent assessment of open space provision highlights a deficiency of outdoor sports and play space across the County Borough. In total there is a shortage of 40.42 hectares of land for outdoor sports, and 11.98 hectares for children's play space.~~ ~~The appropriate amount of recreational open space is assessed against~~ *The Council has adopted the Fields in Trust standards and the appropriate amount of recreational open space is assessed against the standard of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population, endorsed by Fields in Trust. As a general rule, provision of a satisfactory level and standard of open space will be sought on all new residential developments. For those developments of 10 or more dwellings the amount of on-site open space provision is calculated from the projected population of the development and the application of the minimum standard of 2.4 hectares of recreational open space per 1,000 population.* *The exact requirements for each site will need to be agreed with the Council as local circumstances may require amendment to these standards, for example, the location and quality of existing provision. The Leisure Background Paper identifies the wards where there is a shortfall in provision and Chapter 9 – Delivery and Implementation gives an indication of the facilities that may be sought on allocated housing sites.* ~~Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council has adopted the following Fields in Trust standards:~~ ~~• Equipped Children's Play Areas – 0.25 hectares per 1,000 projected population;~~ ~~• Informal Recreational Open Space – 0.55 hectares per 1,000 projected population; and~~ ~~• Formal Recreational Open Space – 1.60 hectares per 1,000 projected population.~~ *Whilst it is preferable to provide open space facilities on-site, where this is not practicable the Council will expect the developer to provide a financial*

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contribution for the provision of open space off-site that is appropriately located in relation to the development, or a contribution towards the upgrading of existing nearby open spaces. Similarly, contributions for the future maintenance of any open space provision may also be required to meet the needs arising from the development.
DM14 Protection of Open Space ~~and Access to Open Space~~ *Development proposals which affect areas of Open Space~~, Allotments, Public Rights of Way, Bridleways and Cycle Tracks~~ will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that: -* *a. There is a surplus of such facilities in the locality, or;* *b. The loss can be replaced with an equivalent or greater provision in the immediate locality; or* *c. The development enhances the existing facility.* Supporting Information *Open Space includes all land that is available for use by the public for informal and formal recreational and leisure use. Open Space provision in Blaenau Gwent includes a range of urban and country parks, common land, community sport and recreation grounds and facilities and children's play areas.*
DM~~16~~ 15 Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement ~~of the Natural Environment~~ ~~*Development will not be permitted where it would cause unacceptable harm to features of the natural environment including protected or priority species, habitats as well as wildlife corridors, stepping stones and important features of the landscape.*~~ ***1. Development proposals within 10 km of the Usk Bat Sites SAC that would have an impact on connectivity corridors or cause direct or indirect disturbance to the features must be subject to a project level HRA.*** *2. Development proposals **will only be permitted within, or in close proximity to sites designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), and Local Nature Reserves (LNR), or that affect ecological corridors and Local Priority Habitats and Species**, ~~that would affect locally designated sites of wildlife and geological importance will only be permitted~~ where either:* a. ~~*The proposal*~~ ***It*** *maintains or enhances the ecological **or geological** importance of the designation, or:* b. ~~*Where the need for*~~ *The **need for the** development outweighs the nature conservation importance of the site and it can be demonstrated that the development cannot reasonably be located elsewhere **and** compensatory provision will be made equivalent to that lost as a result of the*

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development. Supporting Information *This Policy applies to locally designated sites, for example, the 137 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCS) and 6 Local Nature Reserves. It also applies to sites which contain locally designated habitats and species as identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and landscape features which may provide ecological corridors or 'stepping stones' between habitats.* *The aim of the Policy is to maintain or enhance the biodiversity or geological interest of the respective site including its habitats and species. Whilst it is important to protect the biodiversity and geodiversity of these sites from inappropriate development it should be noted that in accordance with national policy and guidance the designation of non-statutory sites such as SINCs will not preclude appropriate socio-economic activities.* *Where development is proposed which may cause unacceptable harm information will be required to enable a full assessment of the proposal and its impact on biodiversity and geodiversity. Such assessments, including ecological surveys will need to be undertaken at the appropriate time of the year. If the need for the development outweighs the nature conservation importance of the site then the Council will seek to secure reasonable measures to offset any impacts or loss of habitat features or species present on a site that may occur as a result of the development. Such measures will be agreed prior to commencement of development and will be secured through appropriate planning conditions and/or planning obligations. The Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance on Biodiversity and Geodiversity, includes further information and guidance to support this Policy.*
DM16 Protection and Enhancement of the Green Infrastructure ***Development proposals will be permitted provided:*** ***1. There is no loss in connectivity within the Strategic Green Infrastructure network which comprises:*** ***a. River Corridors*** ***b. Special Landscape Areas*** ***2. Where appropriate, they facilitate connections to Strategic and Local Green Infrastructure; and*** ***3. Where appropriate, they create natural open space and features to enhance linkages between the Green Infrastructure*** Supporting Information *Green Infrastructure (GI) is a network of connected, accessible, multi-functional sites (including parks, woodland, informal open spaces, and nature reserves)*

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as well as linkages (such as river corridors and wildlife corridors) that can bring about multiple social, health, economic and environmental benefits to the area. The sites are multi-functional in that apart from their ecological value they can be used for various purposes, for example, leisure activities and promoting tourism with associated benefits in terms of health and the economy. *The Strategic GI in Blaenau Gwent (see plan in Environment Background Paper) consists of the mountain ridges and river corridors. The mountain ridges are designated as Special Landscape Areas (SLA), and protected under Policy ENV2 whilst the river corridors are designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and are afforded protection under Policy ENV3. Below this strategic level there is Local GI such as cycle paths, informal open space, parks, SINCs and nature reserves.* *The main purpose of this Policy is to ensure that development does not lead to loss of connectivity between the sites forming the Strategic Green Infrastructure because although these individual sites are important in their own right it is the resulting connectedness that brings considerable added value and enables a response to climate change.* *Another aim of this Policy is to increase connections to Strategic and Local GI to help maximise the benefits that the GI generates. The community cycle network and SINCs forms the basis of linkages between the Local and Strategic GI. Development proposals should, where possible, facilitate connections to the Local GI with the Strategic GI. A report prepared by consultants highlighted that at present 65% of the population in Blaenau Gwent live within 400m of their nearest green space but the Plan aims to increase this to 80%.* *The Green Infrastructure will also be enhanced by creating new open space and natural features as part of new development or through developer contributions. This whole approach integrates biodiversity interests, provides a response to climate change and enables more sustainable and healthy lifestyles by incorporating interests of cyclists and walkers. This infrastructure will be developed and enhanced in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Valleys Regional Park (VRP).*
DM17 Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerow Protection ***Development proposals will be permitted provided there would not be unacceptable harm to trees, woodlands and hedgerows that have natural heritage value or contribute to the character or amenity of a particular locality.*** Supporting Information *Trees, woodlands and hedgerows are a key part of the landscape, making a positive contribution to both the natural and built environment. In order to retain trees, woodlands and hedgerows of natural heritage and conservation value and minimize any adverse effects of development, applicants are required to assess all trees and woodlands, on and adjacent to their sites, using the recommendations of the current British Standard 5837 for trees in relation to construction in conjunction with the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance 'Trees and Development: A Guide to Incorporating Trees, Woodlands & Hedgerows into Development Proposals'. The assessments should be used to inform the design, and will be used by the Council in fulfilling its statutory obligations in respect of protecting trees and woodlands. In considering hedgerows, the Authority will have regard to their landscape, historic and nature conservation value, as well as their function as boundaries.*

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DM18 Buildings and Structures of Local Importance ***Development proposals affecting buildings or structures which make an important contribution to the character and/or interest of the local area will only be permitted where the building's distinctive appearance, architectural integrity, and its setting would not be significantly adversely affected.*** Supporting Information *There are a number of buildings within Blaenau Gwent that, although not statutorily listed by Cadw, are considered to be of significant local importance by virtue of their historic, cultural or architectural merit. Such buildings are at risk of being altered or even demolished with no regards for their local importance, since this has not been recognised. These buildings should be retained, and appropriate uses sought to maintain their essential character. A local list of such buildings will be compiled from visual surveys and consultation with local interest groups. SPG will set out methodology for such a list.*
DM19 Criteria for the Assessment of Mineral Applications ***Proposals for mineral extraction and associated development, including the tipping of mineral waste and the reworking of tips, will be permitted where:*** ***a. A proven need has been established for the material involved, either in a local, regional or national context;*** ***b. An assessment has been made that demonstrates that it would not be feasible to supply the mineral from secondary sources;*** ***c. Benefits to the local economy will result;*** ***d. The impact of operations and associated works and activities together with the duration of development upon neighbouring communities and land uses can be mitigated to acceptable levels, including the effects of noise, light, dust and vibration;*** ***e. The effects on surface water, groundwater resources and water supplies are acceptable;*** ***f. Adverse impacts on sensitive landscapes can be minimised;*** ***g. Measures can be taken to ensure that ecological and wildlife interests do not suffer significant adverse effects, particularly where designated and proposed areas of nature conservation interests or protected species may be affected;*** ***h. Proposals are acceptable in terms of highway and transportation considerations, particularly the consequences of traffic movements and volume of traffic, with transportation by rail being favoured, where appropriate;***

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i. The proposal is unlikely to create or exacerbate problems associated with ground stability in the surrounding area; ***j. Impacts on health are considered and found to be within acceptable limits;*** ***k. Adverse impact on important features of the built environment and archaeologically sensitive areas, including conservation areas, listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments can be mitigated;*** ***l. There is no adverse impact on nationally protected geological and geomorphological features;*** ***m. The visual impact of the proposal can be mitigated by landscaping; and*** ***n. Appropriate, acceptable proposals for restoration, after-use and after care are provided.*** Supporting Information *The above Policy sets out criteria against which all mineral applications will be assessed including the reworking of mineral tips for their mineral contents and complements Policy SP12. It does not preclude other policies being taken into account where relevant, and where criteria are not relevant for those not to be taken into account. More detailed guidance on the implementation of this Policy can be found in MTAN 1 and 2.* *In considering proposals for the winning and working of minerals it will be important to ensure that sensitive areas in terms of landscape, nature conservation, historic environment and local amenity are protected and that adequate restoration is carried out when operations have ceased. In order for planning permission to be granted it must be demonstrated that mineral extraction will not cause demonstrable harm and that any negative impacts can be addressed by planning conditions or agreements. Account must also be taken of the extent to which impacts can be mitigated and any positive environmental or economic benefits which may arise.* *In accordance with national planning policy a Health Impact Assessment will be required, where appropriate. This is likely to form part of any Environmental Statement submitted with the proposal.* *Restoration proposals should be phased to commence as early as possible. The authority will, where appropriate, encourage progressive restoration at the earliest opportunity. After-uses may include agriculture, forestry/woodland, public open space, recreation or other development. They should favour the creation of landscapes which are characteristic of the area and priority habitats identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.*
DM20 Mineral Safeguarding **Development proposals will not be permitted where they would permanently sterilise important mineral resources within Aggregate and Coal**

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Safeguarding Areas identified on the Proposals map unless:- a. ***The mineral resource is recovered before development commences; or*** b. ***There is an overriding need for the development and prior extraction cannot reasonably be undertaken; or*** c. ***The developer satisfactorily demonstrates that the extraction of the mineral is impracticable, uneconomic or environmentally unacceptable; or*** d. ***The scale and location of the development would have no significant impact on the possible working of the resource: or*** e. ***It is temporary development and can be implemented and the site restored within the timescale the mineral is likely to be required.*** Supporting Information *In accordance with national planning policy the LDP should safeguard aggregates and primary and secondary coal resources from permanent development that would sterilise the mineral resource. It should be noted that, according to MPPW, safeguarding "does not necessarily indicate an acceptance of working, but that the location and quality of the mineral is known, and that the environmental constraints associated with extraction have been considered".* *In most instances, development may proceed within safeguarding areas as long as developers demonstrate the resource in question is either of poor quality/quantity and would not be economical to exploit, or the nature of the development in question would not prejudice exploitation of the resource. Details of how the safeguarding areas have been identified are contained in the Mineral Background Paper.*
DM21 Waste **Proposals for the development of a waste collection or treatment facility will be permitted where:** 1. ***There is a proven local or regional need for the facility; and*** 2. ***The proposed facility is the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO); and*** 3. ***The proposed application has undertaken a sequential site selection process looking at: -***   a. ***Allocated sites;***

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b. Employment sites allocated or identified as a primary or secondary site through policy DM11 (outside flood risk areas); ***c. Other sites taking into consideration their suitability as identified through the Area of Search maps in the Regional Waste Plan;*** ***4. In the case of a civic amenity facility the site is located in terms of access to service a neighbourhood or settlement whilst avoiding unacceptable adverse impact on the character, environmental quality and amenities of the local area;*** ***5. Where the proposal is in the countryside, it involves the reuse of existing buildings or is on land within or adjacent to existing building groups. Alternatively where it is demonstrated that new buildings/plant are needed these must have an acceptable visual and environmental impact; and*** ***6. The following criteria are also met:*** ***a. In the case of regional scale facilities, its location relates closely to and benefits from an easy access to key transport corridors and, where practicable makes use of alternative transport modes;*** ***b. Proposals involving the sorting and processing of waste, are carried out within a purpose built or appropriately modified existing building, unless it can be demonstrated that part or all of the proposed operation can only be carried out in the open;*** ***c. The built development associated with the proposed methods of handling, storage, treatment and processing of waste is appropriate to the nature and hazards of the waste(s) concerned;*** ***d. Proposals for the incineration of waste and other thermal processes, shall incorporate measures to maximise energy recovery both in the form of heat and electricity, taking account of prevailing technology, economics and characteristics of the waste stream involved;*** ***e. Opportunities for co-locating and networking Energy for Waste (EfW) facilities with energy consuming land uses such as district heating systems or large industry energy users have been fully explored; and*** ***f. It will not result in an unacceptable adverse environmental impact that cannot be appropriately controlled by mitigating measures.*** <u>Supporting Information</u> *Targets contained within Towards Zero Waste One Wales: One Planet (WAG 2010) require a significant shift away from landfill. Waste treatment facilities reuse, recycle and recover waste materials and can significantly reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Applicants must demonstrate that the proposal is*

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consistent with the latest national guidance and is the BPEO or a constituent part of the BPEO for a waste stream. *Blaenau Gwent will seek to facilitate the increase in the number, type and range in size of treatment facilities in line with the requirements of the Regional Waste Plan 1st Review. The Plan allocates land to meet these requirements. National planning policy and guidance states that the majority of waste facilities are likely to be acceptable on existing industrial estates, with landfill and windrow composting likely to be suitable on farms as part of farm diversification. The Council considers that in some instances, facilities such as anaerobic digestion and in-vessel-composting may be acceptable on farms as part of farm diversification, particularly where it can be demonstrated that the output of the process is to be applied locally. In such cases, the RWP contains Areas of Search maps for use in identifying new sites for in-building and open-air waste management / resource recovery facilities. Developers are encouraged to use the recommendations to identify suitable site locations.* *For the purpose of this Policy waste treatment projects include waste separation, recycling, composting, the treatment and transfer of special waste, the thermal treatment of waste including incineration, pyrolosis, gasification and anaerobic digestion. Proposals for the extension of existing facilities and the recycling of construction and demolition waste are also considered under this Policy.*
~~**DM17 New Build Development in the Countryside**~~ ~~Outside settlement boundaries, proposals will not be permitted unless the development is:~~ ~~c. Necessary for agriculture, farm diversification, forestry or the winning and working of minerals; or~~ ~~d. For recreation, tourism or leisure proposals that are suitable in a countryside location; or~~ ~~e. Necessary with the provision of public utilities, infrastructure and waste management facilities that cannot reasonably be located elsewhere; or necessary with the reclamation / treatment of derelict or contaminated land; or;~~ f. ~~For infill development within hamlets or villages, where the site is small and is largely surrounded by existing residential development.~~
~~**DM18 Existing Buildings in the Countryside**~~ ~~In the case of the alteration, renovation or conversion of existing buildings outside the defined residential settlement boundaries proposals for residential, employment or tourism uses will be supported where:~~ ~~g. The existing building is structurally sound or is capable of being made so without substantial major external alteration or reconstruction;~~ ~~h. In the case of residential use, it can be demonstrated that there are no viable alternative uses to secure the retention of the building and that the building~~

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~~is of architectural and / or historical merit;~~ ~~i. Residential use has not been abandoned; and~~ ~~j. The proposed scale, form and siting are commensurate with the existing building.~~ ~~Supporting Information~~ ~~The Council will support the re-use of buildings where they are structurally sound and the works required to accommodate the new uses, including the effect of any access works on hedges and walls, are in scale with the building and wider landscape. Where the conversion of a building to residential use is proposed, the Council will consider carefully the architectural and / or historic merits of the building. It is recognised that not all buildings make a positive contribution to the character and quality of the countryside and are not necessarily worthy of retention. Where residential use has been abandoned, and significant alteration to the character of the existing building is proposed and/or the buildings are so derelict that substantial or complete rebuilding is required, this will be treated as a new development in the countryside.~~ ~~The character of new works could be traditional or contemporary provided they are rural in character and compatible with the existing character of the building. When converting rural buildings the presence of bats and birds, particularly barn owls, may be an issue and must be thoroughly investigated. The SPG on biodiversity and geodiversity provides more specific advice on the species that will need to be considered during works carried out to any building. Design revisions may be required as a result of relevant investigations.~~
ALLOCATIONS AND DESIGNATIONS
SB1 Settlement Boundaries In order to manage spatial growth a settlement boundary is identified to: 1. Promote the full and effective use of urban land by defining the area within which development will normally be permitted; and 2. Prevent inappropriate development in the countryside. Supporting Information The boundaries are illustrated on the Proposals Map. *In accordance with national planning policy, sensitive infilling of small gaps within small groups of houses, or minor extensions to groups, may be acceptable, though much will depend upon the character of the surroundings and the number of such groups in the area. Planning applications for development in the countryside will be dealt with in accordance with national planning policy.*

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MU1 Ebbw Vale Northern Corridor *In accordance with Policy SP1 land is allocated north of Ebbw Vale Town Centre for the construction of **approximately** 700 dwellings, a **commercial** leisure hub, **road side services, employment** ~~offices, hotel~~ and a strategic **mixed use** employment site.* *Development of the site will be guided by the Ebbw Vale Sustainable Development Framework Supplementary Planning Guidance **document**. ~~and by the results of the formal education consultation process~~.* **Supporting Information** *The site fans out from the town centre in a north westerly direction to the Heads of the Valleys Road forming a triangular area of land covering approximately 78 hectares. The site contains areas of existing built development along with areas of ~~undeveloped~~ vacant land. ~~The area of built development is an area of change due to the relocation of a number of facilities to 'The Works'.~~ A number of the existing developments within the corridor will be subject to change due to the relocation of existing facilities to 'The Works'. Consequently, a clear strategy is required to ensure that best use is made of the vacant sites.* *The Council's vision for the Northern Corridor is to create "a series of developments that compliment and enhance the vibrancy of Ebbw Vale as a sustainable community. Key aspects of the corridor will be to support a vibrant retail led town centre with sustainable residential development and provide improved economic opportunity and leisure facilities centred to the north capitalising on the opportunities for improved access presented by the planned realignment of the A465 Heads of the Valleys road.* *It is intended that all the developments will achieve high sustainability and urban design standards. The developments will capitalise on the opportunities presented by the environmental setting of the area through high quality public realm and green infrastructure. A key focus will be to complement the educational opportunities presented at 'The Works' with suitable employment space and create additional opportunities in market sectors such as tourism. The Northern Corridor will support the continued evolution of Ebbw Vale town and town centre as a principal hub in Blaenau Gwent and the Heads of the Valleys area."* *There are a number of constraints throughout the Ebbw Vale Northern Corridor which will need to be accounted for in the ongoing development, most notably:* • *Local Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation*

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• *Traffic Flow and highways improvements; and* • *Land ownership issues. ~~and~~* • ~~Low land values.~~ The Ebbw Vale Sustainable Development Framework has assessed the development potential of the ~~site~~ area and has identified the following elements: • A Strategic Mixed-Use Employment site – on land at Rhyd-y-Blew ~~(29ha~~ 13.2ha); • ~~Offices and hotel~~ Employment and road side services at Bryn Serth (~~12ha~~ 10.5ha); • Commercial leisure hub - commercial leisure and associated uses (4ha); and • Residential - 700 units including 10% affordable housing on three parcels of land (~~19ha~~ 21ha).
MU2 'The Works' *In accordance with Policy SP1 land is allocated at the former steelworks site for mixed use including; the construction of a new hospital, learning **zone** ~~campus~~, leisure centre, playing pitches, **arts centre** ~~theatre, town centre link, new railway station~~, 520 houses, business hub, **family history and** genealogy ~~and~~ visitor centre, **environmental resource centre and** wetland ~~visitor centre and~~ park.* *Development of the site will be guided by **the latest** Masterplan ~~Supplementary Planning Guidance~~ **and supporting documentation.*** **Supporting Information** The site has the benefit of outline planning permission. The Masterplan Design and Access Statement sets out a 10-year programme for development, divided into 5 phases between 2008 and 2018. Key elements are: • Aneurin Bevan Hospital- A 96 bed Local General Hospital; • The Central Valley & Wetlands Park – A green corridor running through the site; • Environmental Resource Centre – Provides and education facility for local children and the community to explore the heritage and ecology of the site; • Employment- ~~60,413 sqm~~ 5ha of commercial and business space primarily located adjacent to the hospital site;

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• Residential- 520- houses at varying densities across the site built to higher than nationally required standards and including 20% affordable housing; • Learning **Zone** ~~Campus and School~~ ~~- one inclusive centre for the benefit of Blaenau Gwent;~~ The Learning Zone includes the provision of education and training for 16-19 year olds; primary education; and integrated children's centre, special school education and secondary education. • Leisure Centre and Sports Fields- A new Leisure centre and sports pitches will be developed to provide new leisure amenities for the community; • **Arts Centre** - A new Arts Centre ~~Theatre~~ will be developed to provide a community and professional arts/cultural event programme; • Basement Strategy - A range of uses are being considered for the basements including sports and leisure, exhibition space, summer markets for food & craft including a café, education and recreation facilities; • Retail- The retail element will only consist of local convenience facilities, including local shops and smaller commercial units; • **Energy Centre –** A centralised energy hub; • **Family History & Genealogy Visitor Centre –** The former General Offices (Grade II Listed Building) is to become a visitor centre bringing industrial heritage to life and showcasing one of the largest archives in Wales; and • Public Realm – Focus on a sequence of public squares running through the site.
MU3 NMC Factory and Bus Depot *In accordance with Policy SP1 land is allocated at the NMC Factory and Bus Depot for mixed use including; 60 houses and commercial/leisure/ community facility opportunity to act as an active link between the Town Centre and Lakeside Retail Park.* **Supporting Information** • Residential – 60 houses including ~~25~~10% affordable housing; and • Commercial / Leisure/ Community Facility opportunity to act as an active link between Brynmawr District Town Centre and Lakeside Retail Park. The leisure offer of Brynmawr is currently considered to be limited and the potential exists to develop a commercial / leisure / community facility, which would help to increase facilities for the community and attract more visitors to the town.

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~~R2~~AA1 Action Area ~~An~~ Action Areas ***are*** ~~is~~ identified at the following locations: ~~• Bethcar Street, Ebbw Vale~~ 1. ***Southern Gateway, Ebbw Vale;*** 2. ***Market Square, Ebbw Vale*** <u>Supporting Information</u> *The Ebbw Vale Sustainable Development Framework has identified the following key factors for Ebbw Vale Principal Town Centre:* • *The need to develop the links from The Works regeneration area;* • *Identified market demand for a Town Centre food retail outlet as an anchor store;* • *The opportunity for improved public transport infrastructure and reduced through traffic as a result of the proposed Peripheral Distributor Road within the Works; and* • *The opportunities to capitalise on town centre regeneration opportunities as a consequence of the relocation and redevelopment of some of the public sector buildings in the Northern Corridor.* *The Ebbw Vale Sustainable Development Framework has assessed the development potential of the town centre and has identified the following action areas:* • *Southern Gateway: A new southern gateway to Ebbw Vale Principal Town Centre is proposed, incorporating a new combined Civic Centre and food retail development. It provides a strong physical gateway to The Works (Policy MU2) and a draw to the town centre from surrounding areas. The proposal provides a positive solution to a number of the unoccupied and unattractive buildings in the Town Centre. The Town Centre would benefit from more visitors as a result of the office relocation and the proposed new food store as part of the development. The proposal also includes a revised bus and taxi interchange allowing improved transport provision to be made available to serve both the Town Centre and The Works.* • *Market Square: Redevelopment of Market Square, Ebbw Vale is to provide a key link with Ebbw Vale Northern Corridor site. The proposal involves the redesign of the junction arrangement with improved pedestrian movements. The proposal also involves development opportunities for retail and mixed-use development.*

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R1 Retail Allocations

~~During the plan period,~~ Land ~~will be~~ is allocated for retail development at the following locations:

Policy Number	Site Name	Valley	***Indicative*** **Net Sales Area (sq m)**	Proposal Type
Commitments (planning permission at April 2009)				
R1.1	*Rhyd y Blew Retail Park*	*Ebbw Vale*	*~~5,909~~* ***6,000***	*~~Retail Warehousing~~* ***Non Food Retail***
	~~Land at Rhyd y Blew~~	*~~Ebbw Vale~~*	*~~1,858~~*	*~~Comparison Retail (bulky goods)~~*
~~R1.1~~ ***R1.2***	*Extension to Festival Shopping Outlet Centre*	*Ebbw Vale*	*~~1,421~~* ***1,400***	*~~Retail~~* ***Comparison***
~~R1.2~~ ***R1.3***	*Extension to Tesco Stores, North West Approach*	*Ebbw Vale*	*~~1,703~~* ***1,700***	*Convenience and Comparison*
Proposals				
AA1.1	***Southern Gateway***	***Ebbw Vale***	***500***	***Convenience***
AA1.2	***Market Square***	***Ebbw Vale***	***1,300***	***Comparison***
~~R1.3~~ ***R1.4***	*Market Street*	*Ebbw Vale*	*~~580~~* ***600***	*Comparison* *~~Retail (A1)~~*
~~R1.4~~	*~~Commercial Street~~*	*~~Tredegar~~*	*~~600~~*	*~~Foodstore~~*
~~R1.5~~	*~~Tesco, Castle Street~~*	*~~Lower Ebbw Fach~~*	*~~1,325~~* *~~569~~*	*~~Convenience Retail~~* *~~Comparison Retail~~*

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Supporting Information *Within Blaenau Gwent it is estimated that an additional 1,085~~.7~~ sq m (net) of convenience retail floorspace and 2,960 sq m (net) of comparison floorspace is required by 2021. Statistical analysis and the background to the retail floorspace requirements is contained in the Retailing Background Paper. Planning applications for edge of centre and out of town retail developments will be dealt with in accordance with national planning policy.* *Detailed descriptions of the proposed retail sites can be found in the site descriptions document.*
H1 Housing Allocations *In accordance with Policy SP5 land is allocated for residential development in the following locations:*

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Policy Number	Site Name	Area (Ha)	Units
Ebbw Vale			
H1.1	Willowtown School	0.63	22
MU1	*Ebbw Vale Northern Corridor ~~North Ebbw Vale~~*	*28*	*700*
~~H1.2~~	~~North of Cwmyrdderch Court Flats, Cwm✷~~	~~1.37~~	~~15~~
~~H1.3~~	~~Letchworth Road✷~~	~~0.49~~	~~16~~
~~H1.4~~	~~Old 45 Yard, Steelworks Road✷~~	~~3.5~~	~~82~~
~~H1.5~~	~~Adjacent Pant-y- Fforest✷~~	~~1.7~~	~~21~~
~~H1.6~~	~~Heol Elan ✷#~~	~~2.9~~	~~43~~
~~H1.7~~	~~Land at College Road✷#~~	~~0.94~~	~~41~~
~~H1.8~~	~~Adj Sports Ground, Gwaun Helyg✷~~	~~1.4~~	~~69~~
~~H1.9~~	~~Higgs Yard✷~~	~~0.53~~	~~29~~
~~H1.10~~	~~Mountain Road✷~~	~~0.76~~	~~22~~
~~H1.11~~	~~Briery Hill✷#~~	~~0.91~~	~~33~~
	~~*'The Works'*✷~~	~~78~~	~~520~~
		Total	~~1613~~ **722**
Tredegar			
H1.~~1~~2	Cartref Aneurin Bevan	0.38	13
H1.~~1~~3	Greenacres	0.50	18
H1.~~1~~4	Jesmondene Stadium, Cefn Golau	5.**26**	1**84**
H1.~~1~~5	Business Resource Centre, Tafarnaubach	1.2	42

~~✷Planning permission at April 2009~~

Land identified for 100% affordable housing

Supporting Information

*order to stimulate growth in the residential market, the LDP has allocated land for the construction of a further **1,625** dwellings. The number of have been identified through the use of average densities of 35 per hectare. These figures are however indicative higher or lower densities may be acceptable where the proposed development addressed other policy considerations including design and sustainability. The units have been allocated across a range of sites in to offer choice and flexibility. This will contribute to the diversification of the housing stock and secure viable sustainable futures for settlements in north of the County Borough. Settlements in the south of the County Borough will rely more heavily on small and windfall development.*

***13** sites identified as likely to come forward for 100% affordable housing are*

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HC1 Housing Commitments

Policy Number	Site Name	Area (Ha)	Units
	Ebbw Vale		
HC1.1	North of Cwmyrdderch Court Flats, Cwm	1.18	16
HC1.2	Letchworth Road	0.93	16
HC1.3	Old 45 Yard, Steelworks Road	3.49	82
HC1.4	Adjacent Pant-y- Fforest	1.63	21
HC1.5	Heol Elan #	1.2	43
HC1.6	Land at College Road#	1.04	41
HC1.7	Adj Sports Ground, Gwaun Helyg#	2.92	69
HC1.8	Higgs Yard	0.99	29
HC1.9	Mountain Road#	0.47	22
HC1.10	Briery Hill#	0.94	33
MU2	*'The Works'*		*520*
		Total	892
Tredegar			
HC1.11	Derelict Bus Garage, Woodfield Road#	0.36	11
HC1.12	Former LCR Factory, Charles Street	0.25	14
HC1.13	Former Factory Site, Pochin	0.65	28
HC1.14	Land at Poultry Farm, Queen Victoria Street	0.84	3
HC1.15	Upper Ty Gwyn Farm, Nantybwch	1.44	38
HC1.16	Former LCR Factory, opposite Tredegar Comprehensive School#	0.62	47
HC1.17	Peacehaven	4.81	147
HC1.18	The Goldmine, Sirhowy	0.17	16
HC1.19	BKF Plastics, Ashvale	1.83	54
HC1.20	Sirhowy Infants School Site#	0.84	23
HC1.21	Corporation Yard	0.75	23
HC1.22	Park Hill	13.09	160

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		Total	564
Upper Ebbw Fach			
HC1.23	Recticel and Gwalia Former Factory Site, Brynmawr#	0.96	45
HC1.24	Land at Clydach Street, Brynmawr	0.64	12
HC1.25	TSA Woodcraft, Noble Square Industrial Estate, Brynmawr	0.71	25
HC1.26	Roberto Neckwear, Limestone Road, Nantyglo	0.74	19
HC1.27	Cwm Farm, Blaina	9.01	78
HC1.28	Salem Chapel, Waun Ebbw Road and Pond Road Junction, Nantyglo	0.26	11
		Total	190
Lower Ebbw Fach			
HC1.29	At Cwm Farm Road	0.68	20
HC1.30	Former Swffryd Junior School#	0.41	18
HC1.31	Land at Penrhiw Estate, Brynithel	1.02	23
		Total	61
TOTAL			1,707

Land identified for 100% affordable housing

Land allocated under this Policy includes:

- *New sites that have been identified as suitable for residential development or for a mix of uses including housing as a result of a robust candidate site assessment process; and*
- *Sites with planning consent for housing or for a mix of uses incorporating housing as of 1st April 2007 (in some cases subject to the signing of a Section 106 Agreement).*

In order to stimulate growth in the residential market, the LDP has allocated land for the construction of a further 1,492 dwellings above that which already has planning permission (1,676)

The 13 sites identified as likely to come forward for 100% affordable housing are as a result of planning consents or the availability of social housing grant and land ownership. In addition all sites will be expected to contribute towards addressing affordable housing need in accordance with policy DM8.

