

# Report of Consultation - Spatial Strategy Options

## Adroddiad Ymgynghoriad - Opsiynau ar gyfer Strategaeth Ofodol



Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033  
Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Newydd 2018 - 2033

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## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) is in the process of preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) for the County Borough. The Local Development Plan (LDP) is the Council's land use plan that will establish where and how much development will take place in the County Borough over the period 2018-2033. It will also identify which areas are to be protected from development and will replace the existing LDP (2006-2021) once adopted.

1.2 The RLDP is being prepared in line with the Council's Delivery Agreement (October 2018), which sets out the timetable and approach to community consultation. At this stage of the process (Stage 1 Pre-Deposit Participation) the consultation is focussed on engagement and consensus building with key stakeholders. Formal consultation will be undertaken at the next stage (Stage 2 Pre-Deposit Consultation).

1.3 The first stage in preparing the plan is pre-deposit participation. One of the aims of this stage is to build consensus on the issues, vision and strategy for the replacement LDP. A series of issues and vision workshop events have been held throughout April, May and June 2019. A report of consultation of these events is available [here](#).

1.4 Building on the opinions and views expressed at the issues and vision workshop events, a second series of workshop events were held in July and August 2019 to gain views on the spatial strategy options.

### Purpose of the Report

1.5 The purpose of this report is to record all of the information across the spatial strategy options workshop events. The views expressed at the workshop events will help the Council to identify a Preferred Strategy for the RLDP that addresses the revised issues/challenges and meets the Vision.

1.6 Sections 3.0 – 5.0 of this report summarises the views expressed in the workshop events on the three different variants that make up a spatial strategy option: preferred level of growth; spatial distribution for growth; and the settlement hierarchy to deliver the growth.

1.7 These variants are then merged to identify four spatial strategy options. Section 6.0 summarises the assessments of the spatial strategy options against the revised challenges. Section 7.0 records the views expressed by the young people at the Youth Forum.

## 2.0 The Workshop Sessions

2.1 A series of spatial strategy options workshop sessions were held with stakeholders, internal officers, Members and the youth forum as set out below:

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members Workshop – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 (2-4pm) held at the Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale</li></ul> |
|---|

- Internal Regeneration Officers – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 (2-4pm) held at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale
- Stakeholder Workshop 1 – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 (6-8.30pm) held at the Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale
- Stakeholder Workshop 2 – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 (10-12.30pm) held at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale
- Stakeholder Workshop 3 – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 (2-4.30pm) held at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale
- Youth Forum – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 (6-7.30pm) held at the Tabor Centre, Brynmawr

2.2 The overall aim of the workshop sessions were the same and were based around the following five tasks:

- Task 1 – Identify growth level preference
- Task 2 – Identify spatial distribution preference
- Task 3 – Identify settlement hierarchy preference
- Task 4 – Assess spatial strategy options against the revised challenges
- Task 5 – Identify own spatial strategy option

2.3 The purpose of the workshop with internal regeneration officers was to not only engage with officers on the spatial strategy options but it was also used as a test run for the planned future stakeholder sessions. It was identified that a few points of clarification were required in terms of the terminology being used in the presentation. There were no suggested changes to the proposed structure of the planned workshop session. The record of the information gathered in this workshop is summarised within sections 3.0 - 6.0.

2.4 Invitations were sent to all Members of the Council, all stakeholders on the LDP consultation database including various local interest groups and organisations from Blaenau Gwent and candidate site proposers. Across all of the sessions, the development plans team engaged with 71 attendees. A full list of all attendees is provided at Appendix 1.

2.5 The content and purpose of the workshop was the same across all of the sessions. An agenda is attached at Appendix 2. In advance of the workshop sessions, stakeholders were sent a Spatial Strategy Options Briefing Paper (Appendix 3). The paper provided background information to inform the workshop session and was issued a week in advance of the stakeholder's workshop session. It also included the revised issues/challenges and vision taking into account the views expressed at Workshop 1 Issues and Vision engagement sessions. Comments were invited by the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 on the revised issues/challenges and vision.

2.6 As an introduction to the session, Lynda Healy (Team Manager Building Control and Development Plans) explained the format of the session. Hayley Spender, the team leader for the Development Plans section followed, by providing an update from workshop 1. The update summarised the key issues/challenges identified for the replacement LDP to address and a summary of comments received on the LDP Vision. A handout was given out with the revised issues/challenges and vision. The attendees were encouraged to provide any feedback on the revised issues/challenges and vision. Following this, Lynda Healy continued



with the presentation which provided detail information in order for the attendees to make informed views and decisions on the upcoming tasks. It should also be noted that attendees were encouraged to ask questions during the presentation to clarify anything that was not understood. Appendix 4 displays the slides used in the presentation.

2.7 Due to the varying numbers across the sessions, some of the sessions were organised slightly different. The attendees of the internal officers, members, and stakeholder workshop 1 were not organised into pre-arranged groups but consisted of one roundtable discussion. The attendees of stakeholder workshops 2 and 3 were organised into pre-arranged groups. This would allow for a mix of expertise and for us to manage and focus discussion. Each group had a facilitator to ensure discussions were focused. The groups for stakeholder workshops 1 and 2 are shown in Appendix 5.

### 3.0 Task 1 – Identify Growth Level Preference

3.1 The aim of task 1 was for each attendee to individually identify their preferred level of growth. In order for the attendees to make an informed choice, Lynda Healy gave a detailed presentation on the different growth scenarios; the impacts of those scenarios on employment and demographics; and the impact the scenarios would have on housing requirement figures bearing in mind the current supply.

3.2 A handout was provided and each attendee was asked to stick a dot against their preference. The handout set out 9 growth scenarios grouped under headings of low, medium and high. The attendees were asked to either select an exact scenario or a grouping of low, medium or high

3.3 Table 1 (overleaf) is an example of the handout and records all the votes received across all of the sessions against each of the growth scenarios.

#### Summary of Results from Task 1

3.4 The results from the Members workshop showed support for the high growth level.

3.5 The results from the other workshop sessions show that the most favourable growth scenario is PopGroup long term adjusted and overall the most favourable growth level grouping is high growth with 71% of the votes cast choosing this level. The second most favourable grouping was medium growth with 29% of the attendees preferring this option. No attendees across any of the sessions opted for low growth and low growth scenarios.

