

**BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN EXAMINATION
CYNGOR BWRDEISDREF SIROL BLAENAU GWENT
YMCHWILIAD CYNLLUN DATBLYGU LLEOL**

**HEARINGS PROGRAMME AND LIST OF SESSIONS – VERSION 2
(DATED 17TH MAY 2012)**

Tuesday 26 June 2012

Day 1 1000 hours

Inspector's opening statement (five minutes)

Council's opening statement (five minutes)

All hearing sessions are open to the public. The Council will attend all hearing sessions. The names and representor references of other parties invited to speak are set out below.

SESSION 1 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY/ VISION

1. Does the Plan provide an appropriate spatial strategy for Blaenau Gwent? To what extent can it be considered to be locally distinctive? Might the strategy be considered to be an aspiration rather than one that is credible and capable of being delivered over the Plan period? Can the spatial strategy therefore be considered to be sound?
2. What research and evidence base underpins the regeneration and growth strategy the Council has chosen (refer SD19 to SD23)? What alternative strategies could the Council have considered?
3. Does the Plan strike the right balance between encouraging new development, seeking development contributions from investors and securing other goals such as enhancing the environment? In broad terms, would the scale, type and distribution of allocated lands in the Plan contribute to the sustainable future development of the borough?
4. How is the strategy consistent with the Wales Spatial Plan, other national guidance, regional plans and the strategies and plans of neighbouring authorities?
5. Is the proposed geographic distribution of new development proposed appropriate? What are the consequences of the proposed focus of new development in and around Ebbw Vale on the south of the county borough?
6. How have the county's settlement boundaries been designated?
7. Are the detailed policies that support the strategy locally distinctive? Do any of the policies repeat national guidance? If so, should these policies be amended or deleted? Do the policies contain an appropriate element of flexibility?

Close 1300 hours

Attendees: Welsh Govt (03), CCW (10)

Optional: HBF (24)