Detailed descriptions of these allocations can be found in the site descriptions document.

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GT1 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation *Land is allocated south of the Cwmcrachen Gypsy and Traveller Site to accommodate 6 pitches.* Supporting Information The Blaenau Gwent Gypsy & Traveller Housing Needs Assessment (June 2007) identifies the need for a further 6 pitches in Blaenau Gwent. It is proposed that this demand is met through an extension to the existing site at Cwmcrachen.
T1 Cycle Routes *The existing network of cycle paths and community routes will be extended, improved and enhanced to include the following schemes:* 1. ***HoV Route linking Nine Arches, Tredegar to Brynmawr*** ~~*Completion of National Cycle Network (NCN) 46 following dualling of the A465;*~~ 2. *Link* ~~*between the proposed Heads of the Valleys Cycle Route extension and*~~ ***from HoV to*** *Rassau Industrial Estate;* 3. ***HoV to*** *Ebbw* ***Vale and Cwm*** ~~*Town Centre west and east*~~*;* 4. ~~*Link between NCN 46 and*~~ *Cwm* ***to Aberbeeg*** ~~*via Ebbw Vale following the route of the Ebbw Valley Railway in places*~~*;* 5. *Link* ***from HoV to Trefil*** ~~*to Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate from the existing Heads of the Valleys Cycle Route*~~*;* 6. *Links* ***from HoV to Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate*** ~~*through Brynmawr Town Centre to NCN 46 - including link from Warwick Road to A467*~~ ~~***footbridge;***~~ 7. ***Bedwellty Pits, Tredegar to County Boundary*** ~~*Link between Cwm and Aberbeeg*~~*;* 8. ***Hill Top to Ebbw Vale to Manmoel;*** 9. ***Byrnmawr to Blaenavon;*** 10. ***Extension of Ebbw Fach Trail from Abertillery to Aberbeeg and completion of missing section through Blaina;***

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11. ***Link to Cwmtillery Lakes;*** 12. ***Aberbeeg to Royal Oak****; and* 13. *Royal Oak to Swffryd ~~& Crumlin to Pontypool~~.* Supporting Information The specific route alignments for the above improvements have yet to be considered in detail and the schemes are at differing stages of development. Indicative route alignments are shown on the LDP Proposals Map and only represent the general direction of the route. The allocations on the Proposals Map, therefore, are not prescriptive.
T2 Rail Network and Station Improvements *Land will be safeguarded for the following rail network improvements:* 1. *Extension of rail link from **Ebbw Vale** Parkway to Ebbw Vale **Town**;* 2. *Provision of new station and ~~public transport~~ **bus** interchange at Ebbw Vale;* 3. *Provision of new railway station at Cwm;* 4. *Extension of rail link to Abertillery;* 5. *Provision of new station and Park and Ride at Abertillery; and* 6. *Rail freight provision at Marine Colliery.* Supporting Information *The opening of the Ebbw Valley line for passenger services, provides an excellent opportunity to increase rail patronage. There is currently one train per hour but there are plans to increase this to two per hour and provide a service to Newport. Other improvements that will increase use and encourage car users to change to rail are the extension of the rail link from Ebbw Vale Parkway to Ebbw Vale Town; with the provision of a new station and bus interchange and a new station at Cwm.* *The proposed extension to the Ebbw Valley line to Abertillery provides an excellent opportunity to increase rail patronage in this area. The extension to the line*

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will be complemented by the provision of a new station and park and ride facility. *There is an opportunity at the Marine Colliery employment site to develop a rail freight station.*
T3 Safeguarding of disused railway infrastructure ***Disused railway infrastructure east of Brynmawr will be protected from development that would compromise its future transport use.*** Supporting information *There are a number of disused railway lines which could potentially be re-used for transport purposes. In line with national planning policy, this Policy seeks to safeguard from development disused railway land where there is a realistic prospect of its reuse for transport purposes in the future. Under the provision of this policy, the Council will support use of such land in the interim, for pedestrian, cycle and bridle routes including shared facilities.*
T4 Improvements to Bus Services ***The following bus service improvements are identified:*** ***1. Bus Priority Scheme along the Brynmawr to Newport Bus Corridor*** ***2. Bus Interchange improvement at Brynmawr*** ***3. Bus Interchange improvement at Ebbw Vale*** Supporting information *This Policy supports improvement to bus services in Blaenau Gwent. The Abertillery to Newport Bus Corridor is identified in the Regional Transport Plan for a bus priority scheme. It is intended that the corridor will be the focus of lane and junction priority measures. There are also plans to improve bus interchanges at Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale.*
T~~3~~ 5 New Roads to Facilitate Development *The following highway schemes are identified to facilitate new development:* *1. Construction of a Peripheral Distributor Road through 'The Works'; and*

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2. *Online improvements between the Peripheral Distributor Road and the A465.* Supporting Information *Whilst most development sites can be accessed directly from the existing highway network, the two strategic sites will require the construction of a new road to facilitate their development. The construction of the Peripheral Distributor Road (PDR) through 'The Works' is required to enable access through 'The Works' regeneration site. Online improvements to the A4046 between the Heads of the Valleys Road and the PDR are required to alleviate the highway issues at Cemetery Road and to ensure the road can accommodate the extra traffic flow from 'The Works' and the 'Ebbw Vale Northern Corridor' Strategic Sites. Improvements will also take into account changes in traffic flows as a result of the dualling of the Heads of the Valleys Road.*
T4 6 Regeneration Led Highway Improvements The following highway schemes are identified to facilitate the regeneration of the area 1. Dualling of the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road (Tredegar to Brynmawr) 2. Online improvements to the A4046 south of Cwm 3. Online improvements to the A4048 south of Tredegar 4. Online improvements to the A467 south of Abertillery Supporting Information The A465 is *identified as part of the Trans European Network (TENS) and is* a key strategic link in the national trunk road network connecting West Wales with the Midlands and the North of England. It also forms a major sub regional artery along the Heads of the Valleys corridor from Swansea in the west to Abergavenny in the east. The planned dualling of 40km of road is significant, as indeed is the potential impact on communities situated along and adjacent to the Heads of the Valleys corridor. There is the expectation that the improvement will generate new and sustained economic activity and investment. One of the main transport problems facing the Heads of the Valleys area is the poor ~~standard of vehicle~~ access to the south, especially south of Cwm. ~~Significant problems still exist south of Cwm.~~ In order to facilitate regeneration, and to fully enable the creation of a network of linked hubs and links with other settlements in the region, improvements in this corridor need to be undertaken.

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Similarly, the completion of the Tredegar by-pass has improved accessibility northbound but problems still exist on the A4048 south of Tredegar. In order to facilitate links with other settlements in the region improvements to this corridor need to be undertaken.

One of the main transport problems facing the southern strategy area is ~~the~~ poor ~~standard of vehicle~~ road access. Although road improvements have been undertaken on the A467 throughout its length, problems are encountered ~~have arisen~~ on the stretch south of Abertillery particularly at Warm Turn. There is a need for improvements to traffic flow and reduction in congestion~~, and the provision of safe and adequate access to any new development on the A467~~. In order to facilitate regeneration, and to fully enable the creation of a network of linked hubs and links with other settlements in the region, improvements in this corridor need to be undertaken.

EMP1 Employment Allocations

*The following sites are allocated for employment uses, in line with their status in the employment hierarchy **identified in policy DM11:***

Policy Number	Site Name	~~Valley~~ ***Hub***	~~Total Site Area (ha)~~	**Indicative Developable Area**
Strategic Sites (B1 and B2 use classes and an ancillary facility or service to the proposed employment use)				
MU1	*Rhyd-y-Blew*	*Ebbw Vale*	~~*29.8*~~	*13.2*
Business Parks ***(B1 use class and an ancillary facility or service to the proposed employment use)***				
MU2	*'The Works' Business Hub*	*Ebbw Vale*	~~*5.0*~~	*3.5*
EMP 1.1	***Land at Festival Park***	***Ebbw Vale***		***0.7***
EMP1.***2***	~~Tredegar Workshops~~ ***Land at Tredegar***	Tredegar	~~3.05~~	~~2.07~~ ***2.1***
*EMP1.**3***	~~*North*~~ ***Land at*** *Rising Sun Ind~~ustrial Est~~ate.*	*Upper Ebbw Fach*	~~*3.29*~~	*1.6~~2~~*
~~*EMP1.3*~~	~~*Rising Sun Upper*~~	~~*Upper Ebbw Fach*~~	~~*1.48*~~	~~*0.99*~~
~~*EMP1.4*~~	~~*Adjacent to Blaen-y-Cwm School*~~	~~*Upper Ebbw Fach*~~	~~*1.42*~~	~~*0.85*~~

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~~*EMP1.4*~~	~~*Adjacent to Blaen-y-Cwm School*~~	~~*Upper Ebbw Fach*~~	~~*1.42*~~	~~*0.85*~~
*EMP1.~~5~~ **4***	***Land at*** *Roseheyworth Business Park*	*Lower Ebbw Fach*	~~*2.56*~~	*1.5~~2~~*
~~**Primary Sites**~~				
MU1	*Bryn Serth*	*Ebbw Vale*	~~*22.8*~~	~~*9.96*~~ ***10.0***
EMP1.~~6~~ ***5***	Rassau ***Platform A***	Ebbw Vale	~~4.8~~	~~3.36~~ ***3.4***
EMP1.~~7~~ ***6***	Rassau Platform ~~H~~ ***B***	Ebbw Vale	~~3.27~~	~~2.45~~ 3.7
~~EMP1.8~~	~~Rassau Extension East~~	~~Ebbw Vale~~	~~8.0~~	~~3.73~~
EMP1.~~9~~ ***7***	***Land at*** Waun-y-Pound	Ebbw Vale	~~6.31~~	4.6~~2~~
~~EMP1.10~~	~~Waun-y-Pound Central~~	~~Ebbw Vale~~	~~0.54~~	~~0.31~~
~~EMP1.11~~	~~Waun-y-Pound North~~	~~Ebbw Vale~~	~~0.65~~	~~0.33~~
~~EMP1.12~~	~~Garden Festival Platform A~~	~~Ebbw Vale~~	~~1.6~~	~~0.61~~
~~EMP1.13~~	~~Garden Festival Platform C~~	~~Ebbw Vale~~	~~0.95~~	~~0.66~~
EMP1.~~14~~ **8**	Marine Colliery	Ebbw Vale	~~5.3~~	3.4~~0~~
EMP1.9	***Crown Business Park Platform A***	***Tredegar***		***0.7***
EMP1.1~~5~~ ***0***	Crown Business Park Platform B	Tredegar	~~1.4~~	~~0.8~~ 1.6

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~~EMP1.16~~	~~Crown Business Park Platform D~~	~~Tredegar~~	~~1.12~~	~~0.68~~
~~EMP1.17~~	~~Crown Business Park Platform G~~	~~Tredegar~~	~~2.21~~	~~1.62~~
~~EMP 1.18~~	~~Tafarnaubach North~~	~~Tredegar~~	~~1.07~~	~~0.79~~
~~EMP 1.19~~	~~Tafarnaubach East~~	~~Tredegar~~	~~1.2~~	~~0.56~~
~~EMP 1.20~~	~~Tafarnaubach South~~	~~Tredegar~~	~~1.53~~	~~0.46~~
~~EMP 1.21~~	~~Tafarnaubach West~~	~~Tredegar~~	~~1.2~~	~~0.84~~
~~EMP 1.22~~	~~Tafarnaubach Central~~	~~Tredegar~~	~~0.70~~	~~0.46~~
~~**Secondary Sites**~~				
~~EMP 1.23~~	~~Cwmcrachen Lower~~	~~Upper Ebbw Fach~~	~~2.37~~	~~1.51~~
			Total Developable Area	***50.0 ha***

Supporting Information

The Policy seeks to protect existing employment land and premises which are increasingly under pressure to be developed for non-employment uses.

The Business Park allocation at 'The Works' Business Hub, Land at Festival Park , Land at Tredegar Business Park, Land at Roseheyworth Business Park and Land at Rising Sun Industrial. Estate are designated solely for class B1 use which equates to office-based development. This is predominantly concerned with the service, commercial and financial sectors. The latter two particularly have an important role to play in terms of fostering entrepreneurialism and developing an enterprise and culture, factors which are of key importance if the local, and indeed regional, economy is to grow in a sustainable fashion.

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A detailed description of the site allocations can be found in the site descriptions document.
EMP2 Employment Area Protection *The following sites are protected for employment use, in line with their status in the employment hierarchy* ***identified In Policy DM11****:*

Policy Number	*Employment Area*	*Valley*
Business Parks ***(B1 use class and an ancillary facility or service to the proposed employment use)***		

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Business Parks ***(B1 use class and an ancillary facility or service to the proposed employment use)***		
	~~'The Works' Business Hub~~	*~~Ebbw Vale~~*
EMP2.1	*Tredegar Business Park*	*Tredegar*
EMP2.2	*Roseheyworth Business Park*	*Lower Ebbw Fach*
Primary Sites ***(B1, B2 and B8 use classes, an appropriate sui generis use and an ancillary facility or service to the proposed employment use)***		
EMP2.3	*Rassau Industrial Estate*	*Ebbw Vale*
EMP2.4	*Waun-y-Pound* ***Industrial Estate***	*Ebbw Vale*
EMP2.5	*Festival Park*	*Ebbw Vale*
EMP2.6	*Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate*	*Tredegar*
EMP2.7	*Crown Business Park*	*Tredegar*
EMP2.8	*Pond Road Workshops*	*Upper Ebbw Fach*
EMP2.9	*Blaenant Industrial Estate*	*Upper Ebbw Fach*
EMP2.10	*Barleyfield Industrial Estate*	*Upper Ebbw Fach*
EMP2.11	*Rising Sun (North) Industrial Estate*	*Upper Ebbw Fach*
EMP2.12	*Cwmtillery Industrial Estate*	*Lower Ebbw Fach*
~~EMP2.13~~	*~~Llanhilleth Industrial Estate~~*	*~~Lower Ebbw Fach~~*
Secondary Sites ***(B1, B2 and B8 use classes, an appropriate sui generic use, an ancillary facility or service to the proposed employment use and an acceptable commercial service)***		

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EMP2.13	*Cwm Draw Industrial Estate*	*Ebbw Vale*
EMP2.14	***Marine Street Industrial Estate***	***Ebbw Vale***
~~*EMP2.15*~~	~~*Gwent Way Industrial Estate*~~	~~*Tredegar*~~
EMP2.1~~6~~ ***5***	*Sirhowy Hill Industrial Estate*	*Tredegar*
EMP2.16	***Bridge Street Industrial Estate***	***Tredegar***
EMP2.17	*Noble Square Industrial Estate*	*Upper Ebbw Fach*
EMP2.18	*Blaina Enterprise Centre*	*Upper Ebbw Fach*
EMP2.19	*Cwmcrachen Industrial Estate*	*Upper Ebbw Fach*
EMP2.20	*Glandwr Industrial Estate*	*Lower Ebbw Fach*
EMP2.21	***Llanhilleth Industrial Estate***	***Lower Ebbw Fach***

Supporting Information

This protection Policy is intended to operate in tandem with Policy ~~AW10~~ DM11. In this regard, proposals for the development of the vacant land within these sites are also expected to accord with those uses.

Tredegar Business Park, '~~The Works' Business Hub~~ and Roseheyworth Business Park are ideally suited as a location for high quality, office based uses which are geared towards the diversification of the employment base and growth of innovation and enterprise within the local economy.

The designated Primary Sites currently house a mixture of Use Classes, and as such, are considered appropriate for Use Class within B1, B2, B8, namely offices, light and general industry, and warehousing uses.

The defined Secondary Sites allows the development of sui generis uses and commercial services appropriate to the development. These uses can play an important role in the economic development ~~fabric of the County Borough~~, although it is necessary to ensure that they complement and support each other and neighbouring uses, rather than act in competition or are detrimental to them.

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ED 1 Education Provision *The following sites are allocated for education*: *1. Ysgol Gymraeg, Brynmawr – New primary school* *2. Lower Plateau Six Bells Colliery Site – New primary school* ~~*'The Works', Ebbw Vale – Educational provision*~~ ~~*'The Works', Ebbw Vale – New learning campus*~~ **Supporting Information** *There will also be a need to address school provision in catchment areas where there is little or no existing capacity to accommodate the additional demand likely to arise from housing development. Where necessary, in such circumstance, financial contributions will be sought from developers towards the provision of new educational facilities, in accordance with DM~~6~~ 4 Infrastructure Provision.*
~~**CF1 Health Provision**~~ ~~*The following site is allocated for health:*~~ ~~*'The Works' Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan – Local General Hospital*~~ ~~**Supporting Information**~~ ~~*Amongst the most significant of factors influencing health service provision in the area is the difficulty in sustaining current patterns of delivery to a dispersed local population. Also spatial inequalities exist in terms of deprivation and infrastructure. The Blaenau Gwent Local Health Board has embarked upon pathfinder projects with a new Local General Hospital to be located at Ebbw Vale. During the planning stages for the new hospital, considerable work has already been undertaken in terms of consultation and creating models for improving health services across Blaenau Gwent.*~~ ~~*This context, Blaenau Gwent Health Board highlights that there is a need to replace Cwm Health Centre, plus additional capacity is required at Glyn Ebwy / Pen-y-Cae in Ebbw Vale and Glyn Rhyd Surgery in Brynmawr. In Llanhilleth, a new build is required to replace two existing branch surgeries. The Trinant Health Centre has undergone small-scale improvements in the short term. However, a long-term plan for the future is to be determined when the future of services at the health centre has been determined. Though exact site details are still to be determined, their construction / redevelopment during the LDP*~~

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~~*period remains a priority*~~
CF~~2~~ 1 Community Centre The following site is allocated for a community centre: 1. Former Sirhowy Infants School, Tredegar ~~2. The Community Resource Centre, Nantyglo~~ **Supporting Information** *The former Sirhowy Infants School site, Tredegar has been identified for a new community centre on the southeast part of the site (345 sq metres). The northern section of the site will be for 2~~6~~3 affordable homes.* *It is proposed that the community centre, or as it will be known "The Star Centre" will host a range of services comprising of early years provision, youth services, youth clubs and after school provision, learning, recreation, community safety, advice and information, community events and carnivals and venue hire.*
TM1 Tourism and Leisure Sites are allocated for tourism related activities at the following sites: 1. Eastern Valley Slopes 2. Garden Festival 3. Blue Lakes 4. Bedwellty House and Park 5. Parc Bryn Bach (including a hotel)

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6. Nantyglo Roundhouse and Towers 7. Cwmtillery Lakes; ~~8. Genealogy Centre;~~ ~~9. Land adjacent to Blaen-y-Cwm School.~~ ~~10. Railway extension to Brynmawr~~ ~~11. Brynmawr Roundabout~~ <u>Supporting Information</u> Eastern Valley Slopes The Eastern Valley Slopes and its juxtaposition with 'The Works' site, Ebbw Vale ensures that the site has tremendous potential for the development of tourism, leisure and education, via promotion of access to the countryside and improvement to the natural environment through woodland planting. Much of the land is managed for pasture, with significant areas open to public access for horse riding, cycling (particularly mountain biking) and walking. The site provides a physical link between the Environmental Resource Centre at 'The Works' site and Silent Valley Nature Reserve and has an interesting and valuable ecosystem of its own. The Council will work closely with interest groups to develop the sites potential for tourism, leisure and education. Garden Festival There are proposals to develop Festival Park into a major tourist destination. The improvement of the shopping offer, enhancement of the café, and provision of outdoor recreation facilities, will attract further visitors to the Festival Park. Other initiatives in keeping with attracting visitors to the park will be encouraged including parkland enhancement by creating woodland walks and linking the park to the shopping area. Blue Lakes The Blue Lakes lie adjacent to the Aneurin Bevan Stones, and form an important green space between Tredegar and Ebbw Vale. There is a proposed project to create a new park and establish a new visitors centre with a café restaurant. It is also proposed to construct an education and learning centre, create a recreation space for walking and provide an enhanced fishing venue for local people and visitors to the area.

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Bedwellty House and Park Tourism could contribute significantly more to the economy of the County Borough. Attractions such as Bedwellty House and Park, which form part of a network of historic buildings and landscapes, are key to attracting people to the area. This will be achieved by restoration of Bedwellty House to provide a visitor experience, restaurant, gardens and function area. There are plans to transform it into a high quality conference, wedding and visitor centre and make it a major tourist attraction. Parc Bryn Bach Parc Bryn Bach is conveniently located just off the A465 in the heart of the South Wales Valleys and is a major tourist attraction with a lake and visitor centre. The Park offers a wide variety of facilities and activities including walking, cycling, golf, angling, model boating and flying. There is potential to further develop the tourism features at the Park, with opportunities for hotel development on the site and to develop the bunkhouse facilities. Parc Bryn Bach, which has been designated as a Local Nature Reserve, is likely to be one of the main park elements of the proposed Valleys Regional Park and could benefit from its close proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park. It is intended to develop a network of recreational routes that will allow everyone to gain easy access to local green spaces and the wider countryside. The development of recreational routes such as the Sirhowy Valley Walk and the Ebbw Valley Walk supports this intention. Nantyglo Roundhouse Towers Nantyglo Roundhouse Towers has potential as a heritage centre and educational resource for local people and an attraction for other visitors. However, its development is entirely reliant on the cooperation of the owners. Cwmtillery Lakes This is a 9.8-hectare site, situated 6km south of the Brecon Beacons National Park and has been designated as a Local Nature Reserve. The site supports a rich mosaic of habitats including species rich grassland, dwarf shrub heath, woodland and open water, all of which are of local importance as LBAP habitats. Cwmtillery Lakes provides an educational and recreational resource for the local community and is used for walking, bird watching and fishing. A new community-led project, called CALON, is seeking to establish an Outdoor Gateway and Education Centre at the Jim Owen Pavilion as a base for locals and visitors to utilise the significant potential for outdoor activities within the surrounding environment of Cwmtillery. The proposed Calon Centre will also serve as a community centre and be the venue for both curricular and extra-curricular education.
~~**L1 Indoor Leisure**~~

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~~*Land is allocated at 'The Works' for the construction of a new Leisure Centre*~~
L~~2~~ 1 Formal Leisure Facilities Land is identified for leisure facilities at: 1. Chartist Way, Tredegar ~~2. The Works', Ebbw Vale~~
ENV1 Green Wedges Green Wedges have been identified at the following locations in order to prevent the coalescence between and within settlements: 1. Beaufort and Brynmawr 2. Tredegar and Ebbw Vale ~~3. Rassau Industrial Estate and Housing Areas to the South~~ <u>Supporting Information</u> The extent of these areas is shown on the LDP Proposals Map and within these areas development that prejudices the open nature of the land will not be permitted. The need to define and maintain open spaces between and within urban areas and settlements to prevent coalescence is considered important for the County Borough to protect the integrity of the built and natural environment.
ENV2 - Special Landscape Areas Special Landscape Areas are identified and will be protected at the following locations: 1. St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides 2. Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James

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3. Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn
4. Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail
5. Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides
6. Cefn Manmoel
7. Trefil and Garnlydan Surrounds
8. Beaufort Common.

Development within the defined Special Landscape Areas will be expected to conform to the highest standards of design, siting, layout and materials appropriate to the character of the area.

Supporting Information

In order to protect the visual qualities of each SLA, development proposals within these areas will be required to conform to the highest possible design standards.

Details of the SLAs are contained in the Blaenau Gwent Special Landscape Areas Report (2009).

ENV3 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation are identified at the following locations:

Policy	*Site Name*	*Policy*	*Site Name*
Ebbw Vale Area			
1.	*Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodland*	*21.*	*Waun-Lwyd species rich grassland*
2.	*Bryn Serth*	*22.*	*Waun y Pound*

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2.	*Bryn Serth*	*22.*	*Waun y Pound*
3.	*Bwlch-y-Garn North*	*23.*	*Pond Group 1*
4.	*Bwlch-y-Garn South*	*24.*	*Pond Group 3*
5.	*Castell-coryn Grassland*	*25.*	*Pond Group 5*
6.	*Craig y Deri Pond*	*26.*	*Rassau Pond*
7.	*Eastville Road Meadow*	*27.*	*Rhyd y Blew*
8.	*Festival Lake*	*28.*	*Ebbw River*
9.	*Slopes of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn (West) (1 of 2)*	*29.*	*Slopes of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn (West) (2 of 2)*
10.	*Garden City*	*30.*	*Tarren y Trwyn Pond*
11.	*Garden City Pond*	*31.*	*Ty Llwyn Pond*
12.	*Garn-Cam-Isaf*	*32.*	*Land at Park View, Beaufort*
13.	*Garnlydan*	*33.*	*Land at Parkhill Crescent*
14.	*Hillside with acidic flushes*	*34.*	*Adjacent to Drysiog Farm*
15.	*Land Surrounding Wetland Centre*	*35.*	*Rear of New Cwm Terrace*
16.	*Gorse Bank Field*	*36.*	*Nant-y-Croft Rassau*
17.	*Meadowbank Field*	*37.*	*Cwm Slopes, Festival Park*
18.	*Pond 1709/045 Bwlch-y-Garn*	*38.*	*Old Allotments*
19.	*Land to the rear of Glwyndr Road, Rassau*	*39.*	*East of Penrhiwgwingi*
20.	*Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn-yr-Arail Ebbw Vale & Upper Ebbw Fach*	*40.*	*Mynydd Manmoel, Ebbw Vale & Tredegar*

Policy Number	Site Name	Policy Number	Site Name
Tredegar Area			
41.	Sirhowy Hill Woodlands & Cardiff Pond	61.	Tredegar Leisure Centre Grasslands
42.	Garn-ddu Meadow	62.	Bedwellty Pits Field

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43.	Hirgan Fields Grassland	63.	Bryn-Bach School
44.	Industrial Estate Grasslands	64.	Cefyn Pyllau-duon Pond
45.	Lower Farm Field	65.	Nant Trefil Pond
46.	Lower Troedrhiwgwair	66.	Chapel House Field
47.	Parc Bryn Bach	67.	Darren Ddu
48.	Trefil Las Pond	68.	Trefil Ddu Pond (1 of 4)
49.	St. James Reservoir	69.	Trefil Ddu Pond 2 (2 of 4)
50.	Mynydd Bedwellte	70.	Trefil Ddu Pond 3 (3 of 4)
51.	Nine Arches Grassland	71.	Trefil Ddu Pond 4 (4 of 4)
52.	North Pen-y-Lan Grassland	72.	Trefil Village Grassland
53.	Milgatw Farm Grassland	73.	Pyllau-duon Pond
54.	Fairview Field	74.	Upper Troedrhiwgwair Grasslands
55.	Pine Tree House Grassland	75.	Scotch Peter's Pond
56.	River Sirhowy	76.	South of Troedygwair
57.	Sheepfold Grasslands	77.	Highlands Grassland
58.	Shon Sheffrey's Reservoir Banks	78.	The Ducky/ The Small Ducky
59.	South Pen-y-Lan Grassland	79.	Tredegar Patch Grassland
60.	The Fountain Inn Meadows		
Upper Ebbw Fach Area			
80.	Adjacent to Blaen-y-Cwm School	93.	Adjacent to Noble Square
81.	Blaenafon Road Pond 1	94.	Clydach River
82.	Blaenafon Road Pond 2	95.	Coalbrookvale
83.	Bourneville Slip	96.	Coed Troestre
84.	Bryn Farm	97.	Cwmcelyn East
85.	Brynawelon Pond	98.	Brynmawr Pond
86.	Pen y Waun Pond	99.	Cwmcelyn West
87.	Semtex Pond	100.	Edge of the Mulfran
88.	River Ebbw Fach	101.	Embankment Grassland
89.	Parc Nant y Waun	102.	Golf Course Pond
90.	Troestre Pond	103.	Llwydcoed Pond

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91.	Pond Group 2, Brynmawr/Beaufort Hill	104.	Land to the east of Pant View Houses, Coed Cae
92.	Nantyglo Meadow		
Lower Ebbw Fach			
105.	Arail Farm Slopes North	115.	Cefn Bach, Abertillery
106.	Arail Farm Slopes South	116.	Coed y Gilfach
107.	Arail Pond	117.	Craig Swffryd
108.	Blaentillery Farm North	118.	Tirpentwys Cut
109.	North of Hendre Gwyndwr	119.	Cwm Farm Pond
110.	River Tyleri	120.	Coedcae Coch
111.	Six Bells Colliery Site	121.	Land to the east of Bournville Road
112.	Swffryd Wood	122.	Cwmtillery Lakes
113.	Blaentillery Farm South	123.	East of Gwastad Farm
114.	Swffryd-fach	124.	Hafod-y-Dafal acid grassland
Policy Number	**Site Name**	**Policy Number**	**Site Name**
125.	Mulfran, Mynydd Coity, Mynydd James & Gwastad	132.	Greenmeadow Farm
126.	Cwm Big North	133.	Cwmtillery Reservoir
127.	Swffryd Ganol Pond	134.	Llanerch Padarn West
128.	Coetgae Pond	135.	Roseheyworth Community Woodlands
129.	West of Blaentillery Farm	136.	Llanerch Padern East
130.	Cefn Bach	137.	Coed Argoed
131.	Quarry at Gilfach Wen Farm		

Supporting Information

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The current provision of SSSI's and SAC's alone is not sufficient to maintain the biodiversity of Blaenau Gwent. It is therefore important to identify other locally designated wildlife sites such as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). Blaenau Gwent currently has 137 SINC's which are shown on the Proposals Map. Work is in progress to designate a number of other SINCS. All designated sites meeting the Criteria for the Selection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in the County Boroughs of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff (the 'Mid-Valleys Area'), 2008, will be covered by this Policy.
ENV~~3~~ 4 Land Reclamation Schemes *Land reclamation schemes are proposed at the following locations:* ~~*Ty Pwcca to Beaufort, Ebbw Vale (6 ha);*~~ ~~*Ty Pwcca - Beaufort, Nantyglo (37 ha);*~~ ~~*Caban Gwyn, Nantyglo (20 ha);*~~ ~~*Racehorse-Brynmawr-Clydach (1 ha);*~~ ~~*Blaenavon Road, Brynmawr (9 ha);*~~ ~~*Blaenant Farm, Brynmawr (21.5 ha);*~~ ~~*Cwmcrachen, Brynmawr (2.4 ha);*~~ ~~*Hafod-y-coed, Llanhilleth (2 ha);*~~ ~~*Vale Terrace, Tredegar (7 ha);*~~ 1. *Pennant Street ~~phase 2~~, Ebbw Vale* 2. ***Parc Bryn Bach, Tredegar*** ~~West of Aneurin Crescent, Brynmawr (2 ha);~~ ~~Blaina Plastics site, Nantyglo and Blaina (1 ha);~~ ~~Land west of Bryn Serth, Ebbw Vale (20 ha); and~~