**Table 1: An Example of the Handout used in Task 1 and a Record of the Votes Received against the Levels of Growth**

Scenario	Population	Housing	Employment	Preferred Option					
<b>Option 1 – Low growth</b>				<b>4<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Total</b>
WG 2014 projection principa	Loss of 1,815 (2.6% loss)	19 per annum (Total: 285)	Loss of 106 per annum (Total loss of 1,590)	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
WG 2014 10 yr migration	Loss 857 (-0.8%)	54 per annum (Total: 810)	Loss of 72 per annum (Total loss of 1,080)	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Low Growth Grouping				0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
									<b>0 (0%)</b>
<b>Option 2 – Medium growth</b>				<b>4<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dwelling led projection 5 year average	Gain of 162 (0.2% growth)	79 per annum (Total: 1,185)	Loss of 62 per annum (Total loss of 930)	0	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Net Nil	Gain of 238 (0.3% growth)	81 per annum (Total: 1,215)	Loss of 64 per annum (Total loss of 960)	1	1	0	1	0	<b>3</b>
Dwelling led 10 yr average	Gain of 675 (1% growth)	94 per annum (Total: 1,410)	Loss of 71 per annum (Total loss of 1,065)	0	0	1	1	0	<b>2</b>
Dwelling led 15 yr average	Gain of 690 (1% growth)	94 per annum (Total: 1,410)	Loss of 48 per annum (Total loss of 720)	1	1	4	1	0	<b>7</b>
Medium Growth Grouping				0	0	0	1	2	<b>3</b>
									<b>16 (29%)</b>
<b>Option 3 – High growth</b>				<b>4<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Total</b>
PopGroup short term	Gain of 1,996 (2.9% growth)	141 per annum (Total 2,115)	Loss of 16 per annum (Total loss of 240)	3	0	6	1	0	<b>10</b>
PopGroup long term,	Gain of 3,400 (4.9% growth)	179 per annum (Total 2,685)	Gain of 20 per annum (Total gain of 300)	0	0	4	6	0	<b>10</b>
PopGroup long term adjusted	Gain of 5,009 (4.9% growth)	226 per annum (Total 3,390)	Gain of 61 per annum (total gain of 915)	0	10	3	2	0	<b>15</b>
High Growth Grouping				0	0	0	2	3	<b>5</b>
									<b>40 (71%)</b>
<b>Total Number of Votes</b>									<b>56 (100%)</b>

## 4.0 Task 2: Identify a Spatial Distribution Preference

4.1 The aim of task 2 was for each attendee to individually identify their spatial distribution preference. In order for the attendees to make an informed choice, Lynda Healy gave a presentation on the 3 spatial distribution options, these included:

- **Option 1: Current LDP** - Based on north/south divide with Ebbw Vale the main focus of growth
- **Option 2: Heads of the Valleys** – North/south split based on opportunities for growth in the Heads of the Valleys
- **Option 3: Balanced Growth** – Growth equally distributed across the settlements based on the sustainability of settlements assessments

4.2 Information was also provided on the spatial distribution of the candidate sites submitted.

4.3 A handout was provided and each attendee was asked to stick a dot against their preference.

4.4 Table 2 (overleaf) is an example of the handout and records all of the votes received across all of the sessions against each of the spatial distribution options.

### Summary of Results from Task 2

4.5 The results from the Members workshop showed support for option 3: balanced growth.

4.6 The results from the other workshop sessions show that the most favourable spatial distribution option was option 3: balanced growth with 63% of the votes cast choosing this option. The second favourite was option 2: Heads of the Valleys emphasis with 30% of the attendees choosing this option. 4 attendees (7%) opted for option 1: the current LDP.



**Table 2: An Example of the Handout used in Task 2 and a Record of the Votes Received against the Spatial Distribution Options**

Description	Spatial Distribution	Preferred Option					Total
		4 <sup>th</sup> July	8 <sup>th</sup> July	16 <sup>th</sup> July	18 <sup>th</sup> July	5 <sup>th</sup> August	
<b>Option 1:</b> Current LDP	North / South split with most of the growth in the north and with a focus of growth in Ebbw Vale	0	0	1	1	2	<b>4 (7%)</b>
<b>Options 2:</b> Heads of the Valleys emphasis	North / South split based on opportunities for growth in the Heads of the Valleys	4	5	4	4	0	<b>17 (30%)</b>
<b>Option 3:</b> Balanced Growth	Growth equally distributed across the borough settlements based on sustainability of assessments	1	8	13	10	3	<b>35 (63%)</b>
		<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>56 (100%)</b>

## 5.0 Task 3: Settlement Hierarchy Preference

5.1 The aim of task 3 was for each attendee to individually identify their settlement hierarchy preference. In order for the attendees to make an informed choice, Lynda Healy gave a presentation on the settlement hierarchy. As a way of background to the settlement hierarchy, Lynda Healy explained the approach and purpose of the sustainable settlement assessment. It is important to note that this task was not undertaken with the Youth Forum as the background to it was considered too complex.

5.2 There were two settlement hierarchy options in which attendees were to identify their preference, as follows:

Options	Description
Option 1: Existing LDP	<p><b>Principal Hub:</b> Ebbw Vale</p> <p><b>District Hubs:</b> Tredegar Brynmawr Abertillery</p> <p><b>Local Hub:</b> Blaina</p>
Option 2: Based on Sustainable Assessment of Settlements (settlement boundaries used to identify settlements)	<p><b>Tier 1: Principal Settlements</b> Ebbw Vale Tredegar Brynmawr / Nantyglo / Blaina Abertillery / Cwmtillery / Six Bells / Brynithel / Llanhilleth / Aberbeeg</p> <p><b>Tier 2: Secondary Settlements</b> Cwm</p> <p><b>Tier 3: Villages and Hamlets</b> Trefil Pochin Bedwellty Pits Swfrydd</p>

5.3 A handout was provided and each attendee was asked to stick a dot against their preference.

### Summary of Results from Task 3

5.4 The results from the Members workshop show support for option 2.

5.5 Table 3 (overleaf) is an example of the handout and records all of the votes received across all of the other sessions against each of the settlement hierarchy options. It is evident that option 2 was the most favourable option with 86% of attendees' identifying this as their preference.



**Table 3: An Example of the Handout used in Task 3 and a Record of the Votes Received against the Settlement Hierarchy Options**

Description	Settlement Hierarchy	Preferred Option				
		4 <sup>th</sup> July	8 <sup>th</sup> July	16 <sup>th</sup> July	18 <sup>th</sup> July	Total
<b>Option 1:</b> Current LDP	<b>Principal Hub:</b> Ebbw Vale <b>District Hubs:</b> Tredegar Brynmawr Abertillery <b>Local Hub:</b> Blaina					
		0	4	1	2	<b>7 (14%)</b>
<b>Option 2:</b> Based on Sustainable Assessment of Settlements (settlement boundaries used to identify settlements)	<b>Tier 1: Principal Settlements</b> Ebbw Vale Tredegar Brynmawr / Nantyglo / Blaina Abertillery / Cwmtillery / Six Bells / Brynithel / Llanhilleth / Aberbeeg <b>Tier 2: Secondary Settlements</b> Cwm <b>Tier 3: Villages and Hamlets</b> Trefil Pochin Bedwellty Pits Swfrydd					
		5	9	17	13	<b>44 (86%)</b>
		<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>51</b>

## 6.0 Task 4 – Assess the three spatial options put forward against the revised challenges

6.1 The aim of task 4 was to assess spatial strategy options against the revised challenges to identify the best performing spatial strategy. The three variables: level of growth; spatial distribution and settlement hierarchy (covered in the first 3 tasks) were combined to identify four different spatial strategy options identifying where future development will be located. The following tables set out the four different spatial strategy options:

### Spatial Strategy Option 1: Growth and Regeneration (Current LDP)

Growth Level	Spatial Distribution	Settlement Hierarchy
<b>Option 2</b> <b>Medium Growth</b> <b>Population:</b> 162 to 690 gain (0.2 to 1% growth) <b>Housing:</b> 79-94 per annum (Total 1,185-1,410) <b>Employment:</b> loss of 52 to 36 per annum (Total loss of between 540 to 780)	<b>Option 1</b> North / South split with most of the growth in the north and with a focus of growth in Ebbw Vale	<b>Option 1</b> <b>Principal Hub:</b> Ebbw Vale <b>District Hubs:</b> Tredegar Brynmawr Abertillery <b>Local Hub:</b> Blaina

### Spatial Strategy Option 2: Balanced and Interconnected Communities

Growth Level	Spatial Distribution	Settlement Hierarchy
<b>Option 1</b> <b>Low Growth</b> <b>Population:</b> Loss of 857 to 1,815 (-2.6% to -0.8% loss) <b>Housing:</b> 19-54 per annum (Total: 285-810) <b>Employment:</b> Loss of 94 to 59 per annum (Total loss of 810 to 1,410)	<b>Option 2: Balanced growth</b> Equally distributed across the borough	<b>Option 2</b> <b>Sustainable Settlement Assessment</b> <b>Tier 1: Principal Settlements</b> Ebbw Vale Tredegar Brynmawr/ Nantyglo/Blaina Abertillery / Cwmtillery / Six Bells / Brynithel / Llanhilleth / Aberbeeg <b>Tier 2: Secondary Settlements</b> Cwm <b>Tier 3: Hamlets</b> Trefil Pochin Bedwellty Pits Swfrydd

### Spatial Strategy Option 3: Economic Growth Strategy

Growth Level	Spatial Distribution	Settlement Hierarchy
<b>Option 3</b> <b>High Growth</b> <b>Population:</b> 1,996 to 5,009 (2.9 to 7% growth) <b>Housing:</b> 141 to 226 per annum (Total 2,115 to 3,390) <b>Employment:</b> -3 to 74 per annum (Total -45 to plus 1,110)	<b>Option 3</b> North / South split based on opportunities for growth along the Heads of the Valleys corridor	<b>Option 2</b> <b>Sustainable Settlement Assessment</b> <b>Tier 1: Principal Settlements</b> Ebbw Vale Tredegar Brynmawr/ Nantyglo/Blaina Abertillery / Cwmillery / Six Bells / Brynithel / Llanhilleth / Aberbeeg <b>Tier 2: Secondary Settlements</b> Cwm <b>Tier 3: Hamlets</b> Trefil Pochin Bedwellty Pits Swfrydd

6.2 Option 4 below was the spatial strategy option identified by Members in the workshop when combining each of their preferred variables. It was agreed that it would be presented to stakeholders during the stakeholder and internal workshop events to gain their views and assess its impact on the revised challenges. It is worth noting that the only difference between Spatial Strategy Option 3 and 4 is the spatial distribution variable.

### Option 4: Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy

Growth Level	Spatial Distribution	Settlement Hierarchy
<b>Option 3</b> <b>High Growth</b> <b>Population:</b> 1,996 to 5,009 (2.9 to 7% growth) <b>Housing:</b> 141 to 226 per annum (Total 2,115 to 3,390) <b>Employment:</b> -3 to 74 per annum (Total -45 to plus 1,110)	<b>Option 2: Balanced growth</b> Equally distributed across the borough	<b>Option 2:</b> <b>Sustainable Settlement Assessment</b> <b>Tier 1: Principal Settlements</b> Ebbw Vale Tredegar Brynmawr / Nantyglo/ Blaina Abertillery / Cwmillery / Six Bells / Brynithel / Llanhilleth / Aberbeeg <b>Tier 2: Secondary Settlements</b> Cwm <b>Tier 3: Hamlets</b> Trefil Pochin Bedwellty Pits Swfrydd

6.3 The attendees were asked to work in small groups (pairs or threes) for this task. A handout was provided and each small group was asked to identify the impact the spatial strategy option would have on each of the revised challenges. The spatial strategy options

were shared around the table and each small group were asked to assess one of the spatial strategy options. Where the numbers of attendees were low and there was time, attendees were given the opportunity to comment on another spatial strategy option. It should be noted that this task was only completed in the stakeholder and internal workshop sessions.

#### **Summary of Results from Task 4**

6.4 Table 4 overleaf summarises the results of task 4 for each of the spatial strategy options across all of the sessions. Appendix 6 is a series of tables which identifies the results of the task from each session. It is important to note that the number of responses to the task varied due to the number of attendees.

6.5 The facilitators observed that the task was not clearly understood by some of the attendees. This occurred across all of the workshop sessions and therefore some groups required greater assistance and clarification from the facilitators. The uncertainty of what was required is reflected in Table 4 as it shows some significant variations in results particularly in challenges 10, 11 and 12.

6.6 Although, there may be some anomalies in the results due to lack of understanding, there are some general conclusions which can be made. Spatial Strategy Option 4: Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy was identified as having the most positive impact (69) on the revised challenges for the LDP to address. This was followed by Spatial Strategy Option 3: Economic Growth Strategy (49). Options 3 and 4 were identified as having a positive impact on the challenges economic growth and population growth and housing offer.

6.7 However, Spatial Strategy Option 1: Growth and Regeneration (LDP) was considered to have the least positive impact (14) on the revised challenges for the RLDP to address and in fact was more likely to have a mixed impact (74) on the option.

6.8 Option 2: Balanced and Interconnected Communities was considered to have the most negative impact (29) and slightly higher than Option 1: Growth and Regeneration (24).

**Table 4: A summary of the results of Task 4 for each of the Spatial Strategy Options across all of the sessions**

Challenge	Option 1				Option 2				Option 3				Option 4			
	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A
<b>1: Economic growth</b>	0	4	7	0	1	3	6	0	7	2	0	0	7	3	0	0
<b>2: New roles for town centres</b>	1	5	5	0	2	4	4	0	5	3	0	1	4	6	0	0
<b>3: Population growth and improving housing offer</b>	1	10	0	0	0	5	5	0	8	1	0	0	8	1	1	0
<b>4: Improving education attainment and skills</b>	0	7	1	3	1	6	2	1	5	3	0	1	6	4	0	0
<b>5: Creating a well-connected network of hubs</b>	2	4	3	2	4	2	3	1	6	3	0	0	5	4	1	0
<b>6: Supporting Sustainable transport</b>	2	5	1	3	4	2	3	1	4	4	1	0	8	2	0	0
<b>2: Promoting physical and mental health and well-being for all</b>	0	6	1	4	2	5	1	2	3	4	0	2	8	2	0	0
<b>8: Creating a place which supports its green environment</b>	3	8	0	0	5	1	2	2	2	4	1	2	4	4	2	0
<b>9: Creating places with a distinctive sense of identity</b>	0	9	0	2	2	5	1	2	3	5	1	0	7	2	1	0
<b>10: Sustainable use of natural resources</b>	2	6	1	2	1	6	1	2	1	4	2	2	3	5	2	0
<b>11: Environmental Quality</b>	1	6	2	2	3	5	0	2	1	4	2	2	4	3	3	0
<b>12: Sustainable design and the provision of renewable energy</b>	2	4	3	2	2	5	1	2	4	2	1	2	5	5	0	0
	<b>14</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>



## 7.0 Task 5 – Identify own Spatial Strategy Option

7.1 The aim of Task 5 was for attendees to identify their own spatial strategy option. This task was an individual task. A handout was provided and was based on Table 6 below. Attendees were asked to either select their preferred growth level, spatial distribution or settlement hierarchy which were the variables given in Tasks 1-3 or identify an alternative for each variable. A different combination of these variables could identify a different spatial strategy option to the 4 that were put forward.