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3. ***Cwmcrachen, Brynmawr*** 4. Llanhilleth Pithead Baths, ***Llanhilleth*** Supporting Information As a consequence of the industrial history of Blaenau Gwent there are sites, which require treatment in order to improve the visual environment. However, not all derelict land requires reclamation as some have reverted to nature so it is in the public interest to leave such sites undisturbed. Many of the sites are in highly visual areas and land reclamation will enable the removal of eyesores such as spoil tips, which currently blight the landscape. It will also enable the restoration of areas to their natural appearance, thereby improving the visual environment.
ENV4 5 Cemeteries Extensions to the existing cemeteries are identified at the following locations: 1. Cefn Golau Cemetery, Tredegar ~~Central & West;~~ 2. ***Dukestown Cemetery, Tredegar*** 3. Blaina Cemetery, Blaina ~~Cwm Cemetery, ***Ebbw Vale***~~ ~~Brynmawr Cemetery, Brynmawr~~ ~~Brynithel Cemetery, Llanhilleth~~ Supporting Information *Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council currently manages seven cemeteries. The Council has undertaken a review of the current Cemeteries capacity within Blaenau Gwent. The review identifies that extensions are required at ~~five~~ three of the seven sites. The Plan allocates land for these extensions.*
M1 Safeguarding of Minerals The following mineral resources ***are identified on the Proposals Maps:*** ~~shall be safeguarded from any development which would sterilise them or hinder their extraction:~~

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Blue: new text ~~Strikethrough: deleted text~~ **Pink: text moved from a different part of the plan or policy (the origin of moved text is not shown)**
1. The Limestone Resource ***2. The Sandstone resource*** ***3. The Primary and Secondary Coal resource*** ~~4. The resources of Limestone, as shown on the Proposals Map, will be safeguarded from development and include a 200 metre buffer zone.~~ ~~5. The resources of Sandstone, as shown on the Proposals Map, will be safeguarded from development and include a 200 metre buffer zone.~~ ~~6. The resources of Coal, as shown on the Proposals Map, will be safeguarded from development and include a 500 metre buffer zone.~~ ~~7. The Limestone quarry at Trefil will be further safeguarded from development that would adversely affect its operations by a 200 metre buffer zone as shown on the Proposals Maps.~~ ~~8. Six Bells and Vivian Tips will be further safeguarded from development that would adversely affect their operations by a 500 metre buffer zone.~~ Supporting Information *The identification of safeguarding areas for the above minerals does not carry any presumption that planning permission would be granted for their extraction. The purpose of safeguarding is to ensure that known resources are not needlessly sterilised by permanent development (Policy DM20).* The limestone resource is confined to the northern extremity of Blaenau Gwent north of Trefil whereas the sandstone resource ~~covers nearly 40% of the surface area of Blaenau Gwent. The deposits are~~ is generally located in the mid and southern parts ~~of the County Borough and are dissected in the mid areas by the valleys.~~ The Proposals Map identifies the primary and secondary coal resource areas (as identified by the British Geological Survey) as one safeguarding area, as they benefit from the same safeguarding considerations. The primary resource includes the thicker closely-spaced coals, with the secondary resource area having thinner, more widely spaced coals. These areas are generally located in the north of the County Borough and along the valley floors.
M2 ~~Residential Amenity~~ Mineral Buffer Zones

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~~In order to protect the amenity of residential areas, no mineral extraction or activity directly related to the extraction of minerals will be permitted within the defined settlement boundaries or other established settlements. In accordance with the following residential amenity buffer zones:~~ ~~1. No limestone of sandstone extraction or activity directly related to its extraction will be permitted within 200 metres of settlement boundaries, or other established settlements.~~ ~~2. No coal extraction or activity directly related to its extraction will be permitted within 500 metres of settlement boundaries, or other established settlements.~~ ***Within a Mineral Buffer Zone:*** ***a. Any proposed development that would prejudice the extraction of the mineral or operation of the site will be refused; and*** ***b. No new mineral extraction will be permitted.*** ***The following Mineral Buffer Zones are identified on the Proposals Maps:*** ***1. The Limestone quarry at Trefil, Tredegar (200 metre buffer)*** ***2. Six Bells and Vivian Tips, Six Bells (500 metre buffer)*** Supporting Information *In accordance with national planning policy buffer zones are identified around permitted mineral sites to safeguard sites from new development that would prejudice future extraction of permitted reserves or the operation of the site. Mineral Buffer Zones have been identified around the limestone quarry at Trefil and the open cast coal recovery operation at Six Bells.* ~~For the purpose of this Policy "other established settlements" are settlements of 10 dwellings and over, which do not have a defined settlement boundary. In relation to groups of less than 10 dwellings and single dwellings, whilst there will be a presumption against mineral activity in accordance with the type of deposit and distances specified in parts a, and b of this Policy, consideration will be given through the Development Control process to the impact of any mineral extraction.~~
M3 Areas where Coal Working will not be Acceptable ***Areas where coal working will not be acceptable are identified on the Proposals Map.***

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Supporting Information *In accordance with national planning policy, the LDP identifies areas where coal working will not be acceptable, these are 500m from the settlement boundary and within International and National designations of environmental and cultural importance.*
M~~3~~ 4 Preferred Areas ~~of Search~~ *~~Land is identified as~~ Preferred Areas ~~of Search~~* ***and associated buffer zones are identified*** *at:* 1. *Adjacent Trefil Quarry,* ***Tredegar (200 metre buffer)*** 2. *Tir Pentwys Tip,* ***Llanhilleth (500 metre buffer)*** 3. ***Land South East of Cwm, Ebbw Vale (200 metre buffer)*** Supporting Information *The Regional Technical Statement (RTS) on Aggregates identified the need to assess the potential to make a resource allocation of at least 3 million tonnes in the LDP. According to the RTS, 'where feasible this is to be limestone'. A recent permission for the deepening of Trefil Quarry has resulted in an additional resource allocation of 2.2~~5~~4 million tonnes which means that Blaenau Gwent needs to identify a further 0.76~~. This has left the Authority with a further 0.46~~ million tonnes ~~to identify~~.* *It has not been possible to allocate specific sites to meet the shortfall of this requirement. Instead three preferred areas have been identified. Preferred Areas are areas of known mineral resources with some commercial potential, and where planning permission might reasonably be expected. Any application for aggregate extraction will be considered against Policy DM19 and national planning policy.* *Land adjacent to the existing Trefil Quarry has been identified as an area of known mineral resource with commercial potential. The resource may provide for a continuous supply for use as building stone and in making concrete. Development of the site is dependent on the ability to address a number of environmental concerns.* *The Tir Pentwys Tip lies east of Llanhilleth within the Pennant Sandstone outcrop. It is a westward extension of the Tir Pentwys spoil reclamation proposal in neighbouring Torfaen County Borough Council. No sampling or testing information for the western part of this area has been seen but it is likely that it will*

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contain High Specification Aggregate and lower quality general fill material. Development of the site is dependent on the Torfaen part of the site receiving planning permission. *Land South East of Cwm has been identified in the 'Former Gwent' Aggregate Study as being suitable for identification as a Preferred Area. The area contains 60Mt of high Polished Stone Value (PSV) sandstone.* ~~*To meet this requirement land adjacent to the existing Trefil Quarry has been identified as an area of known mineral resource with commercial potential. The resource will provide for a continuous supply for use as a building stone and in making concrete.*~~ ~~*The Tir Pentwys Tip lies east of Llanhilleth within the Pennant Sandstone outcrop. It is a westward extension of the Tir Pentwys spoil reclamation proposal in neighbouring Torfaen.*~~
W1 Land for Waste Management *The following site~~s~~ ~~are~~ **is** identified to accommodate **regional** waste management facilities:* ***1. Land south of Waun-y-Pound ~~(6.31ha);~~, Ebbw Vale*** ***The following sites are identified to accommodate local waste management facilities:*** *2.-Silent Valley**, Cwm** ~~(3.8ha); and~~* ~~*3. Bourneville**, Blaina** (0.30ha).*~~ **Supporting Information** *Land south of the existing Waun-y-Pound Industrial Estate in Ebbw Vale is well located in terms of the Heads of the Valleys Road and the main hub of Ebbw Vale. Adjacent land is already used as a Civic Amenity Site for the recycling of waste and therefore there is an opportunity to co-locate facilities. The site is identified as being suitable for waste management facilities such as an Anaerobic Digestion or In Vessel Composting and may be suitable for other waste management facilities.* *The existing Silent Valley waste facility is centrally located in the County Borough south of the principal hub of Ebbw Vale. The land identified is located to the north of the existing Silent Valley landfill site which continues to form the principal destination for much of the residual and unavoidable municipal waste generated in Blaenau Gwent. The site is identified as being suitable for a bulking / waste transfer facility.* ~~*waste management facilities such as an Anaerobic Digestion or In Vessel Composting and may be suitable for other waste management facilities.*~~

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~~*Land is allocated at Bourneville for the extension of an existing civic amenity site in order to offer increased opportunities for diverting waste from landfill for the local area.*~~ *Detailed descriptions of the sites can be found in the site descriptions document*

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Appendix J Strategic Policies Assessment: LDP Deposit Plan (April 2011)

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Table J.1 - Strategic Policy Development 2008-2011

No.	Preferred Draft Strategic Policy	SA Recommendation (ISAR 2008)	Deposit Draft Strategic Policy (May 2010)	Evaluation (May 2010) (green: no further SA required; red: further SA required)	LDP Deposit Plan Strategic Policy (for April 2011 assessments) **(blue: new or revised text since May 2010 iteration)**
Locational Strategy					
SP1	**Heads of the Valleys Area – Growth and Regeneration** The Heads of the Valleys area will be the focus for the County Borough's spatial development. Ebbw Vale will accommodate the majority of new homes, jobs and services and will be promoted as the main hub for Blaenau Gwent. Tredegar and Brynmawr will be the focus for new development serving the growing needs of their respective communities. New development will be located within these centres or in locations highly accessible to	There will be a need to ensure that urban development is undertaken in accordance with the Heritage Strategy.	**SP1 Northern Strategy Area – Sustainable Growth and Regeneration** In the Northern Strategy Area the focus will be on sustainable growth and regeneration that benefits the whole of Blaenau Gwent. This will be achieved by: - a. Creating a network of sustainable hubs around the principal hub of Ebbw Vale. b. Promoting Ebbw Vale as the principal hub for Blaenau Gwent, where the majority of social and economic growth will be accommodated. The Town Centre will be the main centre for service provision where major retail expansion, administrative and cultural developments will take place. c. Promoting strategic sustainable regeneration flagship schemes at 'The Works' and 'Ebbw Vale North'. d. Identifying new roles for district and local centres: -	The role of heritage and tourism development is reflected in the revised policy wording. No further SA required.	**SP1 Northern Strategy Area – Sustainable Growth and Regeneration** **Proposals** in the Northern Strategy Area will be required to deliver sustainable growth and regeneration that benefits the whole of Blaenau Gwent. This will be achieved by: - a. **Supporting the creation** of a network of sustainable hubs around the principal hub of Ebbw Vale. b. Promoting Ebbw Vale as the principal hub for Blaenau Gwent, where the majority of social and economic growth will be accommodated. The Town Centre will be the main centre for service provision where major retail expansion, administrative and cultural developments will take place. c. **Delivering** strategic sustainable regeneration flagship schemes at 'The Works' and 'Ebbw Vale

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	them.		• Tredegar District Town Centre will expand its tourism offer through exploitation of local heritage; • Brynmawr District Town Centre will explore opportunities to develop complementary roles around culture, leisure and tourism; and • Blaina Local Town Centre will build on and exploit its local heritage **e.** Encouraging diversification of the economic base through mixed-use development in the district hubs of Tredegar and Brynmawr where it supports and reinforces the roles of the town centres.		**Northern Corridor'.** d. **Supporting** new roles for district and local town centres: - • Tredegar District Town Centre will expand its tourism offer through **maximising the benefits** of local heritage; • Brynmawr District Town Centre will explore opportunities to develop complementary roles around tourism; and • Blaina Local Town Centre will build on and exploit its local heritage. e. **Enabling** diversification of the economic base through mixed-use development in the district hubs of Tredegar and Brynmawr where it supports and reinforces the roles of the town centres. f. **Supporting a major destination attraction that would draw large numbers of people to the area and provide a significant number of jobs**.

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SP2	**South of the Borough - Regeneration** The South of the Borough will see a focus on regeneration with appropriate forms of growth to serve local needs. Abertillery will be the focus of new development serving the needs of its respective communities.	The policy should make specific reference to the improvement of transportation as part of the regeneration activities linked to Abertillery. The policy should seek to be more specific about the types of regeneration activity that are supported to enable delivery of successful schemes.	**SP2 Southern Strategy Area – Regeneration** In the Southern Strategy Area the emphasis will be on building strong, sustainable communities through regeneration: - a. Ensuring that the hub of Abertillery is well connected to Ebbw Vale and the wider region through safe, frequent and reliable public transport links; b. Encouraging the District Town Centre to explore opportunities to develop complementary roles around culture, leisure and tourism; c. Supporting 'Activity Tourism' opportunities in the area; d. Ensuring the removal of dereliction by promoting the reuse of under used and derelict land and buildings; e. Promoting regeneration schemes where they deliver residential development and necessary infrastructure; and f. Protecting the unique identity of the area by protecting built heritage and the natural environment.	It is considered that the revised policy reflects the SA recommendations. No further SA required.	**SP2 Southern Strategy Area – Regeneration** **Proposals in** the Southern Strategy Area will be **required to regenerate the area by:** a. Ensuring that the **district** hub of Abertillery is well connected to Ebbw Vale and the wider region through safe, frequent and reliable public transport links; b. **Supporting Abertillery** District Town Centre **in developing** complementary roles around culture, leisure and tourism; c. **Delivering** 'Activity Tourism' opportunities in the area; d. Ensuring the removal of dereliction by promoting the reuse of under used and derelict land and buildings; e. **Delivering** regeneration schemes **which provide** residential development and infrastructure; and f. **Building on** the unique identity of the area by protecting **the** built heritage and the natural environment.

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Sustainable Development					
SP3	**Creating a network of sustainable linked communities to spread regeneration benefits** The development and use of land throughout the County Borough will be determined by the need to ensure that all communities will have good access to Ebbw Vale. This will be achieved by ensuring that there is a network of hubs which have good public transport links with Ebbw Vale.	The policy should specify the types of public transport infrastructure required, especially where this may involve new construction works. Transport by rail should be considered.	The elements of this policy have been integrated into strategic policies SP1 (Northern Strategy Area – Sustainable Growth and Regeneration) and SP6 (Ensuring Accessibility).	No further SA required.	
Retailing and Town Centres					
SP4	**Retail Hierarchy** Major retail, administrative and cultural developments will take place in the principal retail centre of	No specific recommendations.	**SP3 The Retail Hierarchy** 1. In order to deliver thriving town centres a new hierarchy of town centres is defined as follows: **Principal Town Centre** a. Ebbw Vale will perform a sub regional retail role.	It is considered that the revised policy provides a	**SP3 The Retail Hierarchy and Vitality and Viability of the Town Centres** 1. In order to deliver thriving town centres **and protect local shopping facilities** a **retail** hierarchy is defined as follows:

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	Ebbw Vale. The District centres of Tredegar, Brynmawr and Abertillery will be protected and enhanced to improve vitality and viability and ensure they meet the needs of their districts. They will also develop new complementary roles based around historical, recreational and tourism potential. Local shopping centres will be protected and enhanced to provide facilities for local communities.		**District Town Centres** b. Abertillery, Tredegar and Brynmawr will act as district shopping centres principally to serve the needs of the district. Brynmawr District Town Centre will be well related to the new retail provision at Lakeside Retail Park. **Local Town Centres** c. Blaina will act as a local shopping centre that will be protected and enhanced to provide facilities for the local communities. 2. In order to improve the vitality and viability of the town centres: e. Shops, offices and other commercial premises will be upgraded by means of refurbishment and redevelopment; f. Opportunities to improve the retail offer will be explored; g. The provision of better vehicular access and circulation arrangements, improved public transport facilities and provision of additional car parking spaces will be provided where necessary; and h. Disabled access and facilities will be improved.	more sustainable approach than the previous policy wording. It is considered that the policy reflects the principles of sustainable development and has considered the recommendations from the previous iteration of assessment. No further SA required.	**Principal Town Centre** a. Ebbw Vale will perform a sub regional retail role. **District Town Centres** b. Abertillery, Tredegar and Brynmawr will act as district shopping centres principally to serve the needs of their districts. Brynmawr District Town Centre will be well related to the new retail provision at Lakeside Retail Park. **Local Town Centre** c. Blaina will act as a local shopping centre that will be protected and enhanced to provide facilities for the local communities. **Neighbourhood Centres** **d. Local shops in neighbourhood centres will be protected to meet every day local shopping needs.** 2. In order to improve the vitality and viability of the town centres:

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					a. Shops, offices and other commercial premises, **where appropriate,** will be upgraded by means of refurbishment and redevelopment; b. Opportunities to improve the retail offer will be explored; c. The provision of better vehicular access and circulation arrangements, improved public transport facilities and provision of additional car parking spaces will be provided where necessary; and d. Disabled access and facilities will be improved.
Employment					
SP5	**Employment and Diversification of the Economy** The employment and economic development needs of Blaenau Gwent will be met by the identification of 100 ha of land for employment and business purposes during the plan period. The employment roles of major industrial areas	Key locations should be identified for employment from spatially, to ensure appropriate distribution. The policy should include the need for the use of sustainable products and resources.	**SP8 Sustainable Economic Growth** In order to improve life chances, increase economic activity, diversify the economy and ensure that residents of Blaenau Gwent maximise their economic potential: - a. 41 - 60 ha of land for employment and business purposes will be allocated to meet economic development and employment needs; b. The employment roles of major industrial areas will be identified to assist in the diversification of	It is considered that the revised policy reflects the SA recommendations. No further SA required.	**SP8 Sustainable Economic Growth** In order to increase economic activity, diversify the economy and ensure that residents of Blaenau Gwent maximise their economic potential: a. **50** ha of land for employment and business purposes will be allocated to meet economic development and employment needs; b. The employment roles of major industrial areas will be identified to assist in the diversification of

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	will be identified to assist in the diversification of employment and support the specialisation of manufacturing. Mixed-use sites will be identified close to town centres to enhance town centre based employment in the service sector.	The policy should seek to enable the improvement of skills levels	employment and to support the sustainable development of manufacturing; c. Employment in Health and Social Care will be encouraged in town centres and in conjunction with the new hospital at 'The Works'; d. Tourism, leisure and heritage initiatives will be encouraged in town centres; e. Activity tourism will be promoted in the countryside; f. A first class learning infrastructure will be put in place to ensure that residents gain the skills they require; g. Local labour agreements will be negotiated with developers to enable local people to secure employment and skills development.		employment and to support the sustainable development of manufacturing; c. Employment in Health and Social Care will be encouraged in town centres and in conjunction with the new hospital at 'The Works'; d. Tourism, leisure and **cultural** initiatives will be encouraged in town centres; e. **Rural enterprise and a**ctivity tourism will be promoted in the countryside; f. A first class learning infrastructure will be put in place to ensure that residents gain the skills they require; **g.** Local labour agreements will be negotiated with developers to enable local people to secure employment and skills development.
SP6	**Development of the Tourism and Leisure sectors** Foster sustainable	The policy should include more detail as to where and what sort of tourism the strategy is	**SP9 Active and Healthy Communities** To create active and healthy communities the Council will: a. Protect and improve existing open	It is considered that revised policy SP9 reflects the	**SP9 Active and Healthy Communities** To create active and healthy communities the Council will: a. Promote the Valleys Regional Park

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	tourism and leisure sectors which re-engage local communities with the natural and historic environment and boost the local economy.	focussing on. What is meant by 'sustainable' tourism and leisure should be more explicit.	space, sport and leisure facilities; b. Protect and enhance accessibility to natural greenspaces for all members of the community; and c. Promote the Valleys Regional Park and leisure activities	SA recommendations. No further SA required.	and leisure activities. b. Protect and improve existing open space, sport and leisure facilities; c. Protect and enhance accessibility to natural greenspaces for all members of the community;
Housing					

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SP7	**Housing Provision** Provision will be made for the development of 3,000 dwellings during the plan period; broken into the following Housing Market Areas Sirhowy Valley 800 Ebbw Fawr 1,300 Ebbw Fach Upper 600 Ebbw Fach Lower 300 The Delivery of the houses will be back loaded recognising the step change required to reach the higher figures. 2006-2011 750 20011-2016 1,000 2016-2021	There is a need to provide greater clarity regarding the range and variety of units to be delivered, including a range of types and tenures of housing. The location of housing to be provided should be specified, prioritising brownfield sites and the potential for transport links and access to facilities.	**SP5 Spatial Distribution of Housing Sites** a. In order to create a network of sustainable linked hubs new housing will be located in the following hubs: **Approx** Ebbw Vale 1,600 dwellings (1,220 from strategic mixed use sites) Tredegar 900 dwellings Ebbw Fach Upper 400 dwellings (60 from mixed-use site) Ebbw Fach Lower 250 dwellings b. An allowance for: completions to date, units under construction, windfall contributions, empty properties, small sites, conversions and demolitions totalling 971 dwellings is made across the County Borough. c. The Delivery of the dwellings will be increased in five-year periods	Housing allocations are subject to SA in section 6. The type of housing to be provided is detailed in revised policy SP4. No further SA required.	**SP5 Spatial Distribution of Housing Sites** **a.** In order to create a network of sustainable linked hubs **provision for** new housing will be located in the following hub **areas:** Approx Ebbw Vale 1,600 dwellings Tredegar 900 dwellings **Upper** Ebbw Fach 400 dwellings **Lower** Ebbw Fach **350** dwellings **b.** An allowance for: completions to date, units under construction, windfall contributions, small sites, conversions and demolitions totalling **826** dwellings is made across the County Borough **c.** The delivery of the dwellings will be increased in five-year periods recognising the step change required to reach the higher completion figures. 2006-2011 **820** 2011-2016 **1,320** 2016-2021 **1,526**

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	1,250		recognising the step change required to reach the higher completion figures and in light of current market conditions. 2006-2011 750 –1,000 2011-2016 1,000 -1,250 2016-2021 1,250-1,750		
SP8	**Affordable Housing** Between 600 and 800 affordable new homes will be provided between 2006 and 2021.	The policy should ensure that a mix of housing, to include a proportion of affordable housing, is provided in the town centres as a wider mix of uses, to improve the vitality and viability of these areas. The policy should be rephrased in order that 100% affordable housing sites are not specified, to enable interspersed	**SP4 Delivering Quality Housing** 1. To stem out migration and attract people to the area: e. Provision will be made for the development of between 3,000 and 4,000 new dwellings leading to an increase of population from 69,300 in 2006 to 71,00 in 2021; f. Large areas of social housing across the County Borough will be transformed through achievement of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard; g. Further Renewal Areas will be identified to help regenerate private sector housing; and h. Empty properties will be brought back into use through the implementation of the Empty Property Strategy.	It is regarded that the revised policy largely reflects the SA recommendations, with the exception of the inclusion of the need for housing to be close to community facilities. This is a consideration	**SP4 Delivering Quality Housing** 1. To stem out migration and attract people to the area: a. Provision will be made for the development of **3,**666 new dwellings leading to an increase of population from 69,300 in 2006 to 71**,1**00 in 2021; **b.** Support **will be given to proposals to areas of** social housing**;** c. **Private sector housing improvements will be supported;** and **d.** Proposals to bring empty properties **back into use** will be **supported.** 2. To ensure that local housing need is met and sustainable linked communities are created: a. **A mix of dwelling types, sizes**

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		affordable housing within market housing to create mixed communities. Suggest that the improvements to council housing stock are included within the policy wording. The strategy should seek to ensure that refurbishments are undertaken using low carbon technologies. The policy should be widened to include requirements to improve existing non-council stock, especially rental properties and for those on low incomes. The policy should	2. To ensure that local housing need is met and sustainable linked communities are created: c. A mix of dwelling types, sizes and tenure, including approximately 800 units of affordable and special needs housing will be delivered to meet the needs of Blaenau Gwent's current and future population; and d. Provision will be made for 6 pitches for unmet gypsy and traveller accommodation.	in the assessment of site allocations, and as such is considered in section 6. Additionally, reducing the need to travel is required in SP6.	**and tenure, including approximately 800** units of affordable and special needs housing will be delivered to meet the needs of Blaenau Gwent's current and future population **(327 of which will be delivered through S106 agreements);** and b. Provision will be made for 6 pitches for unmet gypsy and traveller accommodation.

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		seek to specify locations in order to ensure that affordable housing is located close to community facilities.			
SP9	**Gypsy Accommodation** 6 pitches for unmet gypsy and traveller housing will be provided between 2006 and 2021.	No specific recommendations	See SP4	No further SA required.	
Transport					
SP10	**Transport Infrastructure Improvements** The Council will support improvements to the existing transport infrastructure where they achieve at least one of the following criteria:	The policy should outline specific schemes and proposals that are already in progression. The policy should be reworded/ ordered to make a distinction between	**SP6 Ensuring Accessibility** The Council will work with partner organisations, including the Welsh Assembly Government, South East Wales Regional Transport Alliance, public transport operators, community transport providers, Network Rail and neighbouring Authorities to deliver a sustainable transport network which, whilst reducing the need to travel: 1. Will improve connectivity within and	It is considered that the revised policy provides a more sustainable approach than the previous	**SP6 Ensuring Accessibility** The Council will work with partner organisations, including the Welsh Assembly Government, South East Wales Transport Alliance, public transport operators, community transport providers, Network Rail and neighbouring Authorities to deliver a sustainable transport network which: **1. Increases connectivity through improving rail, bus and road links:**

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	• Increase accessibility between the sub-regional and district/local hubs • Increase accessibility of the strategic transport network • Increase accessibility of services and facilities • Reinforce the role and function of the hubs • Reduce the need to travel by car	encouraging the use of public transport over private transport, as a means of improving accessibility, following a concerted effort to reduce the need to travel as the first priority. It is recommended that the policy be strengthened to require more than one of the criteria as suggested.	beyond Blaenau Gwent, through improving road, rail and bus links; c. With other parts of the South East Wales Region, and the wider transport network (including airports); d. Between the principle hub of Ebbw Vale and other identified district hubs (Tredegar, Brynmawr and Abertillery); 10. Promotes Ebbw Vale as a regional public transport hub which integrates bus, rail, cycling and walking networks; 11. Secures appropriate provision for people with special access and mobility requirements; 12. Promotes alternative modes of transport other than the car; 13. Improves the frequency, speed and extent of the bus and rail network; 14. Facilitates an integrated and safe system of cycle and pedestrian routes; 15. Facilitates and supports economic growth, regeneration and development priorities; 16. Facilitates the transportation of freight on the core network whilst encouraging the use of rail; and	policy wording. It is considered that the policy reflects the principles of sustainable development and has considered the recommendations from the previous iteration of assessment. No further SA required.	**a.** With other **key settlements in the** South East Wales Region, **Wales, the UK and Europe ;** b. Between the principal hub of Ebbw Vale and other identified district hubs (Tredegar, Brynmawr and Abertillery); **2. Facilitates and supports economic growth, regeneration and development priorities whilst minimising harm to the built and natural environment and local communities;** **3.** Promotes Ebbw Vale as a regional public transport hub which integrates **cycling, walking**, bus, and **rail** networks; **4. Facilitates an integrated and safe system of cycle and pedestrian routes connecting settlements with employment areas and town centres;** **5. Facilitates the transportation of freight on the core network whilst encouraging the use of rail; and** **6.** Secures appropriate provision for people with special access and mobility requirements.

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			17. Benefits or minimises harm to the built and natural environment and local communities.		
SP11	**Transport Requirements for new Development** Development proposals will be assessed in relation to: • Car parking standards set out in the Council's Car Parking Strategy; • Promotion of public transport, walking and cycling; • Protection of the safety of the highway network; • Accessibility to all users; and • Pedestrian safety.	No specific recommendations	See SP6 above.	No further SA required.	
Community Infrastructure					
SP12	**Planning Obligations**	The policy wording could be	This policy is now included under the Development Management policies of	Further SA will be	

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	The Council will negotiate planning obligations where appropriate to secure improvements in infrastructure, facilities and services appropriate to the scale, type and location of the proposed development. These obligations may include the provision or improvement of the following: • Affordable Housing; • Traffic, Transport and Highway Initiatives; • Education Facilities; • Community Development and Recreational Facilities; • Public Open Space; • Biodiversity and	strengthened by putting a stronger emphasis on the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure and services. Reference should be made specifically to the SPG on Planning Obligations.	the LDP, which are considered in section 8 of this SA Report.	undertaken in section 8 of SAR.	

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	Geodiversity; • Skills and Labour Market; • Community Safety; and • Public Art.				
Environmental Protection and Enhancement					
SP13	**Built and Natural Environment** The distinctive natural environment of the County Borough will be protected and enhanced. Appropriate development proposals should promote: • High quality design that reinforces local character, enhances landscape settings, and respects the cultural and historic qualities of individual buildings, landscapes or	The policy should make clear that its intention is to protect both the natural and built environment, as the policy wording only refers to the protection of the natural environment as its overall purpose. The policy should specify what it considers to be 'appropriate' development proposals, including	**SP10 Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment** The County Borough's unique, natural environment and designated landscape will be protected, preserved and, where appropriate, enhanced. This will be achieved through: a. Safeguarding national, international and local sites for nature conservation from inappropriate development in line with national and local guidance; b. Protecting those attributes and features which make a significant contribution to the character, quality and amenity of the landscape; c. Giving appropriate consideration to European and nationally protected and important species in line with	It is considered that the revised policies provide a more sustainable approach than the previous policy wording. It is considered that the policies reflect the principles of sustainable	**SP10 Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment** **Blaenau Gwent's** unique, natural environment and designated landscape will be protected, preserved and, where appropriate, enhanced. This will be achieved through: a. **Protecting** national, **European and** international **nature conservation** sites in line with national **planning policy;** b. Protecting those attributes and features which make a significant contribution to the character, quality and amenity of the landscape; c. Giving appropriate consideration to European and nationally **designated and other important species and habitats identified as priorities for nature conservation**, in line with

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	Conservation Areas; • Opportunities for the creation, conservation or restoration of designated sites of national and local nature conservation interests.	new development as well as changes to existing buildings, especially housing. The policy should include the need to incorporate methods to design out crime, for example using Secured by Design principles. The policy should also seek to protect sites of nature conservation interest that aren't protected by legislation. The re-use of existing buildings to enhance local character should be specified as a	national guidance; d. Creating a network of local wildlife sites and wildlife corridors, links and stepping stones; e. Ensuring that development retains, protects and enhances features of biological or geological interest, and provides for the appropriate management of these features; and f. Ensuring development seeks to produce a net gain in biodiversity by designing in wildlife, and ensuring any unavoidable impacts are appropriately mitigated for. **SP11 Protection and Enhancement of the Built Environment** The County Borough's distinctive built environment will be protected, preserved and, where appropriate, enhanced. This will be achieved through: a. Safeguarding nationally designated sites from inappropriate development in line with national guidance and also protecting locally designated buildings of local importance; b. Ensuring development proposals respect local character and	development and have considered the recommendations from the previous iteration of assessment. No further SA required.	national **planning policy ;** d. **Maintaining and enhancing the Green Infrastructure including** creating a network of local wildlife sites and wildlife corridors, links and stepping stones; e. Ensuring that development retains, protects and enhances features of **ecological** or geological interest, and provides for the appropriate management of these features; and f. Ensuring development seeks to produce a net gain in biodiversity by designing in wildlife, and ensuring any unavoidable impacts are appropriately mitigated for. **SP11 Protection and Enhancement of the Built Environment** **Blaenau Gwent's** distinctive built environment will be protected, preserved and, where appropriate, enhanced. This will be achieved through: a. Safeguarding nationally designated sites from inappropriate development in line with national **planning policy and** guidance and also protecting locally designated buildings of **significant** importance **and conservation areas;**

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		priority. The use of locally sourced materials in new and existing development should be specified. The policy should include the need for high quality design to incorporate measure to minimise its affects on the natural environment, including SUDs. The policy should include a requirement for development to adhere to sustainable design principles, such as the Code for Sustainable Homes or BREEAM, in order to maximise	distinctiveness of the area; and enhance sites for their historic or archaeological value; and c. The promotion of heritage tourism. **SP7 Creating Sustainable High Quality Development** The Council will improve the sustainability of the County Borough through allocating sites for development and considering proposals for development in terms of the extent to which they: a. Promote efficient use of land through giving preference to brownfield land and development sites located close to transport corridors or town centres; b. Deliver high quality sustainable design of an appropriate type, form, scale, mix and density in relation to its location; c. Reduce crime and the fear of crime by incorporating 'Secure by Design Principles'; d. Achieve energy efficient design; e. Achieve water efficiency; f. Use recycled or sustainable products and resources in		b. **Enhancing** sites **of** historic or archaeological value; and c. The promotion of heritage tourism. **SP7 Climate Change** The Council will **seek to address climate change and reduce energy demand to** improve the sustainability of the **of the valley communities in Blaenau Gwent by:** **1. Addressing the causes of climate change through:** **a. Encouraging more of the County Borough's electricity and heat requirements to be generated by renewable and low/zero carbon technologies;** **b. Supporting development proposals that incorporate decentralised heating, cooling and power networks powered by renewable energy sources, or that connect to existing communal/district heating networks;** c. Implementing the energy hierarchy as set out in national planning policy;

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		energy efficiency in the built environment.	construction; g. Reduce surface water runoff; h. Minimise construction waste and pollution; i. Protect and enhance biodiversity; j. Avoid unnecessary flood risk; k. Reduce their impact on and are capable of adapting to the effects of climate change; and l. Reduce carbon emissions.		d. Promote efficient use of land through giving preference to brownfield land and development **at higher densities on** sites located close to transport corridors or town centres; **2. Adapting to direct and indirect impacts of climate change through:** **a. Ensuring that developments accord with objectives of sustainability and good design as set out in national planning policy;** **b. Directing new development away from those areas which are at high risk of flooding in line with Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15; and** **c. Managing flood risk through incorporating measures in design and construction to reduce the effects of flooding.**
SP14	**Minerals** The Council will contribute to the regional demand for a	The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more detailed transport policy, supporting	**SP12 Securing an Adequate Supply of Minerals** Blaenau Gwent will contribute to the local, regional and national demand for	SP6 encourages the use of rail for freight transport. It	**SP12 Securing an Adequate Supply of Minerals** Blaenau Gwent will contribute to the local, regional and national aggregate supplies

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	continuous supply of minerals by: • Safeguarding known reserves of coal, sand and gravel, limestone, high quality hard rock taking into account relevant environmental, planning and transportation considerations; and • Maintaining a 10-year land-bank of permitted aggregate reserves in line with national guidance.	sustainable transport such as rail. The LDP should stipulate for the provision of more detailed policies to protect sites of ecological value and to explore opportunities for biodiversity enhancement during restoration and aftercare. The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more detailed policy, protecting heritage assets and their settings. The policy should ensure that soil resources are preserved wherever	aggregate supplies by: a. Promoting and supporting the efficient use of minerals and use of alternatives to naturally occurring minerals including the re-use of secondary aggregates; b. Safeguarding existing mineral reserves and potential resources from development that would preclude their future extraction; c. Encouraging the pre working of mineral resources, where appropriate, when proven resources are under threat from sterilisation by necessary development; d. Maintaining a 10-year land bank of permitted aggregate reserves in line with national guidance; e. Ensuring that a high standard of restoration and aftercare measures are incorporated; f. Ensuring that future mineral working accords with national guidance in terms of protecting areas of importance of natural and built heritage and limiting the environmental impact of mineral extraction; and g. Ensuring that the impacts upon	is considered that the policies reflect the principles of sustainable development and have considered the recommendations from the previous iteration of assessment. No further SA required.	by: **a. Maintaining a 10-year land bank of permitted aggregate reserves in line with national planning policy and addressing the 3Mt apportionment identified in the Regional Technical Statement;** **b.** Safeguarding existing mineral reserves and potential resources from development that would preclude their future extraction or encouraging the pre-working of mineral resources, where appropriate; **c.** Ensuring that future mineral working accords with national planning policy in terms of protecting areas of importance of natural and built heritage and limiting the environmental impact of mineral extraction; **d.** Ensuring that high standards of restoration and aftercare measures are incorporated at sites; **e.** Ensuring that impacts upon residential areas from mineral and coal operations are limited to an acceptable proven safe limit through identification of buffer zones **and areas where coal working will not be acceptable; and**

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		possible. The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more detailed policy to control impacts on water quality. The LDP should stipulate for the provision of a more detailed policy to control landscape effects.	residential areas from mineral operations are limited to an acceptable proven safe limit through residential amenity buffer zones.		**f.** Promoting the efficient use of minerals and use of alternatives to naturally occurring minerals including the re-use of secondary aggregates.
SP15	**Waste** The Council will implement a sustainable, integrated approach to waste management, which minimises the production of waste and its impact on the environment, and maximises the use of unavoidable waste as a	It is suggested that the policy be reworded to consist of two separate policies that will include: 1. Land allocations; 2. That all development should implement facilities and measures to ensure	**SP13 Delivering Sustainable Waste Management** To help deliver sustainable waste management across Blaenau Gwent the Council will ensure that: 1. Sufficient land is identified to enable an integrated network of waste management facilities to be developed across the County Borough through: a. Allocating land to meet the	It is considered that the policies reflect the principles of sustainable development and have considered the recommenda tions from	**SP13 Delivering Sustainable Waste Management** To help deliver sustainable waste management across Blaenau Gwent the Council will ensure that: 1. Sufficient land is identified to enable an integrated network of waste management facilities to be developed across the County Borough through: **a.** Allocating land to meet the South East Wales Regional

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	resource. To assist this aim the following land-use commitments are made: • All allocated and protected class B2 industrial sites and existing waste management sites are designated as potentially suitable locations for new waste management facilities, which provides substantial choice in meeting the estimated land requirement of between 1.4 and 4 ha.	sustainable waste management. The policy should ensure that waste management facilities, such as those for recycling, are accessible to members of the public, to enable the increased recycling of waste. The policy should specify the types and locations of waste management facilities to be provided. The policy should also specify that all new development should implement measures to ensure that the waste management hierarchy is	South East Wales Regional Waste Plan requirement of 0.4-4 hectares (Policy W1); and b. Encouraging the provision of in-building treatment facilities on Primary and Secondary Employment Sites (Policy DM12). 2. Support is provided for treatment facilities, measures and strategies that represent the best practicable environmental option, having regard to the waste hierarchy and the proximity principle; 3. Provision is made for sustainable waste management storage and collection arrangements in all appropriate developments; and 4. Waste minimisation is encouraged during construction.	the previous iteration of assessment. No further SA required.	Waste Plan requirement of 0.4-4 hectares (Policy W1); **b.** Encouraging the provision of in-building treatment facilities on Primary and Secondary Employment Sites **(Policy DM11); and** **c. Allocating land to meet local needs** 2. Support is provided for treatment facilities, measures and strategies that represent the best practicable environmental option, having regard to the waste hierarchy and the proximity principle **(Policy DM21);** 3. Provision is made for sustainable waste management storage and collection arrangements in all appropriate developments; and 4. Waste minimisation is encouraged during construction.

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		implemented. The policy should ensure that facilities that may generate harmful emissions are located at an appropriate distance from residential properties and their potential effects are carefully assessed and mitigated, whilst being located within accessible distances to enable their increased use. The policy should ensure that potential effects of facilities that may generate harmful emissions are carefully assessed and mitigated. The policy should			

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		ensure that potential effects of facilities on ground water quality are carefully assessed and mitigated and that there is a provision for monitoring of soil and groundwater quality at waste management sites. The policy should ensure that potential effects of landscape quality are carefully assessed and mitigated.			

Table J.2 - Strategic Policy SP1 - Northern Strategy Area - Sustainable Growth and Regeneration

SA Objective	*Baseline*		*Trends*			*Effects*				*Assessment*				Commentary and Recommendations
	Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre	Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm	

1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	+++	+++	The establishment of a strong settlement hierarchy supported by a policy that reinforces the concept of directing mixed use development to the most accessible locations should convey considerable benefits in terms of economic growth and the attraction and retention of the workers needed to drive growth. The policy seeks to attract tourism to the northern area of Blaenau Gwent, which could help to create economic diversity.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable	✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	++	+++	+++	+++	The policy supports a high level of investment in growth and seeks to ensure that employment increases in key accessible settlements, distributed across town, district and local centres. The development strategy seeks to build upon major regeneration opportunities that will have benefits for people across the plan area over time.
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low	++	+++	+++	+++	The policy supports the concept of developing a clear settlement hierarchy as well as providing clear support for the development of a tourism destination. This offers the potential to better support tourism development by providing clarity of investment foci - improvement of facilities to support the resident population should also improve the potential offer to people visiting the area. The promotion of Ebbw Vale will include cultural developments that could have benefits for the tourism potential of the area. The policy takes a particular focus in terms of the support for new roles for district and local centres with a particular focus on the tourism offers of Tredegar, Brynmawr and Blaina, expanding on local heritage and tourism-supporting infrastructure.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	+++	+++	By focusing investment in key centres and siting new development in locations that are accessible to these key centres, the policy offers considerable potential to encourage greater town centre vitality, which underpins viability. Enabling diversification of the economic base in district hubs as well as specifying the types of development targeted for expansion, could help to improve the implementation of such the strategy over time.
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.

7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High	++	++	+++	+++	The policy seeks to direct development to the most accessible locations, including the reinforcement and growth of key settlements through directing investment, which includes the co-locating of employment, homes and all associated facilities and services. The creation of a network of sustainable hubs as well as enhancing employment, facilities and services within each centre, is likely to increase opportunities across the County Borough for more sectors of the community.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High	+	++	++	++	The policy seeks to direct development to a number of key settlements and locations that are accessible to them. This should help to foster a stronger sense of well-being through environmental enhancement and improved access to facilities and services necessary to deliver benefits against the objective.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	++	++	The locational focus of the policy on the key settlements should help to improve the physical environment, which has been identified as a key factor in respect of crime - by delivering improvements to the physical environment and the accessibility of facilities and services, the policy offers the potential to deliver benefits against the objective.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	++	++	++	++	In seeking to direct development and investment towards key settlements, the policy offers the potential to strengthen the cohesiveness of the towns' offers, which could potentially deliver benefits in terms of encouraging a greater sense of local culture. The policy seeks to capitalise on and enhance the cultural heritage of Blaenau Gwent's towns. The particular focus will be on Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Brynmawr and Blaina. Expanding on the cultural assets of these towns for tourism purposes is likely to enhance a sense of Welsh identity within this valleys location.

13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	+++	+++	By seeking to focus development within a network of sustainable hubs in highly accessible locations, the policy should underpin the aims of the objective.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	By focusing development on key settlements and existing developed areas with good transportation links, the policy should help to safeguard connecting countryside from undue fragmentation; however, urban biodiversity value may be threatened by increased development densities and construction on brownfield sites. Policy SP10 should seek to reduce this affect through the protection of local biodiversity and the introduction of green infrastructure.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	The majority of the County Borough's heritage assets are within the urban areas. The spatial strategy is reflective of this and has a particular focus on growth building upon existing cultural and heritage assets for tourism purposes. This should help to ensure that heritage assets and conserved and enhanced over the plan period. **RECOMMENDATION** It is suggested that the phrase 'exploitation' could perhaps be interpreted negatively and that an alternative phrase may present a more positive light within the policy. The phrase 'maximise the benefits presented through enhancing local heritage' could be more appropriate.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-MT	Temp	High	+++	+++	++	+++	The locational focus of the policy on the key settlements should encourage maximisation of the development potential within the existing urban envelope and safeguard against expansion into greenfield development, at least in the short to medium term and possibly into the longer term, which accords with the objective.

17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	Insofar as the policy seeks to direct development to the existing urban areas, it should be effective in safeguarding the quality of soil resources within the countryside and assist in maximising the development potential of available brownfield land, which may also involve the remediation of contaminated land, resulting in further benefits.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	×	Reg/ Nat	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	-	-	+/-	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in sources of GHG emissions that are unlikely to be completely offset by the potential for a reduction in the need to travel and increased availability of public transport. Other policies contained within the LDP such as SP7 alongside national guidance will seek to reduce the effects of development through sustainable design.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl	×	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it could also result in an increase in waste arising from construction activity and, ultimately, operation upon completion. Policy SP13 is likely to reduce the significance of this effect.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable	×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	-	--	--	--	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in density of emissions sources that are unlikely to be completely offset by the potential for a reduction in the need to travel and increased availability of public transport. As the policy refers to the development of a principal hub, effects are likely to be significant.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable	×	Local	LT	Perm	Low	-	-	-	-	The policy should result in an increase in development densities within the key settlements - these are not currently subject to high levels of flood risk; however, there will be an increase in impermeable surfacing that may have the potential to increase risk of localised flooding. Policy SP7 alongside national guidance seek to reduce the risk of flooding and surface water runoff increased. The enhancement of GI through policies SP10 and DM16 could also reduce this effect.

22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the means of construction. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr	×	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low	0	-	-	-	The policy should result in an increase in development densities within the key settlements - this will increase the potential for pollutants to enter the water system.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for benefits insofar as the locational focus of development within existing settlements should safeguard against adverse effects on the quality and character of the landscape where openness is considered to be of particular importance.

Table J.1 – Strategic Policy SP2 - Southern Strategy Area – Regeneration

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*		*Effects*					*Assessment*				Commentary/ Recommendations
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre	Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm	
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Local	LT	Perm	Med	++	++	+++	+++	Regeneration should, over the medium to longer term, be effective in improving local economic conditions and promoting growth within the south of the Borough to complement the focus on the north in other policies. The Policy specifically states that the regeneration activity should develop complimentary roles to culture, leisure and tourism industries. This could help to improve the significance of effects against this objective.

2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	In combination with other policies, balancing the focus of growth with a strong regeneration focus in the south of the Borough should help to increase local employment and secure a distribution of opportunities across the Borough.
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	High	+	+	++	++	The policy focuses on delivering regeneration within Abertillery - this should have significant localised benefits in terms of boosting the vitality and viability in this town.
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	0	++	++	++	The policy specifies that regeneration will include schemes which provide an element of residential development- this is likely to enable the delivery of localised benefits in the longer term.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low	0	++	++	++	The policy focuses on delivering regeneration within Abertillery - this will include the removal and reuse of derelict buildings and the delivery of residential development. Together, in line with national guidance for the quality of housing development, is likely to deliver significant benefits in the medium to long term as development proposals are realised.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	+	+	+	+	The policy will deliver housing which, in accordance with policies SP4 and DM8, will include a proportion of affordable housing.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	There is no specific reference to education as part of regeneration. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.

9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	++	++	++	The policy refers to the regeneration of Abertillery for residents in the south of the Borough - this should deliver benefits to those communities accessible to the settlement. The policy also seeks to ensure that the district hub of Abertillery is well connected to Ebbw Vale and the wider region through public transport. This should help to ensure that the benefits of regeneration are spread throughout the County Borough, including an improvement in accessibility to employment and other services and facilities over time.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	++	++	++	The policy specifically refers to 'activity tourism' as being a key focus in the area for development. This could have benefits for the health of the community, through an increase in physical activity. The potential benefits of the policy against this objective will be increase through general environmental improvements associated with regeneration.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	There is no specific reference to regeneration incorporating emphasis on tackling crime; however, there is evidence of causality between the physical environment and a heightened incidence and fear of crime thus it is considered that regeneration could deliver some benefits against the objective at the local level. Policy SP7 will ensure that developments are designed to reduce crime and the fear of crime.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low	+	+	++	++	Regeneration in general may strengthen the sense of community identity and pride, with the potential for some localised benefits to arise against the objective. The policy specifically seeks to build upon the unique identity of the area, through protecting the built heritage and the natural environment. This could increase the sense of place in the southern strategy area, enhancing a sense of local identity over time.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Local	LT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	The policy makes specific reference to the improvement of transportation as part of the regeneration activities linked to Abertillery, to ensure that the district hub is well connected to the regeneration area and Principal Hub of Ebbw Vale a the wider area through safe, frequent and reliable public transport links. This should help to enable a modal shift to more sustainable transport modes over time.

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low	++	++	++	++	The policy specifically seeks to build upon the unique identity of the area, through protecting the natural environment. This could have significant benefits against this objective in the short term through the protection of existing assets and in the medium to longer terms through building upon these assets through enhancement measures.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl	✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low	++	++	++	++	The policy specifically seeks to build upon the unique identity of the area, through protecting built heritage. This could have significant benefits against this objective in the short term through the protection of existing assets and in the medium to longer terms through building upon these assets through enhancement measures.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-MT	Perm	Med	++	++	+	++	The concept of regeneration is assumed to imply that new development will be focused on maximising the potential of previously developed land and restricting growth to the existing urban envelope. The policy also specifically refers to the need to remove dereliction and promotes the reuse of existing underused and derelict land and buildings. This could lead to significant benefits, particularly in the short to medium terms while these assets are available.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	+	+	+	Insofar as the policy seeks to direct development to existing urban areas, it should be effective in safeguarding the quality of soil resources within the surrounding countryside and assist in maximising the development potential of available brownfield land, which may also involve remediating contamination, resulting in further benefits. However, the effects will be highly localised.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	×	Reg/Nat	MT-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in sources of GHG emissions that are unlikely to be completely offset by the potential for a reduction in the need to travel and increased availability of public transport. Effects are likely to be small scale due to the exclusive focus of the policy on Abertillery. Other policies contained within the LDP such as SP7 alongside national guidance will seek to reduce the effects of development through sustainable design.

19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl	×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in waste arising from construction activity and, ultimately, operation upon completion. Effects are likely to be localised due to the exclusive focus of the policy on Abertillery. Policy SP13 is likely to reduce the significance of this effect.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable	×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	-	-	-	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the amount. However, insofar as it supports an increase in development, it will also result in an increase in density of emissions sources that are unlikely to be completely offset by the potential for a reduction in the need to travel and increased availability of public transport. Effects will be localised due to the exclusive focus of the policy on Abertillery.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable	×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	0	0	-	-	The policy may result in an increase in impermeable surfacing that may have the potential to increase risk of localised flooding. Policy SP7 alongside national guidance seek to reduce the risk of flooding and surface water runoff increased. The enhancement of GI through policies SP10 and DM16 could also reduce this effect.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development as opposed to the means of construction. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location of development. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr	×	Local	LT	Perm	Low	0	0	-	-	The policy should result in an increase in development densities within Abertillery - this may increase the potential for pollutants to enter the water system, although the effects are considered likely to be highly localised.

25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for a slight benefit in the longer term insofar as the locational focus of development on an existing settlement should safeguard against adverse effects on the quality and character of the surrounding landscape where openness is considered to be of particular importance.

Table J.2 – Strategic Policy SP3 - The Retail Hierarchy and Vitality and Viability of Town Centres

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*		*Effects*					*Assessment*				Commentary/ Recommendations
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre	Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm	
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High	++	++	+++	+++	Retail is a critical component of the economy and in seeking to protect and enhance the offer and complementary activities across the County Borough; the policy has considerable potential to deliver beneficial effects.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	++	++	+++	+++	The provision of increased retail development at centres across the County Borough, supported by complementary forms of development, can be a key source of increased local job opportunities at a range of levels.
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	++	++	The policy supports the development of the retail offer in town centres across the County Borough, which could deliver benefits for tourism, particularly over the medium to longer term.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High	+	++	+++	++	Retail provision and the complementary offer are key to attracting custom in town centres - an improvement to these for local and visitor needs across the County Borough should help to support the objective. The policy specifically sets out a distinct retail hierarchy, with the intention of delivering thriving town centres whilst protecting local shopping facilities. This should help to ensure that vitality and viability is enhanced over time.

5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	++	+++	++	The policy specifically seeks to protect local shopping facilities, as well as enhance provision in the town centres. Alongside the provision of improved public transport facilities as well as disabled access and facilities, this policy is likely to have significant benefits over the medium to long terms as development proposals are realised.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Insofar as the policy supports an increase in the range of facilities and services provided at the local level and for regional catchments (in the case of Ebbw Vale) there is the potential for some beneficial effects against the objective.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	There is evidence to suggest causality between criminal activity and a 'lack of things to do'. As such, in seeking to broaden the offer of all key centres in the County Borough, the policy offers the potential to deliver some benefits.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	In supporting additional retail, cultural and other complementary developments within the key settlements of the County Borough, the policy could work with others to support an enhanced cultural identity.

13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	++	1.3.+	The policy seeks to bolster the range of facilities and services in key settlements across the County Borough - this will help to increase the appeal of destinations already served by public transport, which could have some benefits against the objective. The policy specifically seeks that improved public transport facilities will be provided, albeit alongside the provision of better vehicular access and car parking. This could reduce the potential for a modal shift to more sustainable transport modes to occur. However, in line with policy DM1, priority will be given to more sustainable modes of transport ahead of the private car, which could improve benefits against this objective in the long term.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	?	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	+/-	+/-	+	By focusing development onto the existing settlements, the policy may assist in safeguarding against physical expansion of settlements, thus protecting against harmful effects to rural biodiversity. This may offset to some degree by demand for brownfield sites for regeneration. **RECOMMENDATION** Policies should include safeguards against adversely affecting the biodiversity resource.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl	?	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the types of development proposed and their form, there is the potential for a range of effects in respect of urban heritage assets. **RECOMMENDATION** Policies should include safeguards against adversely affecting the heritage resource.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	+	++	In focusing retail and associated development on existing settlements, the policy should contribute to achieving the objective and delivering maximised development within the existing urban envelope. The policy specifically refers to the need for the upgrading of existing shops, offices and other commercial premises, which could have significant short-medium term benefits against this objective. **RECOMMENDATION** Policies should include safeguards against adversely affecting the biodiversity resource.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.

18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	×	Reg/ Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High	-	--	-	--	The policy encourages increased levels of development, which could increase the sources of emissions of greenhouse gases as well as potentially encouraging an increase in trip generation. It is likely that in combination these will have adverse effects against the objective. It is likely that although sustainable design guidance required through the LDP and nationally could reduce emissions from buildings. Although the policy specifically seeks that improved public transport facilities will be provided, this is alongside the provision of better vehicular access and car parking. This could reduce the potential for a modal shift to more sustainable transport modes to occur. However, in line with policy DM1, priority will be given to more sustainable modes of transport ahead of the private car, which could reduce the significance of this effect in the long term.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl	×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The policy encourages increased levels of development, which is likely to increase waste generation from construction and subsequent operation. The policy does not reference waste management, thus effects are assumed to be potentially adverse. Policy SP13 is likely to reduce the significance of this effect.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable	×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	--	--	-	--	The policy involves increase levels of development within the existing settlements - this is likely to increase emissions and development densities, both of which may result in localised degradation of air quality. Although the policy specifically seeks that improved public transport facilities will be provided, this is alongside the provision of better vehicular access and car parking. This could reduce the potential for a modal shift to more sustainable transport modes to occur. However, in line with policy DM1, priority will be given to more sustainable modes of transport ahead of the private car, which could reduce the significance of this effect in the long term.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable	×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	-	-	The policy may result in an increase in impermeable surfacing that may have the potential to increase risk of localised flooding. Policy SP7 alongside national guidance seek to reduce the risk of flooding and surface water runoff increased. The enhancement of GI through policies SP10 and DM16 could also reduce this effect.

22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location and type of development as opposed to the means of construction. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	The policy is concerned primarily with the location and type of development. There is therefore no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr	×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	-	-	-	-	The policy should result in an increase in development densities within all key settlements - this may increase the potential for pollutants to enter the water system, although other policies may help to reduce this effect such as SP10 (Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment) and the development management policies seeking to reduce pollution. Policies in the LDP such as those to improve accessibility (SP6) may reduce pollutant potential.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for a slight benefit in the longer term insofar as the locational focus of development on existing settlements should safeguard against adverse effects on the quality and character of the surrounding landscape where openness is considered to be of particular importance.

Table J.3 – Spatial Policy SP4 - Delivering Quality Housing

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*		*Effects*				*Assessment*					Commentary/ Recommendations
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre	Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm	
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	?	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	++	++	The provision of affordable housing may help to improve economic growth and diversity through attracting a mix of people from different socio-economic groups to live and work in the area.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	The provision of affordable housing alongside private housing improvements may help to improve employment opportunities through attracting a mix of people from different socio-economic groups to live and work in the area, and subsequently, employers.

3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	++	++	The provision of affordable housing and improvement to private housing may contribute to the vitality and viability of town centres, dependent on its location. The policy includes a requirement for the creation of sustainable linked communities including a requirement for a mix of dwelling types, size and tenures. This could help to enhance vitality through the creation of mixed communities over time.
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	LT	Temp	Low	+	+	++	++	The policy seeks to provide a mix of dwelling types, tenures and sizes to include approximately 800 units of affordable and special needs housing. Provision will also be made for 6 gypsy and traveller pitches. The supporting text to the policy explains that this provision is based on an evidence base for the LDP which has identified local need and viability. However, the identified number of units falls short of the identified need (1290) over the plan period. The shortfall is sought to be addressed through the bringing of underused stock back into use and through the social housing grant. This could lead to long term positive effects.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	LT	Temp	Med	+/-	+/-	++	+	The policy's supporting text indicates that investment will be made in the Council's housing stock to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard. This only applies, however, to council housing stock which may mean that a large proportion of housing remains of a low quality. However, the aim to meet the affordable housing target through bringing existing underused stock back into use could improve the quality of a proportion of housing in the long term. National guidance will ensure that the quality of new non-council housing is high.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	The policy will likely lead to the provision of affordable housing. The range is provided in order to provide flexibility in delivery.
8	To improve educational attainment and	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective

	increase skills levels														
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	The policy is likely to lead to the improvement in accessibility to homes for more sectors of the community. Other LDP policies will ensure that community facilities are provided alongside residential provision such as SP3.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	+++	++	An improvement in the provision of affordable housing as well as an improvement in the quality of private housing, could improve community well-being. Further, long term benefits are likely as the policy requires a mix of dwelling types, sizes and tenures, to be provided within sustainable linked communities. The regeneration of social housing areas should lead to long term benefits for health and wellbeing. High levels of sustainable design should improve physical health directly in the long term.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	-	++	+++	++	The policy seeks to support the regeneration of social housing areas as well as bringing empty properties back into use. Added to the policy direction that seeks to create sustainable mixed communities, it is likely that, in the long term, a greater sense of pride within neighbourhoods will be generated. Along with the creation of an increase in community cohesion through mixing, this could lead to reduced levels of crime and the fear of crime over time. Policies which seek to increase walking and cycling as modes of transport could augment this effect.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	0	+	+	+	The regeneration of housing within this valleys location could help to enhance a sense of community locally which could have minor benefits in the medium to long term against this objective.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for the location of residential development to assist in encouraging the use of public transport; however, this will be achieved through the other LDP policies. The policy seeks that communities are 'linked' which could have minor direct benefits.

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for residential development to result in a range of biodiversity effects - this will be achieved through other LDP policies leading to minor positive effects through the implementation of housing development.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	Improving the quality of housing through regeneration and adhering to strict national guidance is likely to have some indirect benefits for local heritage assets.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST	Perm	Med	++	+	+	++	The policy specifically requires that it will support the reuse of empty properties, which could have significant short term benefits against this objective while vacant properties are available.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue which will be ensured through other LDP policies.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	×	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High	-	--	-	--	The policy will result in the delivery of new dwellings, which will also result in increased trip generation, all of which will add to the sources of GHG emissions in the County Borough. However, this effect could be minimised through other LDP policies including SP6 which seek to encourage increased accessibility by sustainable modes. This could minimise long term effects as infrastructure is developed.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl	×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High	-	-	-	-	The construction of new dwellings will result in considerable waste generation during and post-construction. Sustainable waste management is addressed through policy SP13 and national design guidance.
#	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable	×	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	-	--	-	--	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, there is a risk that local air quality will be degraded. However, this effect could be minimised through other LDP policies including SP6 which seek to encourage increased accessibility by sustainable modes. This could minimise long term effects as infrastructure is developed.

21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable	×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	-	-	-	-	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, there is the potential for flood risk from runoff to be elevated considerably. However, national policy and other policies within the LDP including DM16 are likely to reduce the significance of this effect.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for residential development to make use of sustainably sourced products; this will be guided through national design guidelines.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for residential development to make a considerable contribution to the objective; Policy DM5 and national design guidance will ensure implementation.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr	×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The policy involves the delivery of new homes, which will introduce an increase in impermeable surfacing across the County Borough - this presents an increased risk of pollutants entering the watercourse. This effect will be minimised through other LDP policies and national guidelines.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	++	++	It is likely that the regeneration of existing housing areas and adherence to high design standards will have benefits against this objective, particularly in the long term as policy intentions are realised.

Table J.4 – Spatial Policy SP5 - Spatial Distribution of Housing Sites

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*		*Effects*					*Assessment*				Commentary
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre	Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm	
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.

3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	++	++	There is the potential for the delivery of additional residential development to support a greater catchment, which in turn could support increased town centre vitality and viability, particularly for Ebbw Vale and Tredegar. Effects likely to increase over time as more development comes forward.
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++	++	The policy will ensure the delivery of additional housing, which should have benefits. Housing types will be determined by SP4.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	The policy is concerned with increasing the amount of housing, the quality of which will be addressed through other LDP policies and national guidance leading to indirect positive effects.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	The policy is concerned with increasing the amount of housing, the quality of which will be addressed through other LDP policies and national guidance leading to indirect positive effects.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	++	++	Insofar as the policy seeks to direct new residential development to existing centres, there are likely to be some localised benefits in terms of improved co-locating of residential development and key services and facilities. Long term benefits could be significant as development proposals are realised.
10	To promote community health, social	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.

	care and well-being														
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for the location of residential development to assist in encouraging the use of public transport; along with other LDP policies sustainability benefits are likely.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is the potential for residential development to result in a range of biodiversity effects - other LDP policies and national guidance will seek to ensure that effects are positive although the loss of some greenfield land is likely which could have negative effects.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl	?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.

18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	×	Reg/ Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The policy will result in the delivery of 3666 new dwellings, which will also result in considerable trip generation, all of which will add to the sources of GHG emissions in the County Borough. However, national requirements for zero carbon homes should reduce the significance of this effect.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl	×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The construction of new dwellings will result in considerable waste generation during and post-construction. Sustainable waste management will be addressed through national sustainable design guidance as well as other LDP policies such as SP13, which encourages the sustainable management of waste in construction.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable	××	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, there is a risk that local air quality will be degraded considerably. However, this effect could be minimised through other LDP policies including SP6 which seek to encourage increased accessibility by sustainable modes. This could minimise long term effects as infrastructure is developed.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable	×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	-	-	-	-	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, there is the potential for flood risk from runoff to be elevated considerably. However, national policy and other policies within the LDP including DM16 are likely to reduce the significance of this effect.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for residential development to make use of sustainably sourced products; this will be guided through national design guidelines.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for residential development to make a considerable contribution to the objective; Policy DM5 and national design guidance will ensure implementation.