### Summary of Results from Task 5

7.2 Table 5 below shows the results of the task. It is evident that most of the attendees supported Option 4: Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy as the variables that make up that option (high growth, distributed across the borough and settlement hierarchy based on the sustainable assessment) were identified as the preferred variables across all of the sessions.

7.3 Although no new spatial strategy options were identified by the different combination of variables, a number of alternatives to the variables were identified as follows:

#### **Growth levels**

- Medium – high growth levels should be looked at in order to set a realistic housing requirement figure. A housing requirement figure of 120 per annum was suggested. This figure is not too far from the average of 99 currently being achieved and also includes an element of aspiration.
- The growth levels should be for Blaenau Gwent residents and not incomers.

#### **Spatial Distribution**

- No development on greenfield land

#### **Settlement Hierarchy**

- The settlement hierarchy should have a Heads of the Valleys focus – Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, and Brynmawr should be principal settlements with associated hierarchy for the other settlements.
- The settlement hierarchy should follow Ebbw Vale, Tredegar and Brynmawr axis.
- Sustainable local services and much better public transport is required.
- The settlement hierarchy should follow the 3 natural valley areas. The Ebbw Fach Valley should be considered as a whole and not split into upper and lower
- The settlement hierarchy should be:  
Principal settlements – Tredegar/Ebbw Vale/Brynmawr/Abertillery (incl. Cwmillery and Six Bells  
2<sup>nd</sup> tier – Blaina and Nantyglo  
Village hamlets – Cwm, Trefil and Llanhilleth

**Table 5: An Example of the Handout used in Task 5 and the Results of the Task**

Growth Level						Spatial Distribution						Settlement Hierarchy					
	4 <sup>th</sup> July	8 <sup>th</sup> July	16 <sup>th</sup> July	18 <sup>th</sup> July	Total		4 <sup>th</sup> July	8 <sup>th</sup> July	16 <sup>th</sup> July	18 <sup>th</sup> July	Total		4 <sup>th</sup> July	8 <sup>th</sup> July	16 <sup>th</sup> July	18 <sup>th</sup> July	Total
<b>Option 1 Low</b>	1	0	0	0	<b>1 (2%)</b>	<b>Option 1 North/South with emphasis on Ebbw Vale</b>	0	0	0	2	<b>2 (4%)</b>	<b>Option 1 LDP Hierarchy - 1 principal, 3 District, 1 Local hubs</b>	0	3	1	5	<b>9 (20%)</b>
<b>Option 2 Medium</b>	0	2	8	7	<b>17 (36%)</b>	<b>Option 2 Distributed across the Borough</b>	2	8	13	7	<b>30 (61%)</b>	<b>Option 2 Sustainable Assessment based on SB 4 principals, 1 secondary, 4 Villages/hamlets</b>	4	6	16	10	<b>36 (80%)</b>
<b>Option 3 High</b>	3	10	9	7	<b>29 (62%)</b>	<b>Option 3 Heads of the Valleys focus</b>	2	4	5	6	<b>17 (35%)</b>						
<b>Alternative (please describe):</b>						<b>Alternative (please describe):</b>						<b>Alternative (please describe):</b>					

## 8.0 Youth Forum

8.1 To engage with the young people of Blaenau Gwent, Lynda Healy attended a Youth Forum on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019. A Youth Forum is set up in Blaenau Gwent to enable the young people aged 11-25 to have their say on issues that affect them. 5 young people attended the session, appendix 1 sets out a list of attendees.

8.2 Lynda Healy had an hour slot as part of a wider agenda. The session was about Planning for the Future – What will it look like? Lynda Healy gave a presentation (slides are set out at Appendix 7) to encourage the young people to think about the following:

- How many people will live in Blaenau Gwent?
- How many jobs will be required and in what type of work?
- What facilities are needed?
- How will we get about?
- What will become of our environment?

8.3 They were then given a sheet of questions to answer regarding the above issues. Table 6 below is a copy of the handout with a summary of the responses received.

### Summary of Results

8.4 Due to the low number of attendees and their ages being around 11, the responses received were not considered to be a true representation of the young people (age range 11-25) of Blaenau Gwent. The task was also considered quite complex, however several conclusions can be drawn as follows:

#### **How many people will live in Blaenau Gwent?**

The results of the preferred levels of growth and spatial distribution preferences are set out in sections 3.0 and 4.0.

#### **How many jobs will be required and in what type of work?**

When considering what type of jobs, 3 responses were given as follows:

- Work that helps the society (eg. Social work and youth)
- All jobs
- More jobs in Ebbw Vale

60% of the respondents also considered that more people would be working from home.

#### **What facilities are needed?**

When thinking about town centres, the respondents were asked how many town centres should Blaenau Gwent have. 80% considered that we should only have 4 town centres (Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Brynmawr, Abertillery). One respondent considered that town centres should have different facilities to ensure multiple towns are being used by the public. In terms of what leisure facilities should be provided, leisure centres and schools were named.

#### **How will we get about?**

- 80% of respondents envisage that walking and cycling being prioritised will work in Blaenau Gwent. 60% of respondents considered that public transport was fit for purpose, whilst the remainder considered that buses are very inconvenient meaning that multiple buses need to be caught. There are also poor connections.

**What will become of our environment?**

80% of respondents considered that the environment is a priority. The reasons quoted for this were due to the increase in pollution and climate change and the health and aesthetic value of a green environment.