24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr	×	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The policy involves the delivery of 3666 new homes, which will introduce a substantial increase in impermeable surfacing across the County Borough - this presents an increase risk of pollutants entering watercourses. This effect will be minimised through other LDP policies and national guidelines.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl	?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development proposed, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue - there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.

Table J.5 – Strategic Policy SP6 - Ensuring Accessibility

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*		*Effects*					*Assessment*				Commentary
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre	Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm	
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	The availability of effective transport links is key to underpinning economic growth - delivery of infrastructure improvements should convey some benefits.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	Tourism development is heavily reliant upon an effective transportation network - improvements arising from the policy implementation should therefore convey some benefits.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	+++	++	In order to ensure that towns are vital and viable, there is a need to have good accessibility - improvements to the latter should therefore convey benefits in response of the objective.

5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High	++	+++	+++	+++	The policy seeks to achieve improved accessibility across Blaenau Gwent and is therefore directly aligned with the objective. Benefits should increase over time.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	++	++	Insofar as the policy may help to deliver improved accessibility to services and facilities, there is the potential for some localised benefits against the objective. The facilitation of an integrated and safe system of cycle and pedestrian routes could increase this mode of transport thereby increasing health levels in the long term through increased physical activity as well as reduced air pollution through a reduction in the reliance on vehicular transport modes.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	An increase in the use of public transport and walking and cycling as modes of transport could reduce the fear of crime through increased community mixing. Further, increased natural surveillance could also create benefits against this objective.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Benefits could be realised through an increase in community mixing through the use of public transport. This could enhance a sense of community identity.

13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	++	++	The policy seeks to encourage an improvement in accessibility through encouraging increased connectivity through the improvement in rail, bus as well as road links. The policy promotes Ebbw Vale as a public transport hub, as well as encouraging a walking and cycling network and the transportation of freight by rail. The focus of the policy on improving public transport modes could lead to significant benefits in the long term, although the concurrent improvement in road infrastructure could limit the potential for a modal shift.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	?	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy supports significant new infrastructure development, which could have considerable adverse effects against the objective. However, the potential for increased journeys to be made by walking and cycling and the policy requirement for effects to the natural environment to be minimised could lead to some benefits against this objective.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl	?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development supported by the policy, there is the potential for a range of effects to ensue. However, the policy seeks that harm to the built environment will be minimised through development.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Insofar as improvements to transport infrastructure may assist in unlocking the development potential of sites, the policy has the potential to deliver a range of positive and negative effects, dependent upon location. There is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict effects.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy in its current form could support considerable new infrastructure development projects and, as such, could have considerable adverse effects against the objective; however, there is insufficient detail in the policy to accurately predict such effects.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	×	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High	-	--	+/-	-	The policy supports all types of transportation infrastructure development, which is likely to support increased transport movements and therefore, GHG emissions. However, long term benefits could be experienced if the facilitation of public transport, walking and cycling leads to the increased use of more sustainable modes of transport.

19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl	×	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The policy is considered likely to support sizeable new infrastructure projects, which will result in considerable waste generation. SP13 seeks to reduce construction waste.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable	×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	--	+/-	-	The policy addresses transport in a general sense and does not make a distinction between public and private transport modes - as such, there is the potential for the policy to support either, with the resultant effects potentially being mixed in respect of the objective. However, long term benefits could be experienced if the facilitation of public transport, walking and cycling leads to the increased use of more sustainable modes of transport.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	The policy in its current form could support considerable new infrastructure development projects and, as such, could have considerable adverse effects against the objective; however, SUDS should be incorporated into designs which could lead to overall neutral effects.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr	-					0	0	0	0	The policy in its current form could support considerable new infrastructure development projects and, as such, could have considerable adverse effects against the objective. This effect will be minimised through other LDP policies and national guidelines.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl	?	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy in its current form could support considerable new infrastructure development projects and, as such, could have considerable adverse effects against the objective; however, benefits could be experienced through the development of green infrastructure, through the creation of a walking and cycling network.

Table J.6 – Strategic Policy SP7 – Climate Change

SA Objective	*Baseline*		*Trends*		*Effects*					*Assessment*				Commentary
	Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre	Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm	

1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	++	++	The enhancement of the natural and built environment is likely to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus potentially attracting inward investment. The policy seeks to promote the efficient use of land, particularly in areas close to town centres or transport corridors. This could lead to benefits for economic growth.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	The enhancement of the natural and built environment is likely to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus potentially attracting inward investment and subsequent employment opportunities.
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	High quality built design and the protection of the natural environment may help to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus increasing the potential for visitors to the area.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	High quality built design and the protection of the natural environment may help to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus increasing the potential for visitors to the area as well as potential inward investment, which may enhance the vitality and viability of the town centres. The policy seeks to promote the efficient use of land, particularly in areas close to town centres or transport corridors that could help to ensure that town centre viability is promoted.
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	The policy may lead to an improvement in the housing stock of the County Borough alongside Policy SP4.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.

10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Indirect positive effects on public health and well being insofar as the policy should help enhance the quality of the environment and engender a greater sense of local identity. Indirect health benefits may also result from an improvement in air quality through a reduced reliance on fossil fuel-based energy sources and a maintenance of low flood risk.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Indirect positive effects on crime levels and fear of crime are likely as application of high quality design principles may include designing out crime measures. Engendering a greater sense of local identity and belonging to the local community associated with this policy should also help deliver positive effects against this objective. The principles of Secured by Design are required under policy DM2.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Good design has the potential to deliver a greater sense of identity.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Ensuring that development makes the most efficient use of land through developing at higher densities on site s located close to transport corridors or town centres could help to encourage a modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High	++	+	+	++	The policy seeks to accord with the objectives of sustainability and good design as set out in national policy, which includes the need to conserve national and local nature conservation interests.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High	+	+	+	+	Good design has the potential to deliver a greater sense of identity. SP11 will ensure that the built environment is enhanced.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Local	ST-MT	Perm	Low	++	++	+	++	The policy specifically seeks to promote the efficient use of land through giving preference to brownfield land and development at higher densities on sites located close to transport corridors or town centres. This should have significant positive effects against this objective, particularly in the short to medium term while these types of development sites are available for development.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	++	++	+	++	The policy specifically seeks to promote the efficient use of land which should help to conserve soil resources, particularly in the short to medium term while these types of development sites are available for development.

18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	✓✓	Reg/ Nat	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	The policy sets out that the Council will specifically seek to address climate change and reduce energy demand to improve the sustainability of the valleys communities through considering proposals and allocating sites according to the objectives of sustainability and according with the energy hierarchy. The policy also incorporates requirements to support development proposals that incorporate low and zero carbon energy solutions, providing a positive approach to low-emission developments. This, alongside national guidance should lead to significant positive effects in enabling a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, as national guidance seeks zero carbon development.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	According with the objectives of sustainability and good design will include sustainable waste management, leading to positive effects against this objective.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	According with the objectives of sustainability and good design, along with the promotion of efficiency in the use of land to include promoting higher density development in town centres and close to transport corridors, could help to reduce the need to travel by car and maintain air quality. A reduced reliance of fossil-fuel based energy could help to ensure that new development does not lead to a deterioration of air quality.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	The policy specifically requires that development avoids locating highly vulnerable development in areas of flood risk as identified in TAN15. Further, the policy seeks to manage flood rish through design measures. This should help to maintain current low levels of vulnerability.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	According with the principles of sustainability and good design should lead to some benefits against this objective.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	+++	+++	+++	The policy seeks that development accords with the energy hierarchy and the objectives of sustainability and good design as set out in national policy. This should have significant positive effects both in the medium and long term due to the high standards required nationally for energy efficiency and the generation of energy from renewable sources. The policy seeks specifically to take a positive approach to development through supporting development proposals that incorporate low and zero carbon energy generation and encouraging more of the

															local power generated to be from renewable and low/zero carbon technologies.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	Development that accords with the principles of sustainability is likely to have benefits for water quality and conservation.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	Sustainable design in accordance with national policy is likely to enhance landscape settings and Conservation Areas should result in significant beneficial effects against this objective.

Table J.7 – Strategic Policy SP8 - Sustainable Economic Growth

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*		*Effects*					*Assessment*				Commentary
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre	Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm	
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High	++	++	+++	+++	The policy is directly aligned with the objective and should achieve significant benefits over the duration of the plan period.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High	++	++	+++	+++	The policy is directly aligned with the objective and should achieve significant benefits over the duration of the plan period, particularly as the locational focus covers both existing business locations and new sites close to the key settlements. The policy also seeks to diversify employment and support the sustainable development of specific industries including manufacturing which could lead to long term benefits.
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	+++	+++	+++	The policy specifically seeks to encourage tourism, leisure and heritage initiatives as part of economic growth, as well as promoting activity tourism in the countryside. This could help to promote a strong tourism offer, complementary to other strategic policies in adjoining authorities. The most significant benefits are likely in the long term, as proposals in this and other authorities are realised to create a regional tourism offer.

4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	The development of tourism, leisure and heritage initiatives in town centres should serve to increase the catchment population for town centre facilities and services with the potential for beneficial effects against the objective over time.
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	++	+++	+++	+++	Diversification of the local employment and business opportunities should serve to increase the range and availability of opportunities for vocational and work-place based training and upskilling. The policy specifically includes that a first class learning infrastructure will be put in place to ensure that residents gain the skills they require, and that local labour agreements will be negotiated with developers to enable local people to secure employment and skills development.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	++	+++	+++	+++	The approach to employment and skills development set out in the policy should assist in increasing the accessibility of employment opportunities, which supports the objective.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low	+	+	++	++	There is some evidence to suggest that worklessness and poor health can be linked - by increasing the range and availability of job opportunities locally, the policy offers the potential to deliver some benefits against the objective. Further, the promotion of activity tourism could improve health levels to some degree. Direct benefits from the policy could arise from the encouragement of employment in health and social care in town centres and in conjunction with the new hospital at 'The Works'.

11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	There is evidence to suggest causality between criminal activity and a 'lack of things to do'. As such, in seeking to broaden the range and availability of employment opportunities in the County Borough, the policy offers the potential to deliver some benefits.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Benefits could result through the use of heritage initiatives to generate employment opportunities.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	LT	Perm	Low	0	+	+	+	The policy encourages employment development in town centres - this increases the viability of utilising public transport and may convey benefits against the objective in the longer term alongside other LDP policies. Other LDP policies could enable the potential reduction of effects against this objective including DM1 (transport hierarchy) and SP6 (ensuring accessibility).
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	?	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Insofar as the policy seeks to deliver development predominantly in or adjacent to existing centres, the policy may help to minimise expansion into the countryside. However, benefits may be offset to some degree by biodiversity loss on brownfield sites.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	The policy specifically seeks to capitalise on the heritage assets of the plan area, through encouraging tourism, leisure and heritage initiatives in town centres. This could have benefits against this objective over the plan period.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	The policy seeks to deliver employment development with a focus on town centres and existing locations, which should help to secure the re-use of brownfield sites in advance of greenfield.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	High	+	+	++	++	In seeking to increase employment development in established industrial locations, it is considered likely that the policy will result in the remediation of contaminated land, which should convey benefits against the objective.

18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	×	Reg /Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High	-	-	-	-	The delivery of the policy will involve substantial new development, which is likely to increase the sources of GHG emissions, both in terms of built development and transport movements. However, the significance of this effect will be reduced through the focus of development on town centres and existing industrial areas. Further, built development will have to adhere to strict national design guidelines, which should reduce GHG emissions. Other LDP policies could enable the potential reduction of effects against this objective including DM1 (transport hierarchy) and SP6 (ensuring accessibility).
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl	×	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High	-	-	-	-	The development of 50 ha. of new employment land will result in considerable construction and potentially demolition wastes, as well as operational wastes. This will reduced through the implementation of policy SP13.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable	××	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	--	--	--	--	The scale of development supported by the policy has the potential to give rise to increased emissions and localised degradation of air quality arising from a combination of built development, processes and transportation. Other LDP policies could enable the potential reduction of effects against this objective including DM1 (transport hierarchy) and SP6 (ensuring accessibility).
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable	×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	-	-	-	-	There is a risk that the level of new development will introduce a sufficient increase in impermeable surfacing to result in an elevated risk of localised flooding arising from runoff. This will be reduced through the implementation of SP7.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	According with the principles of sustainability and good design through SP7 should lead to some benefits against this objective.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?	✓	Reg /Nat	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	SP7 seeks that development accords with the energy hierarchy and the objectives of sustainability and good design as set out in national policy. This should have positive effects due to the high standards required nationally for energy efficiency and the generation of energy from renewable sources.

24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Development that accords with the principles of sustainability through SP7 is likely to have benefits for water quality and conservation.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl	×	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Temp	Med	-	-	-	-	Dependent upon the precise location and form of development, such as rural enterprise, there is a risk that the policy could result in adverse effects through intrusion into the landscape. However, other LDP policies such as DM2 are likely to reduce the significance of these effects.

Table J.8 – Strategic Policy SP9 - Active and Healthy Communities

	SA Objective	*Baseline*		*Trends*		*Effects*					*Assessment*				Commentary
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre	Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm	
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	0	+	+	+	Insofar as the policy could provide beneficial effects for the tourism industry, some positive effects against this Objective could be experienced in the medium to long term.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	++	++	The development of recreational and leisure facilities may offer some localised opportunities for employment, which are likely to be distributed across the County Borough.
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	High	+	++	++	++	The development of natural greenspace and a regional park is likely to provide support to the development of the tourism industry that could lead to significant beneficial effects in the medium to long term.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	+++	+++	Focused investment in delivering recreational and leisure development across the County Borough should assist in supporting and, to some extent, catalysing investment to improve town centre vitality and viability.

5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	0	+	+	+	There is the potential that development of the leisure and recreation economy may offer some localised opportunities for upskilling and vocational training.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	++	+++	+++	+++	The policy should deliver benefits in terms of increased accessibility of leisure provision, which could deliver localised benefits against the objective. The policy specifically seeks to protect and enhance accessibility to natural greenspace for all members of the community, as well as improve existing open space, sports and leisure facilities. This is likely to lead to significant positive effects over the plan period.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	+++	+++	Through improving the recreational and leisure opportunities, there is potential for the policy to deliver beneficial effects against this objective through an increase in physical activity. Further, increased accessibility to natural greenspace could improve physical activity, air quality and a sense of wellbeing through increased community interaction as well as enhanced greenery.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Crime levels are sometimes attributed in part to a 'lack of things to do'. The policy, through delivering additional activities and recreational opportunities, may have a positive effect against the objective in some locations.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Recreational activities often serve to generate a greater sense of identity and foster increased levels of cultural engagement, which could deliver beneficial effects against the objective.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	0	Protecting and enhancing accessibility to greenspace for all members of the community is likely to be by sustainable modes of transport, in accordance with national policy.

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	++	++	++	++	Through promoting increased accessibility to natural greenspace, the policy offers opportunities to boost biodiversity, which could have significant benefits against the objective.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	The policy seeks to enhance greenspace which assist in delivering benefits against the objective through enhancing historic natural landscapes.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	There is insufficient detail to accurately predict effects against the objective - there is the potential for them to be mixed dependent upon the precise actions supported by the policy.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	?	Reg/ Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The enhancement of accessibility to natural greenspace is likely to be predominantly by sustainable modes, as required by national guidelines. However, some increase in travel by car may result. Further, the enhancement of greenspace and the Valleys Regional Park may help to create some carbon sequestration. This could result in a balance of positive and negative effects.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The enhancement of accessibility to natural greenspace is likely to be predominantly by sustainable modes, as required by national guidelines. However, some increase in travel by car may result. Further, the enhancement of greenspace and the Valleys Regional Park may help to create some pollution sequestration. This could result in a balance of positive and negative effects.

21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	The development of increased access to greenspace could be complementary to measures seeking to reduce flood risk, through the development of GI (policy DM16). This could lead to positive sustainability effects.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	It is likely that the enhancement of greenspace will have some benefits of the quality of the water environment.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	The policy supports the development of enhanced accessibility to greenspace and the Valleys Regional Park, which is likely to convey some benefits against the objective.

Table J.9 – Strategic Policy SP10 - Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*		*Effects*					*Assessment*				Commentary
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre	Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm	
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	The enhancement of the natural environment is likely to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus potentially attracting inward investment.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	The enhancement of the natural environment is likely to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus potentially attracting inward investment and subsequent employment opportunities.
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	The protection of the natural environment may help to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus increasing the potential for visitors to the area.

4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	The protection of the natural environment may help to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus increasing the potential for visitors to the area as well as potential inward investment, which may enhance the vitality and viability of the town centres.
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Indirect positive effects on public health and well being insofar as the policy should help enhance the quality of the environment and engender a greater sense of local identity.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Engendering a greater sense of local identity and belonging to the local community through environmental protection and improvement associated with this policy should help deliver positive effects against this objective.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Design that reinforces local character and protects the natural environment has the potential to deliver a sense of identity.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High	++	+++	+++	+++	Significant beneficial effects, as the policy seeks to protect, preserve and enhance sites and landscapes of national and local nature conservation interest. The policy seeks a net gain in biodiversity, which should lead to significant benefits in the medium to long term.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High	++	++	++	++	Significant beneficial effects, as the policy seeks to enhance landscape settings.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	The protection and enhancement of the natural environment should lead to the enhanced use of previously developed sites as an indirect effect.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	++	++	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment should help ensure that the best solutions are identified (in particular, brownfield sites potential is explored) in order to maximise development potential, which should be beneficial against the objective. The enhancement of green infrastructure and seeking a net biodiversity gain could lead to long term significant benefits against this objective.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	0	+	+	+	The enhancement of the natural environment could lead to an increase in carbon sequestration leading to benefits against this objective in the medium to long term.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	0	+	+	+	The enhancement of the natural environment could lead to an increase in pollution sequestration leading to benefits against this objective in the medium to long term.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	The development of a green infrastructure network is likely to not only have beneficial effects for biodiversity but could also have significant benefits for reducing flood risk through SUDS.

22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	The development of a green infrastructure network is likely to have significant benefits for water quality through SUDS.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+++	++	++	+++	The policy seeks to contribute to the quality, character and amenity of the landscape that should result in significant beneficial effects against this objective.

Table J.11 – Strategic Policy SP11 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built Environment

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*		*Effects*					*Assessment*				Commentary
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre	Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm	
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	The enhancement of the built environment is likely to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus potentially attracting inward investment.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	The enhancement of the built environment is likely to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus potentially attracting inward investment and subsequent employment opportunities.
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	++	+++	+++	+++	High quality built design may help to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus increasing the potential for visitors to the area. The policy specifically seeks to encourage the promotion of heritage tourism which could create benefits against this objective in the medium to long term.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	High quality built design may help to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus increasing the potential for visitors to the area as well as potential inward investment, which may enhance the vitality and viability of the town centres.

5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	The policy may lead to an improvement in the housing stock of the County Borough.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	The enhancement of the built environment could also lead to the resurrection of local skills such as stonemasonry which could have some benefits against this objective.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Indirect positive effects on public health and well being insofar as the policy should help enhance the quality of the environment and engender a greater sense of local identity.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Engendering a greater sense of local identity and belonging to the local community associated with this policy should also help deliver positive effects against this objective.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	++	++	++	The policy seeks to safeguard the distinctive built environment which has the potential to deliver a greater sense of identity. The enhancement of the built environment could also lead to the resurrection of local skills such as stonemasonry which could lead to significant medium and long term benefits against this objective.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.

15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High	++	+++	+++	+++	Significant beneficial effects, as the policy seeks to protect, preserve and enhance the built environment as well as promote heritage tourism, which could lead to significant medium and long term benefits.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	High quality design that respects heritage assets should help ensure that the best solutions are identified in order to maximise development potential, which should be beneficial against the objective. The enhancement of character may encourage the re-use of existing buildings.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	The protection of built heritage could lead to the re-use of existing buildings which could lead to lower GHG emissions through new development.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	Assuming that enhancing of local character and, in particular, the appearance of individual historic buildings, may require the use of locally sourced materials, this policy should deliver positive effects against this objective.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?	-	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	The reuse of existing buildings is considered to be an energy efficient type of development.

24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear direct interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+++	++	++	+++	The policy seeks to promote heritage tourism, which should result in beneficial effects against this objective as the landscape is an important component of the local built heritage.

Table J.12 – Strategic Policy SP12- Securing an Adequate Supply of Minerals

SA Objective		*Baseline*		*Trends*		*Effects*					*Assessment*				Commentary
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre	Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm	
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Reg/ Nat	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	The policy may help to maintain the minerals sector of the economy through the preservation of resources.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High	+	+	+	+	Safeguarding mineral resources and maintaining appropriate land banks should support existing and new minerals and minerals-related operations.
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	-					0	0	0	0	The maintenance of mineral supplies is not likely to improve skills levels.

9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	-	-	-	-	Negative effects may occur due to mineral operations' potential impacts on amenity. However, the significance of potential effects is likely to be reduced through the policy requirement that seeks to ensure that impacts of residential areas are limited to an acceptable proven safe limit through the identification of buffer zones.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for some indirect benefits insofar as safeguarding local mineral resources could help maintain local character and distinctiveness of the built environment if the materials are used for this purpose. Historical identifications with mining could be enhanced through an increase in mineral working.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policy may deliver some positive effects against this objective, as transportation considerations will inform safeguarding of mineral resources. However, the continued supply of mineral resources may lead to an overall increase in traffic. Policy SP6 encourages the use of rail for freight which could reduce negative effects.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	-	-	-	-	The Policy may result in some indirect negative effects against this objective, as minerals' operations indirectly supported by this Policy may impact on the local biodiversity. These effects may be minimised or mitigated by taking environmental considerations into account as included in the policy.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl	?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The Policy may result in some indirect negative effects against this objective, as minerals' operations indirectly supported by this Policy may impact on the settings of local heritage assets. There is the potential for some indirect benefits insofar as safeguarding local mineral resources could help maintain local character and distinctiveness of the built environment if the materials are used for this purpose.

16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr	?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	--	-	+	+/-	The extraction of minerals may lead to a loss of high quality soils although these may be restored through aftercare and restoration proposals.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	×	Reg/ Nat	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	The extraction of minerals for the production of energy could be in conflict with this objective.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low	++	++	++	++	The proposal encourages the re-use of secondary aggregates which could have benefits against this objective.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	The policy seeks that the environmental impact of mineral extraction will be considered in proposals, although overall negative effects on air quality are likely both from the mineral operations themselves as well as transportation.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low	++	++	++	++	The proposal encourages the re-use of secondary aggregates which could have benefits against this objective.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?	×	Reg/ Nat	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	The extraction of minerals for the production of energy could be in conflict with this objective.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	-	-	-	-	The Policy may have indirect negative effects against this objective, as mineral operations may affect the quality of local surface and groundwater. The policy seeks to minimise the significance of these effects through consideration of the environmental impact of mineral working.

25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl	××	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	--	--	0	--	The Policy may have indirect negative effects against this objective, as it supports mineral operations, which may impact on the quality of local landscape. Long term effects may be neutral through the requirement for high standards of restoration.

Table J.10 - Strategic Policy SP13 - Delivering Sustainable Waste Management

	SA Objective	*Baseline*		*Trends*		*Effects*					*Assessment*				Commentary/ Recommendations
		Cond	Sens	Curr	Ftre	Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm	
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	Poor	Med	Impr	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
3	To enable the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
5	To meet identified housing needs	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	Poor	Med	Impr	Impr	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	Adequate provision of sustainable waste management facilities may improve accessibility for the local community for household waste recycling.

10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	Poor	Med	Stable	Stable	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	The location of waste management facilities close to residential areas may affect residential amenity and the quality of the environment and may have potential to affect human health. Potential effects will be dependent on the nature of the facilities.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	Mod	Low	Impr	Impr	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	Mod	Low	Stable	Stable	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Providing local sustainable waste management facilities implementing the proximity principle could reduce the need to travel and thus reduce reliance on the private car for household waste disposal. Requiring in-building treatment facilities on employment sites will have a similar effect.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Securing of allocations for in-building treatment facilities at employment sites and seeking that solutions represent the best practicable environmental option should help avoid negative effects on the local biodiversity.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	Poor	High	Decl	Decl	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Securing of allocations for in-building treatment facilities at employment sites and seeking that solutions represent the best practicable environmental option should help avoid negative effects on local heritage.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity.	Mod	Med	Stable	Stable	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Securing of allocations for in-building treatment facilities at employment sites and seeking that solutions represent the best practicable environmental option should help to create benefits against this objective.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	Poor	Med	Stable	Impr	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Securing of allocations for in-building treatment facilities at employment sites and seeking that solutions represent the best practicable environmental option should help to create benefits against this objective.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	Mod	High	Stable	Impr	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Adequate provision of sustainable waste management facilities may help to rationalise waste transportation and reduce associated transport emissions. Minimisation of waste production should also help minimise landfill GHGs, i.e. emissions of methane, which have high global warming potential.

19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	Poor	Med	Decl	Decl	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	The policy may further the implementation of waste hierarchy principles through adequate provision of sustainable waste management facilities. However, the success of the policy may depend on the location of the waste management facilities which will be determined through policy DM21.
20	To maintain current air quality	Good	Low	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Expected rationalisation of waste transportation should have positive effects on the local air quality. Support is given to treatment facilities, measures and strategies that represent the best practicable environmental option, which is likely to have benefits against this objective.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	Good	High	Stable	Stable	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Waste management facilities are considered as a low risk land use and therefore will maintain levels of flood risk.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	?	?	?	?	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	The policy promotes the implementation of the waste hierarchy and encourages waste minimisation during construction which should deliver benefits against this objective.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	?	?	?	-					0	0	0	0	There is no clear interrelationship between the policy and the objective.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and ground water quality	Mod	Med	Impr	Impr	×	Sub-Reg	ST-MT	Temp	Med	-	-	-	-	Increase in numbers of waste management facilities may have potential for ground water pollution.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	Mod	Med	Stable	Decl	×	Local	ST-MT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	Landscape effects are likely to be minimal, due to the implementation of the BPEO. **RECOMMENDATION** The policy should ensure that potential effects of landscape quality are carefully assessed and mitigated.

Appendix K Development Management, Allocations and Designation Policies Assessment: LDP Deposit Plan (April 2011)

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Effects

✓✓	Local	ST-MT	Temp	Low
✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med
-	Reg/Nat	MT-LT		High
?		ST		
×		MT		
××		LT		

Assessment

+++	Strongly positive
++	Moderately positive
+	Slightly positive
0	No effect
-	Slightly negative
--	Moderately negative
---	Strongly negative
+/-	Combination of positive and negative effects / neutral effect
n/a	Not assessed

Terms

Mag Magnitude
Scale Geographic extent
T/P Temporary/permanent
Cert Certainty

ST Short term
MT Medium term
LT Long term
Sm Summary assessment

Notes

1) Effects (excluding magnitude) and assessment values can be selected from drop-down list, entered directly or pasted/dragged from other cells

2) Effect magnitude is entered by copying and pasting/dragging from key or other cells

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Table K.1 – Theme 1: Retail and Town Centre Vitality and Viability

		Effects					*Assessment*					
	SA Objective	**Mag**	**Scale**	**Dur**	**T/P**	**Cert**	**ST**	**MT**	**LT**	**Sm**	**Commentary**	**Recommendations**
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	Retail is a critical component of the economy and in seeking to protect and enhance the offer and complementary activities across the County Borough, the policies under this theme have considerable potential to deliver beneficial effects. The Action Area at Southern Gateway, Ebbw Vale, proposed in policy AA1 will create a strong physical gateway to The Works which is likely to help deliver economic benefits.	Detailed descriptions of the proposed retail sites can be found in the site descriptions document.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm		++	++	++	++	The provision of increased retail development at centres across the County Borough, supported by complementary forms of development, can be a key source of increased local job opportunities at a range of levels.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	++	++	Insofar as the policies will increase the attractiveness of the town centres, and promote a successful evening economy, the development of tourism will be supported.	None identified.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	High	++	++	+++	+++	Policies DM6 and DM7 seek to minimise the impact on the vitality and viability of the town centres through controlling the use classes permitted in retail areas. Supporting text highlights that the clustering of A1 uses is considered to be beneficial for the vitality, viability and attractiveness of the town centres. Retail provision and the complementary offer are key in attracting custom in town centres. The Action Areas under policy R1 could encourage a mix of uses that may enhance viability and vitality. The cumulative effect of the policies should contribute to this objective.	Detailed descriptions of the proposed retail sites can be found in the site descriptions document.
5	To meet identified housing needs	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.

9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	+++	++	The policies are likely to increase accessibility to retail facilities which will contribute to achievements against this objective. DM7 seeks the provision of local shopping facilities to meet people's day-to-day needs in Blaina. AA1 and R1 allocate land to address identified demand for new retail and mixed use opportunities- the proposed allocations are located throughout the County Borough and are likely to improve accessibility for the local population. Supporting information for policy DM6 indicates that outside the Primary Retail Area, a diversity of uses is encouraged. This could have indirect benefits for the achievement of this Objective over time. The potential for increased public transport provision through the sites allocated in policy AA1 could compound this effect.	Detailed descriptions of the proposed retail sites can be found in the site descriptions document.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Improving the provision of retail and mixed use opportunities locally may help to increase walking and cycling as modes of transport, which could increase health levels through increased exercise as well as improved air quality. Traffic calming at the Southern Gateway could help to improve road safety.	None identified.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	There is evidence to suggest causality between criminal activity and a 'lack of things to do'. As such, in seeking to broaden the offer of all key centres in the County Borough, the policy offers the potential to deliver some benefits.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	✓	Local	LT	Perm	Low	+	++	++	++	The policy seeks to bolster the range of facilities and services in key settlements across the County Borough - this will help to increase the appeal of destinations already served by public transport, which could have some benefits against the objective. Policy AA1 is based on improvements to Ebbw Vale Principal Town Centre. Supporting text highlights that the Sustainable Development Framework for Ebbw Vale creates an opportunity for improved public transport and reduced traffic through developments at the Works. In addition policy SP3 promotes improved public transport facilities.	None identified.

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+/-	+/-	+	By focusing development within the existing settlements, the policy may assist in safeguarding against physical expansion of settlements, thus protecting against harmful effects to rural biodiversity. This may be offset to some degree by demand for brownfield sites for regeneration, which may host some valuable species. The sites are unlikely to directly affect designated biodiversity protection areas.	Effective implementation of Policy SP10 and DM15 should ensure that any new development incorporates measures to protect and enhance biodiversity, wildlife and geodiversity and seeks to achieve a net gain in biodiversity, therefore offsetting the predicted negative effects to a certain degree.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	There are a number of listed buildings within the town centres as identified on the proposals map. There is the potential for negative effects through development. However, policy DM6 aims to protect the character and function of the town centres through firstly controlling the percentage of hot food takeaways and public houses located in proximity to the town centres. This should lead to positive effects against this Objective.	The policy's performance will depend on the effective implementation of Policy SP11.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	In focusing retail development in existing settlements, the policy should contribute to achieving the objective and delivering maximised development within the existing urban envelope. Policy SP3 also encourages the refurbishment and upgrade of shops, offices and commercial premises in the town centres.	See recommendations under objective 14.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	×	Reg/Nat	MT-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The policy encourages increased levels of development, which could increase the sources of emissions of greenhouse gases as well as potentially encouraging an increase in trip generation. However, retail policies through policy DM6 are sought to increase the provision of facilities to meet local needs. Policy AA1 is based on improvements to Ebbw Vale Principal Town Centre. Supporting text highlights that the Sustainable Development Framework for Ebbw Vale creates an opportunity for improved public transport and reduced traffic through developments at the Works. In addition to sustainable design and accessibility policies provided elsewhere in the LDP, effects could be reduced in significance.	Other LDP policies could mitigate the potential effects of the policy including policies DM1 (transport hierarchy) and SP6 (ensuring accessibility).

19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	✗	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	-	--	-	An increase in retail development is likely to increase waste levels. However, the encouragement of the reuse of buildings for the improvement of the town centres will enable increased development whilst minimising and increase in construction waste.	Policy DM21 could reduce this effect.
20	To maintain current air quality	✗	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	Policy AA1 is based on improvements to Ebbw Vale Principal Town Centre. Supporting text highlights that the Sustainable Development Framework for Ebbw Vale creates an opportunity for improved public transport and reduced traffic through developments at the Works. Policies seeking to improve the provision of facilities to meet local needs could improve the potential for a reduction in the reliance on the private car for transport. Improving accessibility to town centres via walking, cycling and public transport through the location of retail in the town centres may help to reduce the likely increase in air pollution through increased trip generation to retail opportunities.	None identified.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	✗	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The policies may result in an increase in impermeable surfacing that may have the potential to increase risk of localised flooding. However, the sites are not currently considered to have negative effects against this Objective. Policy DM1 and national planning policy could reduce the significance of this potential effect.	Detailed descriptions of the proposed retail sites can be found in the site descriptions document.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	All new development through the LDP will be subject to national sustainable design guidance, which is likely to increase the use of sustainable resources.	None identified.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	All new development through the LDP will be subject to national sustainable design guidance, which may increase energy efficiency in development.	None identified.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	✗	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The policy should result in an increase in development densities within all key settlements - this may increase the potential for pollutants to enter the water system. Other policies in the LDP such as those to improve accessibility (to reduce pollutant potential) and encourage sustainable design (to reduce increases in surface water runoff) such as SP6 and DM3 may help to reduce this effect.	None identified.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	✓✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	There is the potential for benefits to this objective insofar as the locational focus of development on existing settlements should safeguard against adverse effects on the quality and character of the surrounding landscape where openness is considered to be of particular importance.	None identified.

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Table K.2 – Theme 2: Housing

	SA Objective	Effects					Assessment				Commentary	Recommendations
		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Temp	Med	-	+	++	+	The LDP seeks the provision of high quality housing to stem out-migration and attract people to the area. This may help to promote economic growth through the creation of an increased workforce. The provision of a range of types and tenures of housing is likely to attract people with a variety of skills. Potential conflicts identified for site A43 (Business Resource Centre) - the development of the site will lead to the loss of employment land which could lead to short term negative effects. The LDP seeks to provide an adequate supply of employment sites elsewhere, which will minimise potentially negative effects from the development of this site for housing over the medium to longer term.	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	×	Local	ST-MT	Temp	Med	-	-	0	-	Potential conflicts identified for site A43 (Business Resource Centre) - the development of the site will lead to the loss of employment land which could lead to short term negative effects. The LDP seeks to provide an adequate supply of employment sites elsewhere, which will minimise potentially negative effects from the development of this site for housing over the medium to longer term.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	++	++	There is the potential for the delivery of additional residential development to support a greater catchment, which in turn could support increased town centre vitality and viability, particularly for Ebbw Vale and Tredegar. Policy DM9 seeks to ensure that rural exception sites contribute to the maintenance of sustainable mixed communities. Effects likely to increase over time as more development comes forward.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	The housing policies in the LDP seek to ensure that the housing provided through development opportunities is reflective of local needs. To this end, the policies seek to provide a sufficient level of affordable and special needs housing, regeneration of existing housing stock, and the provision of sites for gypsy traveller communities. The provision of sites for 100% affordable housing (including H1.17 and H1.18) may have negative effects on the objective to achieve sustainable communities, as this type of layout may create social divisions. However, it is	None identified.

											regarded that the small scale of these sites could provide a balance of positive effects as they will contribute to meeting local needs within the setting of a mixed community.	
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++ +	++	Supporting text for Policy DM8 seeks that under certain circumstances, contributions for the reuse or rehabilitation of older housing stock will be sought. This may improve the overall quality of housing stock in the County Borough over time.	Further advice on affordable housing requirements is contained in the SPG on Planning Contributions. Standards for housing development are provided in national planning policy.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	Policy DM8 seeks to provide at least 10% affordable housing on sites over a specified size. Policy H1 also identifies 2 potential sites for the provision of 100% affordable housing in accordance with policy DM8.	Further advice on affordable housing requirements is contained in the SPG on Planning Contributions.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Insofar as the policy seeks to direct new residential development to existing centres, there may be some localised benefits in terms of improved co-locating of residential development and key services and facilities. The sites assessment identifies potential conflicts against this objective for sites H1.17 (Former Mount Pleasant Court), H1.19 (Quarry adjacent to Cwm Farm Road), H1.18 (Hillcrest View).	It should be ensured that any potential conflicts are eradicated or mitigated prior to development on site. Accessibility to local services and facilities should be ensured through the provision of walking and cycling facilities and public transport. Mitigation will be included in the Site Descriptions document which is a supporting document to the Plan. Chapter 9 of the LDP details survey requirements for housing sites that could lead to further mitigation.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	The improvement of existing housing stock should help to improve health and wellbeing levels for their occupants. The provision of special needs housing stipulated by Policy SP4 should benefit health of those members of communities with special needs. Overall effects are deemed beneficial.	None identified.

11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	The expansion of the existing site for gypsies and travellers may have some positive effects against this objective in terms of reducing the likelihood or need to trespass on other land for temporary accommodation purposes.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	Insofar as the development of housing will be under the requirements of the accessibility policies, a modal shift may be encouraged. However, site descriptions do not include proximity to local public transport, so a range of effects are possible.	None identified.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	Site allocations H1.6 (Chartist Way) and H1.20 (Rear of Farm Road) are predicted to conflict with this objective based on the site assessments completed by BGCBC. Potential conflicts are identified for sites H1.15 (Warm Turn), H1.16 (Roseheyworth School), H1.17 (Former Mount Pleasant Court), H1.19 (Quarry adjacent to Cwm Farm Road) and H1.18 (Hillcrest View). Other LDP policies as well as mitigation strategies should minimise negative effects predicted.	Potential conflicts are identified in the supporting documentation providing detailed site information for the LDP where mitigation is proposed. Effective implementation of Policy SP10 and DM15 should ensure that any new development incorporates measures to protect and enhance biodiversity, wildlife and geodiversity and seeks to achieve a net gain in biodiversity, therefore offsetting the predicted negative effects to a certain degree.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	-	-	-	-	Potential conflicts are identified for sites H1.6 (Chartist Way), H1.12 (Land to the East of Blaina Road), H1.18 (Hillcrest View). Any potential conflicts should be mitigated through other LDP policies and the mitigation provided in the LDP supporting documentation. LDP policy SP11 could reduce the significance of this effect.	Potential conflicts are identified in the supporting documentation providing detailed site information for the LDP where mitigation is proposed. Chapter 9 of the LDP details survey requirements for housing sites that could lead to further mitigation. Effective implementation of policy SP11 should provide mitigation.

16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Site allocations H1.6 (Chartist Way) and H1.20 (Rear of Farm Road,) are predicted to conflict with this objective. Potential conflicts are identified for sites H1.13 (Land to the North of Winchestown), H1.11 (Land to the West of Recreation Ground), although policy SP7 seeks to give preference to the development of brownfield land over greenfield. A shortage of available brownfield sites may mean that the achievement of development entirely on brownfield sites is not possible. Supporting text for policy DM8 seeks the reuse/rehabilitation of existing older housing stock, which could enable the best use of existing buildings to be made under certain circumstances. Indicative densities for the allocated sites are 35 per hectare. Supporting text to policy H1 indicates that development densities could be higher or lower dependent on the location of development and policy considerations including sustainability, which may encourage an efficient use of land.	Guidelines could be provided to detail the specific details of which circumstances would allow higher or lower development densities. This is touched upon in policy SP7.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	x	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	Potential conflicts are identified for sites H1.13 (Land to the North of Winchestown), H1.11 (Land to the West of Recreation Ground), and H1.20 (Rear of Farm Road). The development of greenfield sites could lead to the loss of land. However, the quality of land in the borough is considered to be low, so effects are unlikely to be significant.	Mitigation is provided in the LDP through survey requirements listed for each site allocation. Requirements for site H1.13 include: full ecological survey including trees and significant vegetation; biodiversity constraints and enhancement plan; preliminary risk assessment (geotechnical). This could help to reduce the significance of effects.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	x x	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med	---	-	-	--	The policy will result in the delivery of over 3000 new dwellings, which will also result in considerable trip generation, all of which will add to GHG emissions in the County Borough. Developing to national guidelines for the CfSH may minimise this effect, especially in the longer term where more housing will be zero carbon. A potential conflict with the gypsy traveller site allocation GT1 (Extension to Cwmcrachen) and H1.7 (former Garnfach School Site) have been identified in the site specific assessments. However, other LDP policies relating to transport and accessibility could reduce this potentai effect.	Mitigation is provided in the LDP including through through policies DM1 (transport hierarchy) and SP6 (ensuring accessibility).
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	x	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	--	-	-	--	The construction of new dwellings could result in considerable waste generation during and post-construction. SP13 seeks to encourage the movement of waste up the hierarchy and reduce waste generated through construction which may minimise potential negative effects over time. A potential conflict with the	See assessment under sustainability theme 'waste'. Effective implementation of SP13 should help mitigate the predicted negative effects against this objective.

											gypsy traveller site allocation GT1 (Extension to Cwmcrachen) has been identified in the site specific assessments. However, this may not be significant as proposals are likely to be small on a plan-wide scale.	
20	To maintain current air quality	✗	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	-	-	-	-	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, the local air quality may be affected. A potential conflict with the gypsy traveller site allocation GT1 (Extension to Cwmcrachen) and H1.7 (former Garnfach School Site) have been identified in the site specific assessments.	Mitigation is provided in the LDP including through through policies DM1 (transport hierarchy) and SP6 (ensuring accessibility).
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	✗	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	In areas of considerable increases in residential development densities, there is the potential for flood risk from runoff to be elevated. However, this effect could be minimised through policies SP7, DM1 and DM16. National planning policy TAN15 also seeks to ensure that new development does not lead to an increase in surface water runoff. The risk of flooding may increase over time, through the effects of increased development along with increased precipitation as a result of climate change. Site H1.2 (Cartef Anuerin Bevan) and H1.3 (Greenacres, Tredegar) are assessed in stage 2 of the SFCA as they are located within ASTSWFs.	Effective implementation of LDP Policies should help mitigate the predicted negative effects. The SFRA Stage 2 recommends that planning applications for sites A25 and A26 should investigate the potential implications of surface water runoff and the risk of flooding. Investigations for site A26 would include a visual inspection and assessment of the flood risks posed by Nant-y-Bwch and its associated culverts.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for residential development to make use of sustainably sourced products; this is required through policy DM1 elsewhere in the LDP.	None identified.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	++	++	Policy DM8 seeks that contributions are made for the reuse/rehabilitation of existing older housing stock under certain circumstances which may improve their energy efficiency. National requirements for sustainable building design are likely to increase the energy efficiency of development over time.	None identified.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	✗	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	-	-	-	-	Conflicts are identified in the BGCBC site assessments for sites H1.2 (Cartref Anuerin Bevan) and H1.3 (Greenacres). Potential conflicts are identified for sites H1.4 (Jesmondene Stadium), H1.5 (Business Resource Centre), H1.8 (Crawshay House), H1.11 (Land to the West of Recreation Ground), H1.14 (Six Bells Colliery Site-Upper), H1.15 (Warm Turn) and H1.16 (Roseheyworth School). A potential conflict with the gypsy traveller site allocation GT1 (Extension to Cwmcrachen) has been identified in the site specific assessments. National policy seeks to ensure that there is no net increase in surface water runoff from new development. This should help to ensure that the increase in impermeable surfaces through	Chapter 9 of the LDP details survey requirements for housing sites that could lead to further mitigation. Specific survey requirements for invividual site allocations include requirements for ecological surveys and enhancement plans as well preliminary risk assessments (geotechnical). This could help to minimise potential effects on water quality.

											the development of over 3000 dwellings will not lead to an increase in pollutants to water resources through runoff. This may also be minimised through policy DM3.	
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	✗ ✗	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	--	--	--	--	Site allocations H1.6 (Chartist Way) and H1.20 (Rear of Farm Road) are predicted to conflict with this objective. Potential conflicts are identified for sites H1.14 (Six Bells Colliery Site- Upper), H1.16 (Roseheyworth School), H1.17 (Former Mount Pleasant Court), H1.19 (Quarry adjacent to Cwm Farm Road), H1.18 (Hillcrest View). Development of over 3000 dwellings, including in greenfield sites, is likely to have a significant effect on landscape quality. Design policies elsewhere in the LDP may minimise these effects although the overall cumulative effect is likely to be significant.	Individual survey requirements included in the LDP such as tree surveys and biodiversity survey and enhancement requirements could help to reduce potential landscape effects alongside LDP policies.

Table K.3 – Theme 3: Accessibility

		Effects					*Assessment*					
	SA Objective	**Mag**	**Scale**	**Dur**	**T/P**	**Cert**	**ST**	**MT**	**LT**	**Sm**	**Commentary**	**Recommendations**
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	The availability of effective transport links is key to underpinning economic growth - delivery of infrastructure improvements- particularly rail facilities through T2- should convey some benefits. Policy T5 also seeks specific road improvements that will facilitate the regeneration of the area.	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Potential indirect positive effects due to improved accessibility to employment by varied transport modes. Policy T1 specifically includes routes that link to employment areas.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	Tourism development is heavily reliant upon an effective transportation network - improvements arising from the policy implementation should therefore deliver some benefits. Policy T1 specifically includes improvements to cycle routes that connect to sites with tourism potential which could lead to medium and long term benefits.	None identified.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	In order to ensure that towns are vital and viable, there is a need to have good accessibility - improvements to the latter should therefore deliver benefits in response of the objective.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.

8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Potential indirect positive effects due to improved accessibility to education facilities and employment by varied transport modes.	None identified.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	✓ ✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++ +	++ +	The policies seek to improve accessibility throughout the County Borough, seeking specifically that district hubs are well connected by public transport and walking and cycling routes. District hubs are likely to contain the largest number of community facilities and thus the policies are likely to improve access to them. Policy DM1 specifically addresses the various elements to improve accessibility, including appropriate provision for people with special access and mobility requirements.	None identified.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	✓ ✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++ +	++	The policies seek to increase travel by more sustainable modes, which may reduce overall road travel benefitting local air quality. This may also deliver benefits for public health. Additionally, the promotion of walking and cycling routes throughout the County Borough linking key areas may encourage an increase in physical activity, which will have health benefits in the mid to longer term. Other effects may include benefits gained from an increase in social mixing through the use of public transport which could increase social capital and a sense of wellbeing. Policy DM1 specifically addresses the various elements to improve accessibility, including appropriate provision for people with special access and mobility requirements.	None identified.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low	0	+	+	+	Slight benefits may result from an increase in community wellbeing overall through increased interaction if public transport and other sustainable transport modes usage increases over the medium to longer term. Infrastructure improvements and provision of new routes for cyclists and pedestrians may also add to the feeling of safe neighbourhoods.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+	+	The policies seek to promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport, both within and to areas outside of the County Borough, and encourage walking and cycling as modes of transport, which will have positive effects from a sustainable development perspective. The policies seek to prioritise the use of public transport over the private car, for example through the use of a bus priority scheme in policy T4. However, the LDP focuses on the provision of road infrastructure as key for achieving regeneration, which will encourage an increase in the use of the private car over more sustainable modes, especially for trips in and out of the plan area. Effects may become positive in the long term if policies are able to reduce the need to travel within communities in the long term.	None identified.

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	x	Local	ST-MT	Perm	Low	--	+/-	++	+/-	Planned road building in the LDP, however, may have negative effects on biodiversity through the loss of land and increased pollution. Effects may be more profound in the short term. Proposals through policy T1 to extend the existing network of cycle paths and community routes could help to improve biodiversity if they are created as part of a wider green infrastructure scheme.	Performance against this SA Objective is dependent upon implementation of the provisions of policies DM15 and DM16.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	x	Local	ST-MT	Perm	Low	-	-	+/-	-	Policies T1, T2 and T4 seek to encourage the increased use of sustainable modes of transport, which could reduce the potential for harm to the natural environment, and encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport for local trips. Planned road building in the LDP, however, may have negative effects on the settings of heritage assets even if the assets themselves are not lost.	Performance against this SA Objective is dependent upon implementation of the provisions of policy SP11 (Protection and enhancement of the built environment).
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+/-	+/-	+	+	New road development is likely to lead to the loss of greenfield land, which will have negative effects against this objective. However, accessibility improvements may help to unlock the potential of brownfield sites for development, potentially increasing the use of brownfield sites. Further, if an increase in the use of more sustainable modes of transport is achieved, this will decrease the requirement for road building which will place less pressure on greenfield sites in the longer term. The development of road and other transport infrastructure is subject to the same development control requirements as other types of development. This will include minimising the loss of greenfield land.	
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	See assessment under objective 16.	See recommendation under objective 16.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	x	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med	--	+/-	++	+/-	Road improvements envisaged under policies T5 and T6 are likely to lead to an increase in road based transport. The use of public transport, which is less energy intensive compared to a private car, is also promoted by policies within this component. However, if absolute volumes of travelling by both private vehicles and public transport grow, this will lead to an increase in GHG emissions. Policies also seek to increase travel by walking and cycling, which may offset negative effects to some extent. Negative effects may lessen in the longer term, as the modal shift takes place for local trips. The prioritisation of sustainable modes over road-based transport is encouraged through national policy (PPW ed4). This may ensure that the balance of development for accessibility improvements is positive.	None identified.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	x	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	--	-	-	--	The policy is considered likely to support sizeable new infrastructure projects, which will result in considerable waste generation. Waste minimisation is encouraged through policy SP13. Over time, an increased uptake in more sustainable modes for local trips may reduce the need for road construction Policy SP12 includes a requirement for the reuse of secondary	None identified.

											aggregates that could reduce the significance of effects against this Objective in some cases.	
20	To maintain current air quality	✗	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	--	+/-	++	+/-	Road improvements envisaged under policies T5 and T6 are likely to lead to an increase in road based transport, potentially affecting local air quality. The use of public transport, which is less energy intensive compared to a private car and is a cleaner option in terms of local air quality effects, is also promoted by policies within this component. However, if absolute volumes of travelling by both private vehicles and public transport grow, this will lead to an increase in GHG emissions. Policies also seek to increase travel by walking and cycling, which may offset negative effects to some extent. Negative effects may lessen in the longer term, as the modal shift takes place for local trips.	None identified.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	✗	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	Increased road building and the building of other infrastructure for improved accessibility is likely to increase surface water runoff overall. The need for more infrastructure may reduce over time if the use of public transport and other sustainable modes increases. Further, other LDP policies should ensure that the use of SUDS is implemented, to reduce surface water runoff in all new development. However, this may be offset by a likely increase in precipitation in the longer term as a result of climate change, increasing the potential for flooding events.	None identified.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	Policy SP12 includes a requirement for the reuse of secondary aggregates that could create benefits against this Objective in some cases.	None identified.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low	0	+	++	+	Transport energy efficiency should be improved as a result of the promotion of the use of public transport, including rail, and non-motorised forms of transport. Effects may become more pronounced in the longer term.	None identified.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	✗	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	-	-	-	-	Increased road building and the building of other infrastructure for improved accessibility is likely to increase surface water runoff overall. The need for more infrastructure may reduce over time if the use of public transport and other sustainable modes increases. Further, other LDP policies should ensure that the use of SUDS is implemented, to reduce surface water runoff in all new development.	None identified.

25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	-	-	+	-	An increase in the development of road transport is likely to have negative effects on landscape quality overall. Accessibility improvements may help to unlock the potential of brownfield sites for development, which could increase the use of brownfield sites and help to improve landscape quality. Further, if an increase in the use of more sustainable modes of transport is achieved, this will decrease the requirement for road building which will place less pressure on greenfield sites in the longer term. The promotion of cycle routes could also help to enhance landscape quality in the long term.	Performance against this SA objective is dependent upon implementation of the provisions of policy SP10 (Protection and enhancement of the natural environment) which requires the protection of the landscape quality.

Table K.4 – Theme 4: Sustainable Design

		Effects					*Assessment*					
	SA Objective	**Mag**	**Scale**	**Dur**	**T/P**	**Cert**	**ST**	**MT**	**LT**	**Sm**	**Commentary**	**Recommendations**
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low	+	++	+++	++	Insofar as the design standards may improve the attractiveness of the built environment, this may attract investment in the area leading to economic growth over the medium to long term. Ensuring sustainable design and reducing pollution to the natural environment through improved accessibility; minimising the effects of construction; and encouraging the generation of energy from low and zero carbon sources, could help to attract more people and investment to the area that could lead to cumulative benefits against this objective in the long term.	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++	++	An improvement in design standards could improve the quality of the built and natural environment and subsequently help to attract more tourists to the area in the medium to long term.	None identified.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++	++	Ensuring sustainable design and reducing pollution to the natural environment through improved accessibility; minimising the effects of construction; and encouraging the generation of energy from low and zero carbon sources, could help to attract more people and investment to the area that could lead to cumulative benefits against this objective in the long term. Improved accessibility by sustainable modes could also increase the viability of settlements through their potential to attract visitors.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.

6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++ +	++	Ensuring the implementation of sustainable design standards could ensure that the quality of housing in Blaenau Gwent overall is improved.	Note: Requirements for higher design standards, such as for refurbishment, than national standards may not enable the County Borough to compete with neighbouring authorities for regeneration investment through requirements that are too onerous.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low	0	++	++	++	Policy DM1 includes a requirement to ensure that proposals implement the transport user hierarchy. Supporting text indicators that new developments are linked to the proposals for an extensive community walking and cycling route network. This could help to ensure settlements and their related services and facilities are accessible to a greater number of people. This effect is predicted to be more significant in the medium to long term as development proposals are built and increased connectivity is realised.	None identified.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++ +	++	An improvement in the quality of development through national standards may improve health. Additionally, Secured by Design principles may increase a sense of wellbeing in the community. Cumulative and indirect benefits from an increase in walking and cycling routes could have benefits for health through a potential for an increase in physical activity, an increase in the potential for community interaction within and between settlements; potential for an increase in walking and cycling as a mode of transport that could lead to a potential reduction in car use, which could have benefits for health through improved air quality and mental wellbeing through reduced stress.	None identified.

11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++ +	++ +	Policy DM2 requires that development has regard to the principles of Secured by Design, which could have direct benefits against this Objective. Both policies DM1 and DM2 seek to improve the quality of the built and natural environment through sustainable design as well as enhancing local distinctiveness. Further, DM1 seeks to enhance accessibility by sustainable modes. These measures could improve the quality of settlements, which could help to improve local identity and pride. This could reduce crime levels. Further, improved environments and accessibility could lead to an increase in walking and cycling. This could increase community interaction and natural surveillance, leading to the potential for a reduction in the fear of crime.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	Policy DM2 seeks that development is appropriate to the local context and that it is of good design, which reinforces local character and distinctiveness of the area. This could help to reinforce local distinctiveness, which could improve a sense of identity in this distinctive welsh valleys authority.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++	++	Policy DM1 seeks to ensure that access to new development promotes the interests of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport, before that of the private car. Supporting information also states that new developments are linked to the proposed walking and cycling network. These measures could lead to benefits against this Objective over time.	It is suggested that a requirement for development to link to the proposed walking and cycling network, as mentioned in the supporting text, is included in the policy wording.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Insofar as development will accord with the principles of sustainable design, it is likely that biodiversity will benefit from the policies included in this component.	None identified.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	++	++	Policy DM2 seeks that developments are appropriate to the local context and reinforce local distinctiveness. Specific measures are included that may contribute to the achievement of this objective. Added to this, sustainable design and an improvement to the natural environment are likely to lead to indirect benefits. Policy DM5 seeks to ensure that cultural heritage is a consideration in the development of low and zero carbon energy generation, which could help to ensure that negative effects do not result.	The forthcoming SPD on Renewable Energy could include detail on how low and zero carbon energy schemes could reflect local character, to provide a more positive and proactive policy approach.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	Policy SP7 seeks to direct development to brownfield land which may help to minimise the pressure on greenfield land. The DM policies seek to implement the principles of sustainable design, which should ensure that the use of land is efficient and that any biodiversity is enhanced.	None identified.

17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	Policy SP7 seeks to direct development to brownfield land which may help to minimise the pressure on greenfield land, and subsequently soil resources. The DM policies will ensure that pollution from development is minimised, which will help to conserve soil quality.	None identified.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	✓✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	The principles included in policy SP7 and DM1, including proposals to improve accessibility by sustainable modes, along with national requirements for sustainable design, should reduce GHG emissions overall in new development. This could increase over time as requirements become higher. Policy DM5 will enable the development of low and zero carbon energy generation that could compound this effect.	None identified.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+++	++	++	+++	The policy DM5 states that anaerobic digestion may be a potential source of energy, which could also help to reduce waste to landfill. Policy DM1 seeks to use recycled products in construction, which could help reduce waste generation.	None identified.
20	To maintain current air quality	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++	++	Policy DM1 seeks to ensure that proposals have regard for the safe, effective and efficient use of the transportation network. New access should implement the transport user hierarchy. Supporting information also requires that development is linked to the proposed cycling and walking network. These measures could help to improve the efficiency of the road network, which could lead to benefits for air quality. The walking and cycling network could encourage a reduction in the use of the private car that could have long term benefits against this Objective.	See recommendation under Objective 13.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	+	+	++	Policy DM1 requires that policies reduce surface water runoff through minimising an increase in impermeable surfaces and use SUDS. This could lead to benefits against this Objective, particularly in the short term.	None identified.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	+	+	++	Policy DM1 seeks to promote the use of sustainably sources products and resources in construction, which should lead to benefits against this Objective.	None identified.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	✓	Sub-Reg	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++	++	Policy DM1 seeks to promote energy efficient design. Policy DM5 seeks to enable the creation of energy from low and zero carbon sources. This could lead to benefits against this Objective. The LDP will be implemented within the context of national planning policy, which could help to create a level playing field and improve deliverability over time.	Further advice on renewable energy related development will be contained in the SPD on renewable energy and the Renewable Energy Background Paper.

24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	Policy DM1 seeks to reduce surface water runoff and sets out how this might be achieved through reducing the amount of impermeable surfacing and utilising SUDS. This may help to reduce contaminants entering water resources. Other policies in the LDP will also contribute to reducing water pollution. Effects on water resources are also dealt with under national BREEAM and CfSH requirements.	None identified.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	+	+	++	Policy DM2 seeks to improve the quality of the built environment and also requires that landscaping and planting are integral elements of schemes. These requirements should help to minimise the effect of development on the surrounding landscape.	None identified.

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Table K.5 – Theme 5: Economy and Employment

		Effects					*Assessment*					
	SA Objective	**Mag**	**Scale**	**Dur**	**T/P**	**Cert**	**ST**	**MT**	**LT**	**Sm**	**Commentary**	**Recommendations**
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	+++	+++	Policy DM11 seeks to ensure that a flexible approach is taken to best fulfil the land requirements and facilitate diverse economic growth. The policies will ensure the delivery of the strategic policy that should help to deliver benefits against this Objective.	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	+++	+++	+++	Policy DM11 seeks to ensure that a flexible approach is taken to best fulfil the land requirements and facilitate diverse economic growth. This should ensure a range of employment opportunities. The policy is directly aligned with the objective and should achieve significant benefits over the duration of the plan period, particularly as the locational focus covers both existing business locations and new sites close to the key settlements.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	✓✓	Sub-Reg	LT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	Policy TM1 seeks to encourage the development of tourism, leisure and heritage initiatives in town centres as well as encourage 'activity tourism' in the countryside. This could deliver significant beneficial effects over time.	None identified.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	The development of increased employment opportunities alongside the development of the leisure, heritage and tourism industry in the town centres should serve to enhance the vitality and viability of these areas with the potential for increased beneficial effects against the objective over time.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	Policy SP8 seeks to ensure the provision of infrastructure and skills development through employment, which is likely to encourage an increase in skills in the community over time. Further to this, policy ED 1 seeks to provide new sites for the provision of educational facilities to accommodate increasing demand over time. Policy SP8 seeks that a 'first class learning infrastructure' is put in place to ensure that residents gain the skills they require, as well as the encouragement of local labour agreements. The intended means of implementing this approach is set out in the planning obligations SPG.	None identified.

9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	DM11 permits secondary sites to contain acceptable commercial services, which may include indoor health and fitness, day nurseries, commercial and vehicle repair or play facilities, which could have beneficial effects for accessibility to services and facilities. Further to this, ED 1 will seek to ensure that increased demand for education will be met to accommodate increased population levels. Employment allocations are likely to contribute to an increase in accessibility to employment. TM1 is likely to contribute significantly to this Objective through the enhancement of tourism facilities, which are also likely to create beneficial effects for local communities including an increase in accessibility to greenspace.	None identified.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++	++	There is some evidence to suggest that worklessness and poor health can be linked - by increasing the range and availability of job opportunities locally, the policy offers the potential to deliver increased benefits against the objective. Further, DM11 permits secondary sites to contain acceptable commercial services, which may include indoor health and fitness or play facilities, which could have beneficial effects on the health of some members of the community.	None identified.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++	++	There is evidence to suggest causality between criminal activity and a 'lack of things to do'. As such, in seeking to broaden the range and availability of employment opportunities in the County Borough, as well as an increase in accessibility to local services and facilities including greenspace through the diversification of the economy towards tourism, the policy offers the potential to deliver some benefits.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	✗	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	A potential conflict has been identified between this Objective and site EMP1.2 (Tredegar Workshops). Minor negative effects have been predicted due to uncertainty about the significance or nature of the effect.	Chapter 9 of the LDP details survey requirements for housing sites that could lead to further mitigation.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	✗✗	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	--	--	--	--	Beneficial effects are likely to be realised through the encouragement of some employment opportunities in mixed use sites as well as in town centres. Conversely, negative effects may arise through the development of large industrial estates for employment uses, which may generate increased trips by car. The accessibility component indicates that further road building is necessary to accommodate economic growth, which does not provide any mitigation of this potential issue. Potential conflicts have been identified between this objective and the following sites: EMP1.8 (Crown Business Park), EMP1.4 (Rassau), EMP1.7 (Marine Colliery), EMP1.5 (Rassau Extension East). Therefore, an overall negative effect has been predicted against this objective.	Other LDP policies should enable the potential reduction of effects against this objective including DM1 (transport hierarchy) and SP6 (ensuring accessibility).