Question	Yes	No	Reason / Answer
<b>Employment</b>			
Should we be looking to get more people back into work by reducing unemployment, increasing the economic activity rate and reducing out commuting?	<b>5 (100%)</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>	
What types of jobs should we be enabling?	3 responses were received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work that helps the society (eg. Social work and youth)</li> <li>• All jobs</li> <li>• More jobs in Ebbw Vale</li> </ul>		
Will more people be working from home	<b>3 (60%)</b>	<b>2 (40%)</b>	
<b>Leisure &amp; Services</b>			
How many towns should we have? 5: Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Brynmawr, Abertillery, Blaina 4: Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Brynmawr, Abertillery Less – please state which ones and why			
	<b>1 (20%)</b>		
	<b>4 (80%)</b>		
Do we look to contract them?	<b>1 (20%)</b>		
Should they have different roles? If so any ideas?	<b>1 (20%)</b>	<b>1 (20%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town centres having different facilities it ensures multiple towns are being used by the public</li> </ul>
What leisure facilities should we be providing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leisure centres, schools</li> </ul>		
<b>Transport</b>			
Will prioritising walking and cycling work in Blaenau Gwent?	<b>4 (80%)</b>	<b>1 (20%)</b>	
Is public transport currently fit for purpose? If no why?	<b>3 60%</b>	<b>2 (40%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buses are very inconvenient and you often have to get multiple buses</li> <li>• Poor connections</li> </ul>
What changes are likely to happen? How do we need to adapt?	No responses were given		
<b>Environment</b>			
Is the environment important to you? If so why?	<b>4 (80%)</b>	<b>1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We only have 1 planet and we are wasting it away with</li> </ul>



		<b>(20%)</b>	pollution and climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nice to see greenery and being in nature is more healthy</li><li>• The environment should be a priority</li><li>• No family living here</li></ul>
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## 9.0 Next Steps

9.1 The workshop sessions were considered extremely useful. The views expressed at the workshop events will help the Council to identify a Preferred Strategy for the RLDP that addresses the issues/challenges and meets the Vision. The Preferred Strategy will also be influenced by an integrated sustainability assessment. The Council will formally consult on the Preferred Strategy for the LDP at the end of 2019.

9.2 As well as writing up the Preferred Strategy, the Council will prepare a series of evidence base background papers including Housing and Population, Employment, Viability Studies and Habitat Regulation Assessment. These assessments will also be made available as supporting evidence.

## Appendix 1: List of Attendees

### Member Workshop: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019

	Name	Ward
1	Councillor Bernard Willis	Tredegar Central and West
2	Councillor Bob Summers	Ebbw Vale North
3	Councillor Clive Meredith	Badminton
4	Councillor Dai Davies	Ebbw Vale North
5	Councillor Derek Bevan	Cwm
6	Councillor Garth Collier	Blaina
7	Councillor Hadyn Trollope	Tredegar Central and West
8	Councillor John Hill	Brynmawr
9	Councillor John Mason	Nantyglo
10	Councillor John Morgan	Georgetown
11	Councillor Jonathan Milliard	Ebbw Vale South
12	Councillor Keith Pritchard	Ebbw Vale South
13	Councillor Lisa Winnett	Blaina
14	Councillor Nigel Daniels	Abertillery
15	Councillor Phil Edwards	Ebbw Vale North
16	Councillor Stewart Healy	Beaufort
17	Councillor Tommy Smith	Sirhowy
18	Councillor Wayne Hodgins	Brynmawr

### Internal Regeneration Workshop: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019

	Name	
1	Eirlys Hallet	Team Manager – Development Services
2	Julie Mckim	Residential Development Officer
3	Justin Waite	Team Leader – Development Management
4	Lee Williams	Senior Estates Officer

### Stakeholder Workshop 1: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019

	Name	Organisation
1	Chris Hays	Cushman and Wakefield
2	Councillor Gary Oakley	Abertillery and Llanhilleth Town Council
3	Councillor Nick Simmons	Abertillery and Llanhilleth Town Council
4	Councillor Peter Adamson	Abertillery and Llanhilleth Town Council
5	Councillor Rob Phillips	Abertillery and Llanhilleth Town Council
6	Howell Jukes	Local Landowner
7	Jack Hanbury	Pontypool Park Estates
8	John Cowley	Site Promoter
9	Martin Haven	Local Landowner
10	Michael Rees	LRM Planning
11	Mr Musto	Individual
12	Vic Warren	Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales

### Stakeholder Workshop 2: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019

	Name	Organisation
1	Alyson Tippings	Blaenau Gwent CBC

## Appendix 1: List of Attendees

2	Bethan Owen	Site Promoter
3	Councillor Carol Hillman	Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council
4	Councillor Des Hillman	Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council
5	Ellie Griffin	Individual
6	Jeff Price	Local Landowner
7	Joan Price	Local Landowner
8	Judith Doyle	Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust
9	Kelly Collins	Caerphilly CBC
10	Mark Harris	Home Builders Federation
11	Mark Hopkins	Blaenau Gwent CBC
12	Nicola Williams	Assistant Town Clerk – Brynmawr Town Council
13	Owen Davies	Owen Davies Consulting
14	Phillipa Cole	Site Promoter
15	Ralph Connor	Coetir / Pentref Tyleri
16	Robert Davies	Blaenau Gwent CBC
17	Sarah Jeremiah	Blaenau Gwent CBC
18	Stacey Irish	Girl Guiding Gwent

### Stakeholder Workshop 3: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019

	Name	Organisation
1	Alan Reed	Individual
2	Brian Cromwell	Local Landowner
3	Councillor Keith Jenkins	Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council
4	David Powell	Aneurin Bevan UHB
5	Howard Allen	Local Landowner
6	Liz Hancocks	Blaenau Gwent CBC
7	Matthew John	Tai Calon
8	Natalie Waller	Gwent Wildlife Trust
9	Nia Watts	Monmouthshire CBC
10	Patrick Addison	Spicer Haart
11	Steven Roberts	Cwmglo Jewellery
12	Susan Davies	Local Landowner
13	Mrs Wyatt	Individual
14	Robert Murray	Torfaen CBC

### Youth Forum: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019

	Name	
1	Seren Swanson	Chair
2	Charlotte Clark	Deputy Youth Mayor
3	Darcey Howell	
4	Chloe Lines	
5	Mara Moruz	



## Agenda

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**14.00 – 16.30 pm**

**The General Offices, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale NP23 6AA**

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### **Blaenau Gwent Revised Local Development Plan Spatial Strategy Options Stakeholder Workshop**

13.45 – 14.00	Arrival and Registration with teas and coffees
14.00 - 14.05	Introduction
14.05 – 14.15	Session Format and Update from Workshop 1
14.15 – 14.35	Preferred Levels of Growth – Task 1
14.35 – 14.50	Preferred Spatial Distribution – Task 2
14.50 – 15.05	Preferred Settlement Hierarchy – Task 3
15.05 – 15.20	Tea and Coffee Break
15.20 – 16.00	Assessment of Spatial Strategy Options – Task 4
16.00 – 16.20	Identification of an Alternative Spatial Strategy Option – Task 5
16.20	Next Steps and Close





Dyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

**Blaenau Gwent**

County Borough Council

# **Blaenau Gwent Revised Local Development Plan**

Cynllun Datblygu Lleol  
Diwygiedig

# **Spatial Strategy Options Briefing Paper**



July 2019

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## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) is in the process of preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) for the County Borough. The LDP is the Council's land use plan that will establish where and how much new development will take place in the County Borough over the period 2018-2033. It will also identify which areas are to be protected from development and will replace the existing Local Development Plan (LDP 2006-2021) once adopted.

1.2 The RLDP is being prepared in line with the Council's adopted Delivery Agreement (October 2018), which sets out the timetable and approach to community consultation. At this stage of the process (Stage 1 Pre-Deposit Participation) the consultation is focussed on engagement and consensus building with key stakeholders. Formal consultation will be undertaken at the next stage (Stage 2 Pre-Deposit Public Consultation).

1.3 The aim of Pre-Deposit Participation (Stage 1) is to build consensus on the issues, vision and strategy for the RLDP. So far we have held workshops on the issues and vision for the RLDP. Section 2 of this report sets out the amended issues / challenges based on the comments we have received. The issues / challenges will be developed into objectives for the strategy to meet.

1.4 Section 3 sets out the revised vision based on the comments we received in workshop 1.

1.5 The next workshop involves assessing different options for growth and spatial distribution in order to identify the preferred option. Section 4 of this report identifies three growth options, three spatial options and three settlement hierarchies. It then merges these variants to identify three spatial options.

**1.6 *If you wish to make comments on the issues/challenges and vision set out in this paper please email them to us by the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.***

## 2.0 Issues / Challenges

2.1 Workshop 1 sought to identify the issues / challenges which the Borough faces and RLDP will need to address. To achieve this, the task set was to look at the issues/challenges identified in the current LDP to see if they were still relevant. If they were still relevant then were there any new influences or issues in that area which needed to be incorporated into the amended challenge. The workshop also looked to see if any issues / challenges which could be merged and if there were any new issues that should be included.

2.2 The following table identifies the amended challenges/issues which the Strategy needs to address. Appendix 1 of this document tracks the changes made to the current challenges.

**Table 1: Revised Challenges**

<p><b>Challenge 1: Economic growth</b> The area suffers from high levels of unemployment and economic inactivity, high benefit dependence and limited quality employment opportunities, which together result in low household incomes. A key challenge for the area is to secure jobs for the future. This will mean increasing the proportion of jobs in sectors with good growth prospects, such as, new technologies and advanced manufacturing, IT and cyber security, tourism and low carbon sustainable technologies. The challenge is to provide land, services and environments that will enable economic growth.</p>
<p><b>Challenge 2: New roles for town centres</b> Town centres are suffering as a result of a change in people's shopping habits. A key issue is that town centres need to diversify and broaden their offer to create footfall. Town centres need to have clear roles so that they don't compete against each other. The challenge is to provide a more flexible policy approach and identify clear roles.</p>
<p><b>Challenge 3: Population growth and improving housing offer</b> The area has stabilised its population, although people are still leaving the area to find housing and employment elsewhere. One of the problems with net out migration is that it tends to be biased towards those more mobile and economically active. The challenge is to provide land for housing and provide the jobs to retain people in the area.</p> <p>There is a shortage of flats, bungalows and detached properties to meet housing requirements. The quality of existing private housing stock is an issue in terms of modern living and efficiency requirements particularly in the rental sector. Affordability remains an issue. The challenge is to ensure new developments contain a mix of house types and tenure; managing the number of vacant properties; and improving the quality of the private housing stock.</p>
<p><b>Challenge 4: Improving education attainment and skills</b> A high proportion of adults have no qualifications and education attainment is generally low. Whilst education attainment has improved considerably, lately, more needs to be done in this area. People have limited and low skill levels to gain good quality jobs. The challenge is to ensure that skills and</p>

training match the economic growth sectors and the infrastructure is put in place so that facilities can be accessed by all.

**Challenge 5: Creating a well-connected network of hubs** Being able to access services, jobs and markets is a key requirement for any area to be successful. Good links are required both inside and outside of Blaenau Gwent. The challenge is to help develop a transport network which improves connectivity within and outside of Blaenau Gwent. The completion of the dualling of the Heads of the Valleys road and improvements to the Ebbw Railway are key.

Blaenau Gwent is made up of a number of towns and villages but only a few are large enough to be self-sufficient in terms of comprising an adequate range and mix of services. As a consequence, it is vital that a network of hubs is created to provide the sustainable level of services for the area. This network of hubs is also a key part of delivering sustainable settlements where local and regional services can be easily accessed through sustainable modes of transport.

**Challenge 6: Supporting Sustainable transport:** For those trips that do have to be made a much greater proportion will need to be by walking, cycling and public transport. This would also make a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions and provide for those without access to a car. Blaenau Gwent has low car ownership and a poor evening and Sunday bus services. The challenge is to create an environment and transport network in which it becomes a more attractive choice to walk, cycle or travel by public transport.

**Challenge 7: Promoting physical and mental health and well-being for all** Development and renewal of settlements needs to take account of all aspects of the quality of life of those who live there, including safety, health and freedom from disturbance. In particular, Blaenau Gwent has low life expectancy and high numbers of people with limiting long-term illness. Fear of crime is also a key issue for residents. The challenge is to provide the infrastructure and create environments that promote safety, health and a sense of well-being for all.

**Challenge 8: Creating a place which supports its green environment** The setting of Blaenau Gwent, bordering the Brecon Beacons and the Vale of Usk, with its rugged mountains and its peaceful valleys, is a major asset which needs to be appreciated by residents and visitors alike. The natural environment with its variety of wildlife is valuable in its own right but can also contribute to the economic and social well-being of the area. Climate change is a threat to this. The challenge is to reverse the decline in biodiversity and increase the resilience of ecosystems.

**Challenge 9: Creating places with a distinctive sense of identity** Blaenau Gwent has a distinctive, location, history and townscape and this is a further potential key to the area's transformation. This will mean bequeathing to future generations the best of the legacy of the past, including the heritage as an iron, coal and steel producer, the links with the Chartist movement and the birthplace of Aneurin Bevan. The challenge is to protect, conserve and enhance the best of the buildings and townscape.

The Welsh language is integral to the character, culture and history of Wales. Whilst Blaenau Gwent does not have a large Welsh speaking population as found in other parts of Wales, the challenge is to ensure that the spatial planning system protects and enhances Welsh culture and language where possible.

**Challenge 10: Sustainable use of natural resources** Responsible use of the area’s physical resources is a key part of a better future. The amount of waste going to landfill needs to be reduced. The exploitation of minerals needs to be limited. The challenge is to promote the circular economy by reducing waste generation and maximising reuse and recycling, ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources and the provision of an adequate supply of minerals.

**Challenge 11: Environmental Quality** Air and water pollution, noise, land contamination and dereliction have long blighted the area and affected people’s health and well-being and whilst this has improved in reality there is still room for improvement. Climate change means that the areas subject to the risk of flooding are growing. The challenge is to help ensure that the physical environment is safe and healthy; and that land is used efficiently.

**Challenge 12: Sustainable design and the provision of renewable energy** Blaenau Gwent has the potential to generate much more of its own energy by sustainable means that reduce carbon emissions. The design and layout of buildings could contribute to a reduction in the consumption of energy and emission of greenhouse gases. Meanwhile, some change in climate is certain to occur and it will be necessary to adapt to this in the future development of the area. The challenge is to help, through the development process, to achieve the potential for reducing greenhouse gases and impacts of climate change.