14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	××	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	--	--	--	--	Conflicts have been identified between this Objective and site EMP1.5 (Rassau Extension East). Potential conflicts have been identified between this Objective and the following sites: EMP1.9 (Crown Business Park), EMP1.8 (Crown Business Park), EMP1.2 (Tredegar Workshops), EMP1.6 (Waun-y-Pound), EMP1.4 (Rassau), EMP1.7 (Marine Colliery), EMP1.3 (North of Rising Sun Ind Estate), EMP1.10 (Roseheyworth Business Park) and MU1. A number of the sites partially comprise areas designated for biodiversity protection. Proposed mitigation measures in the supporting text to the LDP as well as the other related LDP policies (see component 7) will help to mitigate effects on biodiversity although some negative effects are likely. Negative effects may increase over time as linkages between habitats are lost. Policy TM1 could lead to the enhancement of biodiversity assets through the promotion of tourism in countryside locations. This could lead to some positive effects against this objective although an overall balance of negative effects is predicted. The Ebbw Vale Sustainable Development Framework (MU1) includes the development of two major employment sites at Rhyd-y-Blew and Bryn Serth. This was subject to its own SA. Although they contain SINC designations, comprehensive mitigation strategies are being developed to ensure that no significant effects to biodiversity are experienced.	Survey requirements are included within the LDP in a site basis. This includes requiremenst for: full ecological survey including trees and significant vegetation; biodiversity constraints and enhancement plan and project level Habitats Regulations Assessment (required for EMP1.5 and EMP1.8). Further detailed mitigation strategies will be developed where potential SINC sites may be affected by development. Chapter 9 of the LDP details survey requirements for housing sites that could lead to further mitigation. Habitat linkages should be maintained and enhanced to reduce cumulative effects and the creation of biodiversity 'islands'. A strategic approach should be taken and the framework used to ensure migration of species is possible throughout the site.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	?	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Low	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	TM1 seeks to encourage diversification through the use of heritage assets. This is likely to ensure that these are enhanced and conserved to ensure the success of this initiative over time. Non tourism development design will be guided by other LDP policies. Some constraints are identified for some of the development sites, which may lead to overall negative effects. A potential conflict has been identified through the site assessments between this objective and site EMP1.2 (Tredegar Workshops).	The Site Allocations document specifies that an archaeological desk-based assessment plus possible evaluation on specific sites is required as part of any development proposal. Archaeological remains may remove

												some areas of the site from development.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	x	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The LDP approach seeks that brownfield sites are preferred for development over greenfield. Nevertheless, some of these sites have known biodiversity value. A conflict has been specifically identified between this Objective and site EMP1.5 (Rassau Extension East). A potential conflict is identified between this site and MU1. Minor negative effects are predicted due to the fact that only one site has been predicted to be in conflict with this objective.	Mitigation within the Site Descriptions document includes a requirement for an ecological assessment and biodiversity constraints and enhancement plan.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	x	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The development of land for employment could lead to the loss of soil resources and soil quality although the quality of land in the County Borough is considered to be generally low. Therefore the significance of effects is likely to be minor. Potential conflicts have been identified between this objective and sites MU1 and MU2.	None identified.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	x x	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	Med	--	--	-	--	The delivery of the policy will involve substantial new development, which is likely to increase the sources of GHG emissions, both in terms of built development and transport movements. This may be minimised through adherence to national BREEAM requirements, improvements to which are likely to increase over time as standards become more stringent. Potential conflicts have been identified between this objective and MU1.	None identified.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The construction of employment facilities will result in considerable waste generation during and post-construction. SP13 seeks to encourage the movement of waste up the hierarchy and reduce waste generated through construction which may minimise potential negative effects over time. Positive effects may arise from the potential use of industrial sites for the location of waste management facilities as outlined in the supporting text to policy DM11.	None identified.
20	To maintain current air quality	x x	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	--	--	--	The economic strategy in the LDP seeks to increase employment in both town centre and non town centre locations. Along with the approach to road building elsewhere in the LDP, the development of employment sites is likely to lead to increased trip generation and deterioration of air quality over time. See assessment under Objective 13.	Other LDP policies should enable the potential reduction of effects against this objective including DM1 (transport hierarchy) and SP6 (ensuring accessibility).

21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	××	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	--	--	--	Potential conflicts have been identified through the site assessments between this objective and site EMP1.2 (Tredegar Workshops), EMP1.3 (North of Rising Sun Ind Estate). The SFCA Stage 2 assesses site EMP1.2 as it is partially within DAM flood zones B and C as well as the EA defined flood zones 2 and 3, although the majority of the site is within a lower risk area. The SFCA also assesses site EMP1.3 as a small portion is within flood zones 2 and 3, which are attributed to Ebbw Fach, but do not take into account its culverting. Significant risks to people and property through increased flood risk could be likely. This is further exacerbated by the likely increase in hardsurfacing, which could increase surface water runoff throughout the plan area, added to the increase in precipitation likely as a result of climate change. However, this effect may be reduced through the implementation of policy DM1. The SFCA Stage 2 assesses the Marine Colliery site (EMP1.7), Roseheyworth Business Park (EMP1.10) and the Waun y Pound site (EMP1.6). The SFCA Stage 2 assesses the Waun Y Pound site on account of the ASTSWF located on the site. The ASTSWF maps indicate areas at potential risk from surface water flooding that extend across the site and are associated with low points of the site. Hence, provided the proposed site follows TAN15 best practice in terms of surface water management, it is likely that appropriate mitigation against such surface water flooding would be provided. The Marine Colliery site has been included within the SFCA Stage 2 on account of DAM flood zone B and the ASTSWF located on the site. Site EMP1.10 is included in the SFCA Stage 2 due to the presence of DAM flood zone B and over 40% of the site being located within an ASTSWF. Site MU1 is predicted to potentially conflict with this objective but has been subject to a separate SA. Site ED1.2 is also predicted to conflict with this objective. As a primary school allocation, this could lead to significant negative effects. The potential for mitigation is unknown.	It is recommended that more vulnerable and highly vulnerable development is not allowed in areas of identified high flood risk in line with TAN15 requirements. The SFRA Stage 2 recommends that a FCA will be required as part of any planning application for EMP1.2, EMP1.3, EMP1.10, EMP1.6 and EMP1.7. An FCA for EMP1.7 should include an assessment or appreciation of the local small watercourses and the potential for high groundwater levels at the site. Site investigations as part of an FCA for site EMP1.2 should include confirmation of site levels against potential flood levels at the site, for the present day and taking into account climate change. The SFCA recommends that the phasing of development in site EMP1.3 prioritises the use of land outside of the flood zones, which match the ASTSWF. An FCA for site EMP1.10 should investigate the small drain located to the western extension of the site. Mitigation will be included in the Site

												Descriptions document which is a supporting document to the Plan. Chapter 9 of the LDP details survey requirements for housing sites that could lead to further mitigation.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for employment development to make use of sustainably sourced products; this is required through policy SP7 elsewhere in the LDP.	None identified.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	++	++	National guidance and requirements from other LDP policies will ensure that new employment development is energy efficient. These standards will become more stringent over time.	None identified.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	-	-	-	-	A conflict has been identified through the site assessments between this objective and sites EMP1.2 (Tredegar Workshops), EMP1.7 (Marine Colliery). Potential conflicts have been identified between this objective and the following sites: EMP1.9 (Crown Business Park), EMP1.8 (Crown Business Park), EMP1.1 (Garden Festival C), EMP1.6 (Waun-y-Pound), EMP1.10 (Roseheyworth Business Park), MU1 and MU2. The potential for pollution to water resources could be increased through development. However, Environment Agency guidelines and TAN15 should ensure that this effect is not significant.	Site specific survey requirements in the LDP include requirements for ecological surveys and preliminary risk assessments for employment sites, which should help to minimise potential effects on water quality.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	?	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Potential conflicts have been identified between this Objective and the following sites: EMP1.9 (Crown Business Park), EMP1.5 (Rassau Extension East), EMP1.3 (North of Rising Sun Ind Estate), EMP1.10 (Roseheyworth Business Park). And MU1 The majority of the development sites are adjacent or within current industrial estates, although how many of these sites are brownfield is unknown. Policy TM1 could lead to the enhancement of landscape assets through the promotion of tourism in countryside locations. This could lead to positive effects against this objective.	Site specific survey requirements in the LDP include requirements for ecological surveys and enhancement plans which could have beneficial effects against this objective.

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Table K.6 – Theme 6: Communities

SA Objective		Effects					Assessment				Commentary	Recommendations
		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	++	++	The requirement for infrastructure and community services and facilities as part of new development will help to provide a basis for the development of a successful community which will have economic benefits. Increased skills as appraised under Objective 8 could lead to cumulative benefits in the long term.	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	++	++	An increase in community facilities may create limited employment opportunities. Increased skills as appraised under Objective 8 could lead to cumulative benefits in the long term.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	The policies include the provision of leisure facilities which may also help to strengthen the tourism industry.	None identified.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	The protection and provision of community facilities may help to enhance the vitality of communities and thus the town centres where they are located. Policy DM4 could lead to improvements of the public realm in town centres, where a need is identified. Potential conflicts are identified between this objective and TM1.2 (garden festival). Further details, including mitigation, will be provided in supporting documentation to the LDP.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	The provision of the community centre sites will also involve the provision of some housing which may contribute to meeting housing needs.	None identified.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	-					0	0	0	0	No direct effects.	None identified.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	+	+	++	Affordable housing may be required through policy DM4 where required. The community centre site will include the additional provision of affordable housing.	None identified.

8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	++	++	+++	+++	Increased provision of community facilities may be required through policy DM4 including educational provision where needed. Supporting text to policy DM4 specifies that Local labour market agreements will be used to enable local people to secure employment and skills development in the growing construction sector, a scheme already in operation at the Works. Along with policies under theme 5 (economy and employment), the community centres allocated in policy CF1 will seek to create a community resource that will include training courses and lifelong learning. This will contribute to the achievement of this SA objective, particularly in the long term	None identified.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	✓✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	The policies in the theme are likely to lead to significant benefits over time to improve the availability of community services and facilities available to the local population and thus improve their accessibility. Policies DM12 and DM14 seek to protect community facilities and open space including access to open space. DM13 seeks additional provision where necessary. Policy DM4 seeks that this provision is provided as part of planning obligations. Specific allocations provided in the LDP through CF1 may also lead to improved accessibility to community services and facilities in alliance with policies included with the accessibility theme of this assessment. The community centre or the 'Star Centre' will host a range of services comprising of early years provision, youth services, youth clubs and after school provision, learning, recreation, community safety, advice and information, community events and carnivals and venue hire. Policy L1 identifies land for leisure facilities that could lead to direct benefits against this Objective.	None identified.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	✓✓	Local	ST-MT	Temp	Med	++	++	+++	+++	The DM policies seeking the protection and enhancement of community leisure facilities and open space may help to improve community health and wellbeing through benefits such as an increase in facilities within walking distance, which could lead to indirect benefits for health through exercise and reduced reliance on the private car. An increase in wellbeing could arise through an increase in community interaction created. Policy DM12 seeks to protect residential amenity which may help to preserve community wellbeing. Increased provision of community facilities including allotments and healthcare may be required through policy DM4 where a need is identified. Policy L1 identifies land for leisure facilities that could lead to direct benefits against this Objective.	None identified.

11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	✓	Local	LT	Temp	Med	+	+	++	++	There is evidence to suggest causality between criminal activity and a 'lack of things to do'. As such, in seeking to broaden the offer of community facilities and services in the County Borough, the policy offers the potential to deliver some benefits. This is especially the case in relation to the provision of the 'Star Centre' which will include youth and after school provision. Cumulative effects through the potential for an increase in skills and employment as well as an increased sense of community could lead to significant benefits in the long term.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	✓	Local	LT	Temp	Med	+	+	++	++	The policies could lead to an increase in the creation of community interaction and groups, as well as cultural events and activities. It is likely that some of these could be in the Welsh language, as well as helping to create a sense of identity within communities that could lead to long term benefits against this Objective.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	The provision of community facilities to service the local community may reduce the need to travel by car for local trips if development is in accordance with accessibility policies. Supporting text to DM4 suggests that infrastructure requirements might include transport facilities and related infrastructure including footpaths and cycleways, which could lead to benefits against this Objective. Potential conflicts are identified with some of the site allocations including: TM1.5, TM1.3, TM1.1, TM1.2, TM1.6 and TM1.7. Mitigation measures will be included in supporting text to the LDP. Further, strategic improvements to sustainable transport throughout the plan area should help to create an overall positive balance of effects.	None identified.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Supporting text for Policy DM4 suggests that improvements may be required for green infrastructure where development is related to this. The site allocations assessments undertaken by the Council have highlighted a potential conflict between this objective and site allocation ACF1.1 (Sirhowy Infants School), TM1.5 (Bryn Bach Park), TM1.3 (Blue Lakes), TM1.2 (Garden Festival) and TM1.7 (Cwmtillery Lakes). However, mitigation is likely to reduce the significance of effects. Policy DM13 seeks to enhance the existing network of green spaces, to provide opportunities for recreation, which could have some beneficial effects against this Objective.	Site specific survey requirements for full ecological surveys and constraints and enhancement plans could help to ensure that no significant negative effects occur on these sites.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	New development will be in accordance with other LDP policies that seek that all new development reflects the local character and heritage of the County Borough.	None identified.

16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	The achievement of this objective will be in accordance with the other LDP policies seeking to prioritise the use of brownfield land over greenfield. The provision of community facilities will provide an efficient use of land as it will provide benefit for a large number of people. Potential conflicts are identified between this objective and sites: TM1.5, TM1.3, TM1.1, TM1.2 and TM1.7. Mitigation measures will be included in supporting text to the LDP.	None identified.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	The achievement of this objective will be in accordance with the other LDP policies seeking to prioritise the use of brownfield land over greenfield. Potential conflicts are identified between this objective and sites: TM1.5, TM1.3, TM1.1, TM1.2 and TM1.7. Mitigation measures will be included in supporting text to the LDP.	None identified.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	✓	Reg/Nat	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+/-	+	+	+	The provision of community facilities to service the local community may reduce the need for people to travel further afield to access the same facilities. This will depend, however, on the types and locations of facilities provided specifically as provision may increase some trip generation and emissions of GHGs. Further to this, an increase in development will increase overall emissions of greenhouse gases from buildings. Adherence to national requirements for BREEAM and CfSH may minimise this effect, especially in the medium and longer term when buildings are expected to be zero carbon. Potential conflicts are identified with some of the site allocations including: TM1.5, TM1.3, TM1.1, TM1.2, TM1.6 and TM1.7. Mitigation measures will be included in supporting text to the LDP. Further, strategic improvements to sustainable transport throughout the plan area should help to create an overall positive balance of effects.	None identified.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	Infrastructural improvements will be required by policy DM4. This will include recycling facilities where needed. Potential conflicts are identified with some of the site allocations including: TM1.5, TM1.3, TM1.1, TM1.2, TM1.6 and TM1.7. Mitigation measures will be included in supporting text to the LDP.	None identified.
20	To maintain current air quality	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	The provision of community facilities to service the local community may reduce the need for people to travel further afield to access the same facilities which could have beneficial effects for air quality. This will depend, however, on the types and locations of facilities provided. DM3 seeks to ensure the reduction in contributions to air pollution. Potential conflicts are identified with some of the site allocations including: TM1.5, TM1.3, TM1.1, TM1.2, TM1.6 and TM1.7. Mitigation measures will be included in supporting text to the LDP.	None identified.

21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The protection of areas of open space may help to retain areas for the maintenance of surface water runoff levels. The assessment of the site allocations has highlighted a conflict between this Objective and site D11 (Six Bells Colliery Site). Supporting text to DM4 suggests that infrastructure requirements might include flood prevention and drainage, which could lead to benefits against this objective. Potential conflicts are identified with some of the site allocations including: TM1.2 and TM1.7. Mitigation measures will be included in supporting text to the LDP.	Supporting text to DM4 suggests that infrastructure requirements might include flood prevention and drainage, which could lead to benefits against this objective.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	Sustainably sourced product and resource use may increase through built development from policies elsewhere in the LDP.	None identified.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	Infrastructural improvements will be required by policy DM4, including renewable power generation. Energy efficiency through design will be required through national guidance and policy DM1 in the LDP.	None identified.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	?	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The policies will include the retention of areas of open space as well as the redevelopment of existing buildings, so existing surface water runoff levels are likely to be maintained. The assessment of the site allocations has highlighted a conflict between this Objective and site D11 (Six Bells Colliery Site). Supporting text to DM4 suggests that infrastructure requirements might include water provision and treatment, which could lead to benefits against this Objective. Potential conflicts are identified with some of the site allocations including: TM1.5, TM1.3, TM1.1, TM1.2, TM1.6 and TM1.7. Mitigation measures will be included in supporting text to the LDP.	Supporting text to DM4 suggests that infrastructure requirements might include water provision and treatment, which could lead to benefits against this Objective. A preliminary risk assessment (geotechnical) is a survey requirement for sites as listed in the LDP, which could help to reduce effects against this objective.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	Policy DM13 seeks to enhance the existing network of green spaces, to provide opportunities for recreation, which could have some beneficial effects against this Objective. Potential conflicts are identified with some of the site allocations including: TM1.5, TM1.3, TM1.1, TM1.2 and TM1.7.	Biodiveristy enhancement plans and tree survey requirements for individual sites should help to ensure that effects are minimised.

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Table K.7 – Theme 7: Natural Environment

		Effects					*Assessment*					
SA Objective		**Mag**	**Scale**	**Dur**	**T/P**	**Cert**	**ST**	**MT**	**LT**	**Sm**	**Commentary**	**Recommendations**
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	++	++	The enhancement of the natural environment is likely to improve the attractiveness of the area, thus potentially attracting inward investment. Longer-term economic prosperity is dependent on the availability of natural resources and the state of ecological systems and services they provide. The beneficial effects associated with the implementation of these policies will become more pronounced in the longer term.	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	✓	Local	MT-LT	Temp	Med	+	++	++	++	Environmental protection and enhancement is likely to have benefits for the development of the tourism industry, improving local assets which attract visitors to the area. This effect is likely to increase over time.	None identified.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	The allocation of green wedges to prevent settlement coalescence will help to focus development within the town centres thus helping to enhance their viability and vitality.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	The enhancement of green infrastructure could help to improve accessibility through the development of linkages that could also form walking and cycling routes, as well as through the potential for an increase in the number of parks and natural greenspace. This is required in policy DM16. Paragraphs 7.88 and 7.89 of the LDP seek to take a holistic approach to green infrastructure to include walking and cycling routes.	None identified.

10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	Implementation of policy DM3 should benefit public health by ensuring that there is no unacceptable risk of harm to health in terms of air and water pollution. The enhancement of the natural environment stipulated under policies within this component should also provide benefits for public health through an increase in green space, enhancing an overall sense of community wellbeing and promoting informal recreation. The enhancement of green infrastructure could help to improve accessibility through the development of linkages that could also form walking and cycling routes which could have further benefits against this Objective.	See recommendation under Objective 9.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	ENV4 is concerned with the reclamation of derelict land. A safer environment can be achieved by reclaiming derelict sites, as they can cause a concern in terms of safety.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	The preservation of the local landscape and countryside could help to deliver some benefit toward the protection of welsh culture. Implementation of policy ENV2 - Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) is of particular importance for the delivery of benefits against this objective, as SLAs are considered to be important to the overall landscape, history, culture, biodiversity and geology of the County Borough.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	0	+	+	+	The enhancement of green infrastructure could help to improve accessibility through the development of linkages that could also form walking and cycling routes although this isn't specified. There is potential for medium to long term benefits against this Objective.	See recommendation under Objective 9.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	✓✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+++	+++	+++	+++	Policy DM15 seeks that development maintains or enhances locally designated sites (SINCs or LNRs), Local Priority Habitats and ecological corridors, or provides adequate compensation where development cannot be located elsewhere. Nationally and Internationally designated sites are protected by national legislation and planning policies. However, the policy also includes a requirement that 'development proposals within 10 km of the Usk Bat Sites SAC that would have an impact on connectivity corridors or cause direct or indirect disturbance to the features must be subject to a project level HRA'. This should ensure the protection of the integrity of this internationally important site. Policy DM16 seeks to enhance green infrastructure, which can help species to survive in light of predicted climate change effects, allowing for easier migration and dispersal. DM17 will also contribute to the protection of trees, woodlands and hedgerows that may have biodiversity importance. Policies ENV1 and ENV3 will allow the implementation of the policies' principles.	None identified.

15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	Policy ENV2 requires the protection of landscapes that could be of historical and cultural importance. Allocation of extensions to the existing cemeteries (ENV5) may also provide some benefits against this objective. Policy DM17 specifically seeks to protect natural heritage through the protection of trees, woodlands and hedgerows.	None identified.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	High	+	++	++	++	Policy ENV4 requires reclamation of the derelict land which could help remediate the contaminated sites where feasible bringing them back into productive use.	None identified.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	High	+	++	++	++	Effects identified for objective 16 will also benefit soil resources and quality. The goals of preserving and enhancing biodiversity sites and features are also deemed beneficial for soil resources conservation.	None identified.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Temp	High	+	+	+	+	Conservation, management and enhancement of habitats and wildlife corridors may have minor positive effects on the level of GHG emissions through providing carbon sink.	None identified.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	+	+	+	+	Positive effects against this SA objective are associated with the implementation of policy ENV4 through the reuse of previously developed land.	None identified.
20	To maintain current air quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	++	++	++	DM3 requires proposals to ensure that new development will not result in airborne emissions that could have an unacceptable effect on the health, amenity of natural environment of the surrounding area, taking into account the cumulative effects of other proposed or existing sources of air pollution in the vicinity. This could help to maintain current air quality levels in the short and long terms. Conservation, management and enhancement of habitats and wildlife corridors may have minor positive effects on local air quality through sequestration of many pollutants from the atmosphere, including nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide and particulate matter, compounding this effect.	None identified.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	DM16 seeks to ensure that green infrastructure is protected and enhanced through the plan area. This could help to reduce the risk of flooding and help Blaenau Gwent adapt to the effects of future climate change.	Supporting text to policy DM16 could refer to the potential for GI to incorporate SUDS and help to reduce surface water runoff and flood risk, in association with policy DM1.

22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Med	++	+	+	++	DM3 is concerned with the protection of controlled waters and seeks to ensure that development proposals will not have an adverse impact on these resources. This should lead to significant positive effects, particularly in the short term.	The WFD seeks to ensure the long term protection of water quality.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Temp	High	+++	+++	+++	+++	All of the policies in the component are likely to lead to the protection and enhancement of landscape character. Policy DM16 specifies that the Strategic Green Infrastructure network incorporates Special Landscape Areas, which should compound their importance as protected areas. Enhancing green infrastructure should have increased benefits for landscape value. ENV2 seeks to protect SLAs, defining specific locations. Policy DM17 should also help to maintain landscape character locally. Further, policy ENV1 will help to ensure that the quality of the landscape in some areas is maintained through preventing the coalescence of settlements. ENV4 could help to improve landscape quality through land reclamation schemes to improve the visual environment.	None identified.

Table K.8 – Theme 8: Built Environment

		Effects					*Assessment*					
SA Objective		**Mag**	**Scale**	**Dur**	**T/P**	**Cert**	**ST**	**MT**	**LT**	**Sm**	**Commentary**	**Recommendations**
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Policies within the theme could contribute to protecting and enhancing the distinctive image of the County Borough helping to stimulate investments into the area.	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Policy SP11 aims to promote heritage tourism and its reasoned justification identifies the main projects to this end. This should increase numbers of visitors to the area and should stimulate the creation of new jobs in this sector.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	High	+	++	++	++	Policy DM18 seeks to protect buildings and structures of local importance, which aren't statutorily protected. This should help to maintain assets that have the potential to attract tourists to the area. Policy SP11 aims to promote heritage tourism. It is recognises that heritage assets should not only be protected for its own sake but also harnessed to support heritage tourism for the purpose of regeneration.	None identified.

4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	++	++	The protection of heritage assets could bring about benefits to the vitality and viability of the town centres by increasing their distinctiveness and attractive and encouraging an increase in footfall throughout the day and evening through an increase in visitors. Policy SB1 will ensure that development is focused within urban areas, which could help to improve their viability and vitality over time.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	High	+	+	+	+	The allocation of settlement boundaries through policy SB1 could help to ensure that the provision of services and facilities is within an accessible distance for those communities.	None identified.
10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Minor indirect positive effects as a result of enhancing local character and identity which may contribute to residents' feelings of belonging to the area and taking pride in it which could reduce crime levels.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	0	+	+	+	Preservation and enhancement of the County Borough's rich heritage and supporting heritage tourism (SP11) could help protect and promote the Welsh culture.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	SB1 seeks to ensure that development is focused on the urban areas. This could lead to benefits for biodiversity assets, particularly those in the countryside.	None identified.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	DM18 seeks to protect buildings and structures of local importance, implementing the themes from policy SP11. National planning policy will protect nationally designated assets. These measures should lead to positive effects against this Objective.	None identified.

16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	Promoting the full use of urban land within the settlement boundaries (SB1) should help optimise the existing brownfield land development opportunities. Policy DM18 promotes renovation and conversion of the existing buildings in the rural areas where this does not affect the quality of the countryside.	The reuse of PDL is prioritised in SP7.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	SB1 aims to maximise the use of urban land by identifying settlement boundaries. This measure could help preserve the countryside and land of agricultural value.	None identified.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Some minor positive effects are expected as a result of the improved accessibility as per commentary against objective 9 and preservation of the open and green space acting as carbon sinks.	None identified.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	✓	Local	MT-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Policy DM18 could enable the re-use of buildings that could help minimise the use of primary resources and improve the level of the re-use of existing buildings and structures.	None identified.
20	To maintain current air quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Positive effects on local air quality are expected as a potential reduction in car use and the need to travel due to concentration of development within the existing settlements.	None identified.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+	+	+	+	Assuming that enhancing of local character and, in particular, the appearance of individual historic buildings, may require the use of locally sourced materials, this policy may deliver positive effects against this objective.	The use of sustainable materials is required under DM1.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	+	++	++	++	Protection and enhancement of the local heritage assets and their settings should benefit the quality and character of the local landscape. Focusing development within settlement boundaries could have benefits for landscape assets through directing development towards urban areas.	None identified.

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Table K.9 – Theme 9: Minerals

SA Objective		Effects					Assessment				Commentary	Recommendations
		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓✓	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Perm	High	+	++	+++	++	An adequate supply of mineral resources is important for the national, regional and local economy. Policy DM12 seeks that mineral applications will result in benefits for the local economy. This could lead to benefits against this Objective over time.	None identified.
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Safeguarding mineral resources and maintaining appropriate land banks should support existing and new minerals and minerals-related operations.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	✗	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	--	--	++	-	Minerals operations may affect the tranquillity levels of the area and consequently its attractiveness to the visitors. The assessment of the site allocations has identified a conflict between this objective and site M4.1 (Trefil Quarry Extension). Potential conflicts were identified for sites M4.3 (Land at South East of Cwm) and M4.2 (Tirpentwys Cut). The effects should not be permanent though, as policy DM19 requires a high standard of restoration and aftercare. Aftercare proposals could lead to long term benefits.	None identified.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	An adequate supply of mineral resources is important for the provision of new housing.	None identified.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	Support for minerals operations and sectors dependant on minerals supply should help retain local skills.	None identified.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	✗	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	--	--	++	-	The assessment of the site allocations has identified the potential for conflicts between this objective and all of the allocated sites. After uses might include public open space, which could lead to long term benefits.	None identified.

10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	Minerals operations may affect the local amenity. The assessment of the site allocations has identified the potential for conflicts between this objective and all of the allocated sites. However, Policy DM19 seeks ensure that impacts on health are considered and within acceptable limits. This could reduce the significance of effects.	Health Impact Assessments will be required through national planning policy.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	There is the potential for some indirect benefits insofar as safeguarding local mineral resources could help maintain local character and distinctiveness of the built environment if the materials are used for this purpose.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Transportation of minerals is likely to increase road traffic. The assessment of the site allocations has identified conflicts between this Objective and site M4.1 (Trefil Quarry Extension) and M4.2 (Tirpentwys Cut). Policy DM19 seeks that mineral applications are acceptable in terms of highway and transportation considerations and volume of traffic with priority given to transportation by rail. This could lead to some benefits against this Objective.	None identified.
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	Minerals operations and transportation may disturb local wildlife species and lead to the fragmentation or loss of some habitats. However, these effects should be minimised, as per the requirement in policy DM19. The assessment of the site allocations has identified conflicts between this objective and all of the allocated sites.	None identified.
15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	Minerals operations and transportation may affect the settings of the historical assets or archaeological remains. The assessment of the site allocations has identified the potential for conflicts between this objective and all of the allocated sites. However, these effects should be minimised, as per the requirement in policy DM19.	None identified.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	×	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	--	--	--	--	The assessment of the site allocations has identified conflicts between this objective and all of the allocated sites. Therefore significant negative effects are predicted.	The LDP includes site specific survey requirements. For minerals sites, these include tree surveys; a full ecological survey inclkuding trees and significant vegetation; and a biodiversity constraints and enhancement plan. These could help to minimise negative effects against this objective.

17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	x	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	--	--	--	--	The assessment of the site allocations has identified conflicts between this objective and sites M4.1 (Trefil Quarry Extension) and M4.3 (Land at South East of Cwm). A potential conflict was identified for site M4.2 (Tirpentwys Cut). Therefore significant negative effects are predicted.	The LDP includes site specific survey requirements. For minerals sites, these include tree surveys; a full ecological survey inclkuding trees and significant vegetation; and a biodiversity constraints and enhancement plan. These could help to minimise negative effects against this objective.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	x	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	--	-	-	--	Transportation of minerals is likely to increase road traffic and transport related emissions. Policy DM19 seeks that mineral applications are acceptable in terms of highway and transportation considerations and volume of traffic with priority given to transportation by rail. This could lead to some benefits against this objective. The assessment of the site allocations has identified the potential for conflicts between this Objective and all of the allocated sites. Further, it is considered that the potential for mining for Coal is in direct conflict with this Objective.	Other LDP policies could enable the potential reduction of effects against this objective including DM1 (transport hierarchy).
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	x	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	-	-	-	-	The site allocations assessment has identified the potential for conflicts between this objective and sites M4.1 (Trefil Quarry Extension) and M4.3 (Land at South East of Cwm). DM19 seeks that applications for mineral working demonstrate that supply of the mineral required from secondary sources is not possible. This could minimise waste levels. The significance of effects is uncertain at this stage.	None identified.
20	To maintain current air quality	x	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	Predicted increase in road traffic may affect local air quality. The assessment of the site allocations has identified the potential for conflicts between this objective and all of the allocated sites. Policy DM19 seeks that mineral applications are acceptable in terms of highway and transportation considerations and volume of traffic with priority given to transportation by rail. This could minimise negative effects against this Objective.	None identified.
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	x	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	Lack of a coordinated approach towards filling in appropriate sites may result in an increased risk of industrial flooding associated with former mineral workings.	None identified.

22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	x	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The assessment of the site allocations has identified conflicts between this objective and all of the allocated sites. However, policy DM19 seeks that applications for mineral working demonstrate that supply of the mineral required from secondary sources is not possible. This could minimise the significance of negative effects.	None identified.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	x	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	Mineral operations may affect the quality of local surface and groundwater. The site allocations assessment has identified the potential for conflicts between this objective and sites M4.1 (Trefil Quarry Extension) and M4.2 (Tirpentwys Cut). However, policy DM19 requires that the effects on surface water, groundwater and water supplies are acceptable. This could minimise the significance of effects.	None identified.
25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	x	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	++	+/-	Mineral operations may affect the quality of the local landscape through noise, light and visual effects. The assessment of the site allocations has identified conflicts between this objective and all of the allocated sites. However, policy DM19 seeks that adverse effects on sensitive landscape can be minimised and that the visual impact of proposals can be mitigated through landscaping. This could reduce the significance of effects. Aftercare proposals could lead to long term benefits.	None identified.