2.3 Please note that no changes have been made to the current challenge 14 at this stage.

### 3.0 Vision

3.1 The first series of workshops (Workshop 1: Issues and Vision) were tasked with identifying where we wanted to be by 2033. Members of the workshops were asked if the current LDP vision was fit for purpose or if it needed to be amended. If it needed amending what needed to change and how it should be changed. The workshop groups were provided with examples of other relevant visions to inform the discussion.

3.2 The following vision sets out the Blaenau Gwent we wish to see in 2033. It provides direction for the development of the strategy. A tracked version is provided in appendix 2 of this report.

#### **Vision**

Through collaborative working, by 2033, Blaenau Gwent will become a network of connected **sustainable, vibrant valley communities** that support the **well-being** of current and future generations with:

- residents living in safe, healthy communities, in a range of good quality homes and having better access to services;
- a **prosperous low carbon economy** where people have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to achieve a better quality of life;
- its **distinctive natural environment**, cultural and historic identity is protected and enhanced creating a place where people want to live, work and visit.

## 4.0 Options

4.1 Options need to be genuine, reasonable, reflect the evidence and the plan, meet the evidenced needs of the area, be deliverable within the plan period, conform to national policy, complement regional or neighbourhood plans/strategies, flexible and sustainable.

4.2 In developing a Spatial Strategy there are three variables to look at:

- Level of growth
- Spatial Distribution of the growth
- Settlement Hierarchy for locating the growth

These can then be combined to identify different Spatial Strategy Options identifying where future development will be located and how it will deliver the vision and key issues.

### Levels of Growth

4.3 In creating options the first step is to consider the level of development required (e.g. housing & employment). The Council commissioned Edge Analytics to prepare population, household and economic projections. To date 8 different scenarios have been prepared each with different outcomes in terms of population, dwellings and demographics. These have been grouped into three options of low, medium and high growth for the RLDP period (2018-2033). For each option a figure is given for the increase in the population, the number of new homes and the impact on the number of people in the workforce.

**Table 2: Summary of Shortlisted Growth Options**

Growth Option	Level of Housing & Employment
<b>Option 1 – Low growth</b> (based on WG latest 2014 projections principal and 10 yr migration)	<b>Population:</b> loss of between 857 to 1,815 (-0.8% to 2.6% loss) <b>Housing:</b> 19-54 per annum (Total: 285-810) <b>Employment:</b> loss of 94 to 59 per annum (Total loss of – 810 to 1,410)
<b>Option 2 – Medium growth</b> (based on 3 dwelling led projections (5,10 & 15 yr average) and Net nil migration)	<b>Population:</b> 162 to 690 gain(0.2 to 1% growth) <b>Housing:</b> 79-94 per annum (Total 1,185-1,410) <b>Employment:</b> loss of 52 to 36 per annum (Total loss of between 540 to 780)
<b>Option 3 – High growth</b> (based on PopGroup short term, long term, and long term adjusted)	<b>Population:</b> 1,996 to 5,009 gain (2.9% to 7.2% growth) <b>Housing:</b> 141-226 per annum (Total 2,115 - 3,390) <b>Employment:</b> -3 to 74 per annum (Total -45 to 1,110)

**(Based on Scenarios prepared by Edge Analytics)**

**4.4 At the workshop you will be asked to identify a preferred level of growth.**



## Spatial Distribution Options

4.5 Alongside deciding on the actual level of growth needed over the Plan period the RLDP must also put forward a clear Spatial Strategy identifying where this growth will be located within the County Borough.

4.6 It is therefore necessary to translate the projected level of growth into broad geographical locations. The following three broad locations have been identified.

**Table 3: Spatial Distribution Option**

Description	Spatial Distribution
<b>Option 1:</b> Current LDP	North / South split with most of the growth in the north and with a focus of growth in Ebbw Vale
<b>Options 2:</b> Heads of the Valleys emphasis	North / South split based on opportunities for growth along the Heads of the Valleys
<b>Option 3:</b> Balanced Growth	Growth equally distributed across the borough settlements based on sustainability of assessments

4.7 *At the workshop you will be asked to identify a preferred level of growth.*

## Settlement Hierarchy

4.8 To ensure that growth is distributed to the most sustainable settlements Welsh Government requires the assessment of the roles and function of settlements. The Welsh Government draft LDP manual requires a clearly expressed settlement hierarchy is identified within the RLDP.

4.9 The current LDP assessed the role and function of settlements when preparing Holistic Action Regeneration Plans for Blaenau Gwent. In addition to this and as part of the RLDP evidence base a sustainable settlement assessment has been undertaken. Each of the settlements have been assessed in terms of:

- The level of sustainable transport and accessibility in and around settlements
- The availability of local facilities and services in and around settlements
- The level of employment opportunities in and around settlements

This is supported by contextual information in terms of size, and characteristics of the settlements.

4.10 Two options are presented. The first option is based on the current LDP hierarchy. The second is based on the settlement boundaries as identified in the current LDP. .

**Table 5: Hierarchy of Settlement Options**

Description	Settlement Hierarchy
<b>Option 1:</b> Current LDP	<p><b>Principal Hub:</b> Ebbw Vale</p> <p><b>District Hubs:</b> Tredegar Brynmawr Abertillery</p> <p><b>Local Hub:</b> Blaina</p>
<b>Option 2:</b> Based on Sustainable Assessment of Settlements (settlement boundaries used to identify settlements)	<p><b>Tier 1: Principal Settlements</b> Ebbw Vale Tredegar Brynmawr / Nantyglo / Blaina Abertillery / Cwmtillery / Six Bells / Brynithel / Llanhileth / Aberbeeg</p> <p><b>Tier 2: Secondary Settlements</b> Cwm</p> <p><b>Tier 3: Villages and Hamlets</b> Trefil Pochin Bedwellty Pits Swfrydd</p>

**Strategy Options**

4.11 It is possible to merge these different elements to create 18 different strategy options. However the three variants lend themselves to four strategy options as follows:

**Table 6: Spatial Strategy Options**

Name	Growth Level	Spatial Distribution	Settlement Hierarchy
<b>Option 1:</b> Growth and Regeneration (current LDP)	<p><b>Option 2</b> <b>Medium Growth</b> <b>Population:</b> 162 to 690 gain (0.2 to 1% growth) <b>Housing:</b> 79-94 per annum Total 1,185-1,410 <b>Employment:</b> loss of 52 to 36 per annum (Total loss of between 540 to 780)</p>	<p><b>Option 1</b> <b>North / South</b> split with most of the growth in the north and with a <b>focus of growth in Ebbw Vale</b></p>	<p><b>Option 1</b> <b>Principal Hub:</b> Ebbw Vale <b>District Hubs:</b> Tredegar Brynmawr Abertillery <b>Local Hub:</b> Blaina</p>