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Table K.10 – Theme 10: Waste

SA Objective		Effects					Assessment				Commentary	Recommendations
		Mag	Scale	Dur	T/P	Cert	ST	MT	LT	Sm		
1	To promote economic growth and strengthen and diversify the local economy	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	0	+	+	+	Sustainable waste management practices could increase the competitive edge of the local businesses in the longer term.	
2	To increase levels of local employment and ensure distribution of opportunities	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
3	To support the development of a strong tourism economy in Blaenau Gwent, complementary to the regional offer	-	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	-	-	-	-	The site allocations assessment undertaken by the Council has identified the potential for a conflict between this objective and site W1.1 (Waun y Pound). Policy DM21 may reduce this effect through seeking that unacceptable environmental impacts are not experienced.	Survey requirements including requirements of a biodiversity constraints and enhancement plan for all of the waste sites should help to minimise negative effects on the tourism economy.
4	To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
5	To meet identified housing needs	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
6	To improve the quality of Blaenau Gwent's housing stock	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
7	To secure the delivery and maintenance of quality affordable housing	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
8	To improve educational attainment and increase skills levels	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
9	To improve accessibility to education, leisure, employment, health, homes and community services for all sectors of the community	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Adequate provision of sustainable waste management facilities should improve accessibility for the local community to household waste recycling. The site allocations assessment undertaken by the Council has identified the potential for a conflict between this objective and site W1.2 (Silent Valley) which could lead to some negative effects.	Other LDP policies such as SP6 (ensuring accessibility) should help to reduce negative effects against this objective.

10	To promote community health, social care and well-being	×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Low	-	-	-	-	The location of waste management facilities in proximity to residential areas may affect residential amenity and the quality of the environment and may have potential to affect human health. The site allocations assessment undertaken by the Council has identified the potential for conflicts between this objective and sites: W1.2 (Silent Valley), W1.1 (Waun y Pound). Site W1.1 is identified as being suitable for anaerobic digestion or in vessel composting, but may be suitable for other uses. It is likely that the effects of potentially negative effects will be mitigated through the LDP policies.	Survey requirements including requirements of biodiversity constraints and enhancement plan and a noise assessment under TAN 11 for all of the waste sites should help to minimise negative effects on communities.
11	To reduce crime, social disorder and fear of crime	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
12	To protect and enhance the Welsh culture	-					0	0	0	0	No obvious effects.	None identified.
13	To encourage modal shift from private transport to sustainable transport	-	Reg/Nat	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The site allocations assessment undertaken by the Council has identified the potential for conflicts between this objective and sites W1.2 (Silent Valley) and W1.1 (Waun y Pound). It is likely that the allocated sites will lead to an increase in road traffic. However, DM21 seeks to reduce the significance of this effect through ensuring that the location of waste management facilities has undertaken a sequential site selection process that will include reducing effects on the environment and local amenity. Specifically, the policy seeks to encourage a site selection process that includes the need for civic amenity sites to be located close to neighbourhoods or settlements, which could reduce emissions. Further, the provision of increased local waste management facilities could reduce sub-regional traffic as the area could become more self-sufficient. However, the allocation for a regional waste management facility at Waun y Pound could increase traffic.	Other LDP policies could enable the potential reduction of effects against this objective including DM1 (transport hierarchy) and SP6 (ensuring accessibility).
14	To protect and enhance biodiversity across Blaenau Gwent	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The site allocations assessment undertaken by the Council has identified the potential for a conflict between this objective and site W1.2 (Waun y Pound). Securing of allocations for new waste management facilities using the sequential approach and ensuring that the facility presents the best practicable environmental option, should help avoid additional land take and negative effects on the local biodiversity.	Survey requirements including requirements of biodiversity constraints and enhancement plan and full ecological survey could reduce effects against this objective.

15	To conserve and enhance the heritage assets of Blaenau Gwent and their settings	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The site allocations assessment undertaken by the Council has identified the potential for a conflict between this objective and site W1.1 (Waun y Pound). Securing of allocations for new waste management facilities using the sequential approach and ensuring that the facility presents the best practicable environmental option, should help avoid additional land take and negative effects on the local heritage assets.	None identified.
16	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development, where this will not result in damage or loss to biodiversity	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The site allocations assessment undertaken by the Council has identified the potential for a conflict between this Objective and site W1.1 (Waun y Pound). Securing of allocations for new waste management facilities using the sequential approach and ensuring that the facility presents the best practicable environmental option, should help avoid additional land take which could minimise the potential for negative effects against this objective.	Survey requirements including requirements of biodiversity constraints and enhancement plan and full ecological survey could reduce effects against this objective.
17	To conserve soil resources and their quality	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The site allocations assessment undertaken by the Council has identified the potential for a conflict between this Objective and site W1.1 (Waun y Pound). The allocation of new waste management facilities using the sequential approach and ensuring that the facility presents the best practicable environmental option may ensure the best use of brownfield sites and protection of soils minimising negative effects against this objective.	Survey requirements including requirements of biodiversity constraints and enhancement plan and full ecological survey could reduce effects against this objective.
18	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide	✓	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	++	++	Policy DM21 seeks to ensure that facilities present the BPEO, which should help to avoid environmental effects including emissions. Specifically, the policy seeks to encourage a site selection process that includes the need for civic amenity sites to be located close to neighbourhoods or settlements, which could reduce emissions. Further, the provision of increased local waste management facilities could reduce sub-regional traffic as the area could become more self-sufficient. However, the allocation for a regional waste management facility at Waun y Pound could increase traffic. Proposals are required to ensure maximum efficiency, including the generation of energy from waste, which could lead to benefits against this objective. Minimisation of waste production and its diversion from landfill should also help minimise landfill GHGs, i.e. emissions of methane, which have high global warming potential. Overall, it is considered that a significant positive effect could be likely in the long term.	None identified.
19	To reduce waste generation and maximise reuse and recycling	✓✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	+++	++	Implementation of waste hierarchy through the provision of appropriate infrastructure and facilities is the key aim of the policies delivering benefits against this objective.	It is suggested that the most recent version of One Wales: One Planet is quoted in supporting text.

20	To maintain current air quality	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Policy DM21 seeks to ensure that facilities present the BPEO, which should help to avoid environmental effects including air quality. Specifically, the policy seeks to encourage a site selection process that includes the need for civic amenity sites to be located close to neighbourhoods or settlements, which could reduce the potential for pollution. Further, the provision of increased local waste management facilities could reduce sub-regional traffic and emissions as the area could become more self-sufficient. However, the allocation for a regional waste management facility at Waun y Pound could increase traffic. Enclosed and controlled waste management processes should ensure that air quality impacts are avoided or minimised to acceptable levels in line with legislation standards. However, the implementation of waste policies still has potential to lead to adverse impacts on the environment.	Other LDP policies could enable the potential reduction of effects against this objective including DM1 (transport hierarchy).
21	To maintain current low levels of vulnerability of all development to flooding	-	Local	ST-LT	Temp	Low	+	+	+	+	Policy DM21 seeks to ensure that the sequential site selection process includes areas outside flood risk areas. This could lead to some benefits against this Objective.	The SFRA Stage 2 recommends that a FCA will be required as part of any planning application.
22	To promote the use of sustainably sourced products and resources	✓	Sub-Reg	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	+	+	+	The policies seek to ensure an increase in the capacity of a civic amenity site, which would be accessible to local communities. This could increase the recycling of waste which, in turn, could increase the use of sustainable materials.	None identified.
23	To increase energy efficiency and generation and use of renewable energy across the County Borough	?	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	+	++	++	++	Policies within this theme promote resource recovery facilities. W1 allocates sites for waste management facilities that potentially could accommodate anaerobic digestion facilities. Anaerobic digestion is a treatment that results in the production a biogas that can be used to generate electricity and heat. Further, policy DM21 seeks to ensure that opportunities for EfW facilities are fully explored and that energy recovery is ensured, so as to maximise the potential for low carbon energy generation in the Borough.	None identified.
24	To conserve and enhance surface and groundwater quality	×	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	Increase in numbers of waste management facilities may have potential for ground water pollution. The site allocations assessment undertaken by the Council has identified the potential for conflicts between this Objective and sites B47 (Silent Valley) and B31 (Waun y Pound). Securing of allocations for new waste management facilities using the sequential approach and ensuring that the facility presents the best practicable environmental option should help to reduce the significance of negative effects.	The LDP includes a requirement for a preliminary risk assessment for the Waun y Pound site. This could help minimise effects.

25	To protect the quality and character of the landscape and enhance where necessary	x	Local	ST-LT	Perm	Med	-	-	-	-	The site allocations assessment undertaken by the Council has identified the potential for conflicts between this Objective and sites W1.2 (Silent Valley) and W1.1 (Waun y Pound). Landscape effects could be minimal, as new waste management facilities will be located adjacent to the existing waste management facilities. Securing of allocations for new waste management facilities using the sequential approach and ensuring that the facility presents the best practicable environmental option should help to reduce the significance of negative effects.	Survey requirements including requirements of biodiversity constraints and enhancement plan and full ecological survey could reduce effects against this objective.

Appendix L - April 2011 Deposit Plan SAR Consultation

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Table L.1 – Deposit Plan SAR Consultation April 2011: Responses and Actions

DEPOSIT PLAN CONSULTATION (2011) SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL/STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT			
Organisation/Comment	**BG Response/ Action**	**Atkins Comments**	**Action**
10. Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)			
10: D.563 **Glossary** The glossary is a user-friendly addition to the document that is very welcome. We would suggest two further additions to the glossary:- LSOA (from Table 3.3, under crime and social deprivation) Green Infrastructure	Support Welcomed	Agree.	Text added to Glossary.
10: D.564 **1.10 Sustainable Development** CCW welcomes the reference to the international and national context for sustainable development, as well as the importance of land use planning to achieving this goal.	Support Welcomed	Noted with thanks	n/a
10: D.565 **1.45 Habitat Regulations Assessment** We are pleased to see clear reference throughout the Report to the Habitat Regulations Assessment. Our response to the HRA Report is made in a separate response.	Support Welcomed	Noted with thanks	n/a
10: D.566 **2.0 Sustainability Appraisal Methodology** We commend the Authority on a very clear and informative chapter. However, we would like to see more detailed information about dealing with data gaps. Section 2.10 states that "recommendations for filling the gaps will be included in the proposals for monitoring the implementation of the Plan". There is no further information about data gaps within the monitoring section of this Report (chapter 11). We seek further clarity about how data gaps will be dealt with.	Support Welcomed	Agree. Further research into filling the data gaps will be included in the monitoring strategy. It is unnecessary to collate extra data at this stage as no further substantial appraisal work is to be undertaken.	n/a
10: D.567 **Table 3.1 Broad Sustainability Themes** Since this document was produced, additional policies, plans and programmes have been issued. When there is opportunity in future, CCW would recommend that reference is made to the following key strategies: Welsh Assembly Government '*Capturing the Potential: A Green Jobs*		Noted. Additional PPPs will be added to review as necessary if further appraisal work is to be undertaken. At this stage, it is considered unnecessary as the PPP review was relevant to the appraisal work undertaken at the	n/a

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Strategy for Wales', July 2009 Welsh Assembly Government '*Economic Renewal: a new direction*', July 2010 Welsh Assembly Government '*Framework for Regeneration Areas*', October 2010 Welsh Assembly Government emerging '*A National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management for Wales*' Welsh Assembly Government's emerging Natural Environment Framework – *A Living Wales* While the Welsh Assembly Government Climate Change Strategy (October 2010) is mentioned within the SAR (section 1.17), that document (and associated action plans) is not listed under the review of relevant Plans and Programmes.		time.	
10: D.568 **Table 3.2 Potential cumulative effects and their causes** We welcome the amendment to the entry for 'Habitat loss and fragmentation', which now lists a broader range of affected receptors, picking up on a comment made by CCW in our response to the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (December 2008).	Support Welcomed.	Noted.	n/a
10: D.569 **Table 3.3 Key sustainability issues/opportunities** Under High car usage and CO_2 emissions, the statement about ecological footprint does not make sense. While it is true that the footprint for Blaenau Gwent is low in a Welsh context, it still exceeds the fair earth share when applied globally. This means that the lifestyle of residents of Blaenau Gwent still exceeds the resources available from our one planet. As such, it is incorrect to state that the current footprint provides the opportunity for growth and development that will not have an effect on global resources. Under natural resources, landscape and biodiversity, the site name should read Cwm Merddog Woodlands. Under health, CCW would like to see		Agree. Revision to key sustainability issues to be made for clarity.	Revisions made to Key Sustainability Issues/Opportunities table.

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mention of opportunities to link the environment to improved health outcomes (see also our previous responses dated December 2007 and December 2008).			
10: D.570 **Table 3.3 Key sustainability issues/opportunities** Table 3.3 lists those issues that "are considered to be a priority in terms of the sustainability of the plan area". Throughout subsequent chapters of this Report, a reduction in air quality is raised many times as a potentially significant effect of future development in Blaenau Gwent. As such, it is surprising to note that air quality is not found within the list of priority issues.		Disagree. The considerations in the report arise both from the identification of key sustainability issues as identified in the table, as well as the sustainability themes identified through the review of relevant plans and policies (Reduce air pollution and ensure improvements in air quality). The key sustainability issues and opportunities identified and the sustainability themes identified through the PP review have been brought together for the formulation of the SA Framework to form the basis of the assessment. Further, air quality is mentioned within other key sustainability issues and opportunities, including transport access constraints; health (in response to previous comment); crime and social deprivation; and high car usage and CO_2 emissions. It is therefore considered that a separate commentary on air quality could be repetitive and is unnecessary for the purposes of assessment.	No changes required.
10: D.571 **Table 3.4 SA Framework**		Agree. Target to be discussed with LDP team.	Target discussed with LDP team and changed

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SA 17 – CCW appreciates that there is a balance to be struck between development on pre-existing (brownfield) sites and development on previously undeveloped (Greenfield) sites, subject to adequate assessment and appropriate mitigation. The target given for SA objective 17 is for <40% of all development to be on Greenfield land. CCW considers this figure to be far too high, particularly when considering the significant potential for development to take place on brownfield sites in the county borough (see also our response dated December 2008).			to correspond with the LDP monitoring target for development on brownfield land of 80%.
10: D.572 **3.27 SA baseline data and trends** We do not understand the meaning or context of the statement "CPRW has difficulty in understanding what is meant by sensitivity to change and does not find thresholds in this context an easy concept to grasp".		Noted. Clarity to be provided.	Text modified. Additional threshold example given and typing error removed.
10: D.573 **Table 3.5 Baseline data and trends summary** CCW welcomes inclusion of our previous comment (response dated December 2008) that the trend for biodiversity in Blaenau Gwent without the Plan would be stable at best.	Support Welcomed.	Noted with thanks.	n/a
10: D.574 **Table 3.6 Assessment rationale** Objective 14 – it is unclear why there is a reference to the marine environment.		Agree. Clarity to be provided.	Text modified. Marine changed to aquatic to refer to land based water environments.
10: D.575 **4.5 Compatibility assessment findings** CCW particularly welcomes the suggestion for provision of a Green Infrastructure network.	Support Welcomed	Noted with thanks.	n/a
10: D.576 **4.8 Integration of recommendations into the LDP** It would be helpful to see the amendments highlighted. At the moment, it is not possible to work out what the amendments are without referring back to previous iterations of the document. CCW is encouraged to see that the SA process has significantly strengthened LDP objectives, especially objectives 10, 12 and 14.		Noted. It is suggested that this is unnecessary and would overcomplicate the report, as the consultee can clearly distinguish which objectives have been strengthened without the suggested change.	n/a
10: D.577		Agree. Paragraph emphasis to be	Text modified.

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Organisation/Comment	**BG Response/ Action**	**Atkins Comments**	**Action**
5.17 Working towards a preferred option We feel that the main emphasis of this paragraph is fact that the SA process helps to identify the most sustainable option rather than the statement – "It is not the role of the SA to determine which of the options should be chosen as the basis for the preferred options. This is the role of those who have to decide which option is appropriate".		considered.	
10: D.578 **5.20 Identification of the preferred option** We would reiterate the concern raised in our response to the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (dated December 2008). Whilst the choice of preferred strategic option may be the most sustainable in terms of the overall Sustainability Appraisal objectives, it is not the most sustainable in terms of the core SEA objectives. We note that option 2 (the preferred option) is predicted to have unsustainable environmental effects and note also that, to improve sustainability, it is recommended that the following should be included in the LDP:- - A green infrastructure network throughout the entire plan area, bringing multiple social and environmental benefits - Emphasis on reducing the need to travel by locating residential, employment and service functions within accessible distances - Prioritisation of the use of brownfield over Greenfield wherever possible		Disagree. The SA found option 2 to be the most sustainable option across the entire range of objectives included in the SA Framework, which is based on the PP review and identification of key sustainability issues and opportunities. Although the options appraisal found option 2 to be the most sustainable across the range of objectives, Section 5.21 already includes the recommendations as listed in this comment, which have been carried through the assessments and are included in the SA Framework for assessment of the LDP.	No further action required.
10: D.579 **6.0 Development of strategic sites** It has not been possible to consider all details relating to the assessment of the strategic sites because key information (particularly regarding mitigation for significant effects) is contained in a separate Sites Descriptions document, which is an appendix to the LDP itself. While it is perfectly acceptable for large amounts of detail to be included in an appendix, there should be sufficient information within the Environment Report to enable comment on the full SA assessment. It is our belief that this is not the case here.		Noted. Site detail to be included in the SAR if considered appropriate following discussion with LDP team.	Detail added where relevant throughout the SA Report.

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10: D.580 **Table 6.5 Compatibility of sites with SA objectives** We note that, for many of the site allocations, there is insufficient information for the SA objectives 18 (reduce GHG emissions), 19 (reduce waste generation) and 20 (maintain air quality). As stated, this means that there is the potential for significant negative environmental effects at these sites and we seek reassurance as to how this data uncertainty will be dealt with as assessment of the sites progresses. While many sites score positively for economic and social objectives, there are many significant negatives for core SEA objectives (environmental). For the 106 sites listed in Table 6.5, 68 sites score negatively against SA objective 14 (protection and enhancement of biodiversity), 40 score negatively for SA objective 16 (to make best use of previously developed land) and 65 sites score negatively for SA objective 24 (to conserve water quality). Mitigation for these significant negative effects is not given within the Environment Report but is detailed in a separate Sites Descriptions document. As such, CCW have not been able to make sufficiently detailed comment on mitigation as part of this SA consultation.		Agree. Data gaps exist for some data such as air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, as it was uncertain as to the potential effects of the site in relation to these objectives, as outcomes are dependent on a number of factors including the implementation of other policies in the plan including ones relating to sustainable transport. While the comment refers to a number of sites scoring negatively against the SA objectives (a 'red' score), only 10 of the sites carried forward were allocated a 'red' score. Sites carried forward are those with a colour on the left hand column (indicating the type of allocation in the site descriptions document). It is agreed, however, that for these sites, and the sites carried forward where insufficient information was available for the assessment, that this data is added into the SA tables.	Mitigation provided in the site descriptions document for the allocated sites considered in the assessments.
10: D.581 7.0 **Assessment of significant effects of the strategic policies** We are concerned that potentially significant effects may have been missed within this chapter, which focuses only on the summary of a more detailed assessment given in Appendix J. The full assessment indicates effects over three time periods (short-term, medium-term and long-term), with a summary assessment that 'averages' over the three. This means that while a significant negative effect can be predicted for one of the 3 time periods,		Disagree. Although the SA Report provides a summary of the assessment, the assessment of effects has been fully considered in the recommendations arising from these assessments. Although not included in the chapter specifically, readers are	No further action considered to be necessary at this stage.

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the summary assessment is not significant. This does not seem to take a very precautionary approach to risk and raises the concern that potentially significant effects may have been missed in Chapter 7.		referred to the appendices for further detail if they require additional information as to the reasoning behind the recommendations made in the main report (including the prediction of significant effects). Where a range of both positive and negative significant effects is predicted in the assessments, this is also recorded in the main report and included in the monitoring framework.	
10: D.582 **8.0 Assessment of significant effects of Development Management, Allocations and Designations** **Policies** We are concerned that potentially significant effects may have been missed within this chapter, which focuses only on the summary of a more detailed assessment given in Appendix K. The full assessment indicates effects over three time periods (short-term, medium-term and long-term), with a summary assessment that 'averages' over the three. This means that while a significant negative effect can be predicted for one of the 3 time periods, the summary assessment is not significant. This does not seem to take a very precautionary approach to risk and raises the concern that potentially significant effects may have been missed in Chapter 8.		See above.	See above.
10: D.583 **Retail theme (1)** – CCW notes the slight negative effect predicted for this policy against SA objective 18 (reduction of greenhouse gases). This is at odds with Appendix H (previous iteration of assessment) which predicted significant negative effects against SA objective 18 for the short, medium and long term. CCW would assess the potential effect as significant because increased retail provision will result in more people shopping and it is likely that many of these will use their own cars to do so. We would like to		Noted.	Assessment in Appendix K reviewed. The assessment already emphasises the potential for the other LDP policies to provide mitigation of effects. The score has not been adjusted as it is

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see more emphasis on mitigation, through policies DM1 (transport hierarchy) and SP6 (ensuring accessibility).			considered that there is the potential within the LDP for a sufficient level of mitigation to reduce the significance of effects.
10: D.584 **Housing theme (2)** – the details of mitigation for these policies are found in the Sites Descriptions document. As such, we have not been able to review them adequately for this SA consultation (see also comments for Table 6.5). 8.21 We share the concern expressed that 3000 new dwellings will result in considerable trip generation, adding to GHG emissions and the likelihood of increased waste generation. 8.23 We share the concerns raised about the likelihood of significant cumulative landscape effects as a result of development.		Noted. Further recommendations to be included on mitigation as necessary.	Mitigation added to the assessment in Appendix K.
10: D.585 **Accessibility theme** – we welcome the focus on provision of walking and cycling routes throughout the County Borough.	Support Welcomed	Noted with thanks.	n/a
10: D.586 **Economy & employment theme** – the details of mitigation for these policies are found in the Sites Descriptions document. As such, we have not been able to review them adequately for this SA consultation (see also comments for Table 6.5).		Noted. Further recommendations to be included on mitigation as necessary.	Mitigation considered in the assessments within Appendix K.
10: D.587 **8.51** We again note the predicted significant negative effect for these policies on air quality. The development of employment sites (both town centre and non town centre locations) is likely to lead to increased trip generation and deterioration of air quality and no mitigation is given here. Indeed further road building is indicated to accommodate economic growth.		Noted. Further recommendations to be included on mitigation as necessary.	Mitigation considered in the assessments within Appendix K.
10: D.588 **8.53** We note that potential development at 2 major employment sites (Rhyd-y-Blew and Bryn Serth) conflicts with designation for biodiversity protection. We believe that the SA report for the Ebbw Vale Sustainable		Noted.	Comprehensive mitigation to be added in due course.

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Development Framework is currently out for consultation and look forward to commenting in due course and working with BGCBC towards comprehensive mitigation for these sites.			
10: D.589 **8.59** We welcome the reference to the need for a strategic framework as an approach to maintaining and enhancing habitat linkages. We would encourage and support development of such a Framework.	Support Welcomed	Noted with thanks.	n/a
10: D.590 **Natural environment theme** - we welcome this assessment of the policies linked to protection and enhancement of the natural environment and the recognition that longer-term economic prosperity is dependent on natural resources and the state of the ecological systems and services they provide.	Support Welcomed	Noted with thanks.	n/a
10: D.591 **9.0 Cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects** While CCW appreciates that this is one of the more difficult areas of the assessment to carry out, we feel that some of the potential effects have not been fully identified. For example, higher density of housing in designated urban settlements may make it increasingly difficult for accessible natural green space criteria to be met. See also comments in our previous response (dated December 2008). While cumulative negative effects of development on air quality have been picked up, we would suggest that the results of the SA assessments indicate the likelihood of cumulative effects of proposed levels of growth on greenhouse gas emissions as well. The potential for cumulative effects of proposed development on landscape have been picked up within the Environment Report (section 8.23) and should be mentioned here. Additionally, we have concerns about the cumulative effects of development on biodiversity (based on the fact that (1) 68 of the 106 site allocations score negatively for biodiversity under SA assessment and that (2) we have not seen details of mitigation because these were not included in the SA consultation).		Noted. See previous response about the number of sites that score negatively against SA objectives. Disagree in relation to the difficulty in meeting accessible green space criteria as this will be a requirement of development.	Cumulative effects assessment to be reviewed and updated as necessary.
10: D.592 **10.0 Mitigation**		Noted. Further recommendations to be included on mitigation as	Mitigation provided in the site descriptions

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Significant detail about mitigation is lacking from this Report, with much information to be found in a Sites Descriptions document (an appendix to the LDP). As such, CCW have not been able to make sufficiently detailed comment on mitigation as part of this SA consultation.		necessary.	document considered within the assessments in Appendix K. Further detail added to main report.
10: D.593 **11.0 Monitoring** With reference to our previous comments on monitoring (dated December 2008), we welcome the updated indicators and targets given.	Support Welcomed	Noted with thanks.	n/a
10: D.594 **Appendix A – Consultation responses to SA iterations** We welcome the consideration of our previous comments to the SA scoping document (response dated December 2007).	Support Welcomed	Noted with thanks.	n/a
10: D.595 **Appendix B – Relevant Plans & Programmes** Since this document was produced, additional policies, plans and programmes have been issued. When there is opportunity in future, CCW would recommend that reference is made to the following key strategies: Welsh Assembly Government '*Capturing the Potential: A Green Jobs Strategy for Wales*', July 2009 Welsh Assembly Government '*Economic Renewal: a new direction*', July 2010 Welsh Assembly Government '*Framework for Regeneration Areas*', October 2010 Welsh Assembly Government emerging '*A National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management for Wales*' Welsh Assembly Government's emerging Natural Environment Framework – *A Living Wales*		See above comments.	No further work necessary.

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Organisation/Comment	**BG Response/ Action**	**Atkins Comments**	**Action**
While the Welsh Assembly Government Climate Change Strategy (October 2010) is mentioned within the SAR (section 1.17), that document (and associated action plans) is not listed under the review of relevant Plans and Programmes.			
10: D.596 **Appendix H – Assessment of significant effects of development management, allocations, and designations policies** See reference also to comments made under Chapter 8. Appendix H gives the full assessment details for the development management, allocations and designations policies (2010). This indicates assessment over three time periods (short-term, medium term and long-term), with a summary assessment that 'averages' over the three. This means that while a significant negative effect can be predicted for one of the 3 time periods, the summary assessment is not significant. This does not seem to take a very precautionary approach to risk and raises the concern that potentially significant effects may have been missed in Chapter 8, which only focuses on the summary assessment.		See above comments.	No further work necessary.
10: D.597 **Table K.2 – Theme 2: Housing** We have concerns about the commentary given for SA objective 17 (soil) which states that "the quality of land in the borough is considered to be low, so effects are unlikely to be significant". We are unclear as to what 'quality' measure is being referred to but would remind the Authority that land can have many different values attached to it in addition to agricultural classification. This includes value for biodiversity, open space and recreation, and can apply to brownfield as well as Greenfield.		Noted. The assessment under this objective is based on the assessment rationale provided in table 3.6 of the main report. In combination with objective 16, this objective seeks to utilise brownfield land with the lowest biodiversity value in the first instance. Other considerations such as open space are addressed under other SA objectives. The principle of the SA Framework is to not repeat assessments that are considered under alternative objectives, although it is accepted that there is a lot of overlap between them.	No further work necessary.

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		They are not, however, considered in isolation, and an overall assessment summary is provided in the main report, taking an overall view of the findings.	
10: D.1040 **SA 24** We welcome the inclusion of indicators suggested in our response dated December 2008.	Support Welcomed	Noted with thanks.	n/a
10: D.1041 **SA25** We would also encourage consideration of indicators for noise and light under this objective.		Noted.	Indicators reviewed and updated as necessary within the monitoring framework.
10: D.1042 **Appendix E – Strategic Options Assessment** We have previously commented on this assessment (response dated December 2008).		Noted.	n/a
10: D.1043 **SP1 Northern Strategy Area** We note the likely significant negative impacts on air quality as a result of increased density of emissions sources. We would like to see much clearer reference here to the mitigation of effects by linking to policies DM1 (transport hierarchy) and SP6 (ensuring accessibility).		Disagree. Policy SP1 was appraised in November 2008, with the subsequent iterations of the policy reflecting the recommendations made at this stage. As such, it is considered unnecessary to reference policies in the assessment that have since been modified. The overall sustainability of the plan is considered to have been improved. SP1 is a strategic policy and, as such, the requirements of policies DM1 and SP6 will not only be read as a	No further assessment considered necessary.

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		whole with the rest of the LDP, but will be implemented through the site specific allocations.	
10: D.1044 **SP3 Retail hierarchy** We note the predicted significant negative effect for this policy on water quality (SA objective 24). No mitigation has been proposed as "the effects are considered likely to be localised". We seek reassurance as to how the "potential for pollutants to enter the water system" will be dealt with.		Disagree. This strategic policy was appraised in 2008, and changes were subsequently made, as described in chapter 7 of the SA Report. As a strategic policy, specific mitigation in relation to pollution of water resources will be addressed through the site allocations and development management policies as well as strategic policy SP10. As the LDP is designed to be read as a whole, it would not be appropriate to include such requirements in every policy.	Paragraph 7.27 and Appendix J modified to include cross reference to SP6 and SP10, as is the case in the assessment of the retail theme in Appendix K. Score changed to insignificant due to this mitigation.
10: D.1045 **SP7Climate Change** We welcome this strategic policy SP7 which did not appear in the 2008 iteration of the Plan and is a result of SA recommendations. We also welcome reference to the Blaenau Gwent Renewable Energy Assessment (section 7.52).	Support Welcomed	Noted with thanks.	n/a
10: D.1046 **SP8 Sustainable Economic Growth** We note the likely significant negative impacts on air quality as a result of increased density of built development, processes and transportation. We would like to see much clearer reference here to the mitigation of effects by linking to policies DM1 (transport hierarchy) and SP6 (ensuring accessibility).		Agree.	Assessment updated.
10: D.1047	Support	Agree. This is reflected in the	No further work

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SP10 Protection and enhancement of the natural environment We welcome the assessment of the policy but would also like to see recognition of the benefits of an improved natural environment for residents of the county borough (as well as visitors).	Welcomed	assessment against objective 10.	necessary.
10: D.1048 **SP12 Securing an adequate supply of minerals** We note the predicted significant negative effect on the SA landscape objective (25).		n/a	
46. Brecon Beacons National Park Authority			
46: D.304 We note that page 57 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report (under appreciation and protection of natural resources, landscape and biodiversity value, recognises the proximity of the National Park boundary. We also note the reference to the NERC duty in the implications for Plan policy. We suggest that inclusion of the s62(2) duty in the SAR may enable appropriate screening of the LDP policies as suggested above.		Agree. To be added to report where appropriate. The text of the provision[3] is prospective. Therefore it is considered inappropriate to make changes to the SA while changes are being put in place to the legislation. Further section 62 refers to expenditure by local parks. As such, it is unclear how this is relevant to the LDP policies in this context.	SA to be updated upon the review of changes to the legislation if considered to be relevant.
80. Ian Roberts Consultancy			
80: D.561 The SA/SEA document has missed the opportunity for fully considering Ty Pwdr land for either residential development or for Live/Work development. Given the sites previous planning permission for residential development on an extensively larger tract of land, the reduced site could provide a different house stock that would complement the community. This would provide the catalyst for ensuring the vitality and viability of the nearby town centre, local shops, sustainable travelling and the character of the locality.		Disagree. Planning applications for development will be considered under the policies of the LDP once it is adopted.	No further action required.

[3] http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/62

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80: D.1049 Moreover, the document has failed to address national policy with regard to Live/Work development. This omission has undermined the credence of the document and should be considered not only for Ty Pwdr land but the remainder of the borough.		Disagree. It is not the role of the LDP to repeat national policy. If live/work units were to be proposed these would be considered under the same policy guidance as all other development.	No further action required.