<p><b>Option 2:</b> Balanced and Interconnected Communities</p>	<p><b>Option 1 Low Growth</b> <b>Population:</b> Loss of 857 to 1,815 (-2.6 to -0.8% loss) <b>Housing:</b> 19-54 per annum (Total: 285-810) <b>Employment:</b> loss of 94 to 59 per annum (Total loss of - 810 to 1,410)</p>	<p><b>Option 2</b> Growth <b>equally distributed across the borough</b> based on sustainability of settlement assessment</p>	<p><b>Option 2</b> <b>Tier 1: Principal Settlements</b> Ebbw Vale Tredegar Brynmawr / Nantyglo / Blaina Abertillery / Cwmtillery / Six Bells / Brynithel / Llanhileth / Aberbeeg <b>Tier 2: Secondary Settlements</b> Cwm <b>Tier 3: Hamlets</b> Trefil Pochin Bedwellty Pits Swfrydd</p>
<p><b>Option 3:</b> Economic Growth Strategy</p>	<p><b>Option 3 High Growth</b> <b>Population:</b> 1,996 to 5,009 (2.9 to 7% growth) <b>Housing:</b> 141 to 226 per annum (Total 2,115 to 3,390) <b>Employment:</b> 74 per annum (Total - 45 to plus 1,110)</p>	<p><b>Option 3</b> <b>North / South split</b> based on opportunities for growth along the <b>Heads of the Valleys</b></p>	<p><b>Option 2</b> <b>Tier 1: Principal Settlements</b> Ebbw Vale Tredegar Brynmawr / Nantyglo / Blaina Abertillery / Cwmtillery / Six Bells / Brynithel / Llanhileth / Aberbeeg <b>Tier 2: Secondary Settlements</b> Cwm <b>Tier 3: Hamlets</b> Trefil Pochin Bedwellty Pits Swfrydd</p>
<p><b>Option 4:</b> Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy</p>	<p><b>Option 3 High Growth</b> <b>Population:</b> 1,996 to 5,009 (2.9 to 7% growth) <b>Housing:</b> 141 to 226 per annum (Total 2,115 to 3,390) <b>Employment:</b> 74 per annum (Total - 45 to plus 1,110)</p>	<p><b>Option 2</b> Growth <b>equally distributed across the borough</b> based on sustainability of settlement assessment</p>	<p><b>Option 2</b> <b>Tier 1: Principal Settlements</b> Ebbw Vale Tredegar <b>Brynmawr / Nantyglo / Blaina Abertillery / Cwmtillery / Six Bells / Brynithel / Llanhileth / Aberbeeg</b> <b>Tier 2: Secondary Settlements</b> Cwm <b>Tier 3: Hamlets</b> Trefil Pochin Bedwellty Pits Swfrydd</p>

4.12 At the workshop you will be asked to assess these four spatial strategy options against the amended issues/challenges identified at the first workshop. You will also have created your own strategy and will be asked to assess it.

4.13 Following the workshops a report of consultation will be prepared. The Preferred Strategy options will be revised and will then be subject to an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment. Revisions may be required to ensure that the most sustainable option is put forward as the Preferred Strategy for public consultation later in the year.

Challenges / Issues - Tracked Changes

**Challenge 1: Economic ~~growth diversification~~** The area suffers from high levels of unemployment and economic inactivity, high benefit dependence and limited quality employment opportunities which together result in low household incomes. A key challenge for the area is to secure jobs for the future. This will mean increasing the proportion of jobs in sectors with good growth prospects, such as ~~services, knowledge-based business, new technologies and~~ advanced manufacturing, IT and cyber security, tourism and low carbon sustainable technologies. The challenge is to provide land, services and environments that will enable economic growth~~draw investment~~.

**Challenge 2: New roles for town centres** ~~The town centres suffer high vacancy rates and low presence of national retailers compared to other valley towns. Most suffer as a result of the dominance of out of town food retail stores. Town centres are suffering as a result of a change in people's shopping habits.~~ A key issue is that town centres need to diversify and broaden their offer to create footfall. Town centres need to have clear roles so that they don't that the town centres compete against each other ~~and have no clear roles~~. The challenge is to provide a more flexible policy approach, new retail hierarchy and, identify clear roles ~~and limit damage from out of town retail development~~.

**Challenge 3: ~~Stabilising the P~~population growth and improving housing offer** The area has ~~been losing population since 1921~~stabilised its population, although as a result of people are still leaving the area to find housing and employment elsewhere. One of the problems with net out migration is that it tends to be biased towards those more mobile and economically active. The challenge is to provide land for housing and provide the jobs to retain people in the area.

**~~Challenge 4: Meeting housing needs and improving housing~~** A high proportion of Blaenau Gwent's housing is pre 1919, with 20% of this being either unfit or being in need of substantial repair. There is ~~also~~ a shortage in terms of flats, bungalows and detached properties to meet housing requirements. The quality of existing private housing stock is an issue in terms of modern living and efficiency requirements particularly in the rental sector. More recently, Aaffordability remains an issue. has become an issue as house prices rose dramatically in 2006. The challenges are to ensure new developments contain a mix of house types and tenure; ~~that social sector housing meets the Welsh Housing Quality Standard benefiting the environment; reducing managing~~ the number of vacant properties; and improving the quality of the private housing stock.

**Challenge ~~45~~: Improving education attainment and skills** A high proportion of adults have no qualifications and education attainment is generally low. Whilst education attainment has improved considerably, lately, more needs to be done in this area. ~~People have limited and low skill levels to gain good quality jobs.~~ The challenge is to ensure that skills and training match the economic growth sectors and the infrastructure is put in place to deliver the Children and Young People's Plan requirements so and that ~~these~~ facilities can be accessed by all.

**Challenge 5: Creating a well-connected network of hubs** Being able to access services, jobs and markets is a key requirement for any area to be successful. Good links are required both inside and outside of Blaenau Gwent. The challenge is to help develop a transport network which improves connectivity within and outside of Blaenau Gwent. The completion of the dualling of the Heads of the Valleys road and improvements to the Ebbw Railway are key.

Blaenau Gwent is made up of a number of towns and villages but only a few are large enough to be self-sufficient in terms of comprising an adequate range and mix of services. As a consequence, it is vital that a network of hubs is created to provide the sustainable level of services for the area. This network of hubs is also a key part of delivering sustainable settlements where local and regional services can be easily accessed through sustainable modes of transport.

~~**Challenge 6: Improving accessibility** – Being able to access services, jobs and markets is a key requirement for any area to be successful. Good links are required both inside and outside of Blaenau Gwent. The challenge is to help develop a transport network which improves connectivity within and outside of Blaenau Gwent. The dualling of the Heads of the Valleys road and improvements to the Ebbw Railway are key.~~

**Challenge 6: Supporting Sustainable transport:** For those trips that do have to be made a much greater proportion will need to be by walking, cycling and public transport. This would also make a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions and provide for those without access to a car. Blaenau Gwent has low car ownership and a poor evening and Sunday bus services. The challenge is to create an environment and transport network in which it becomes a more attractive choice to walk, cycle or travel by public transport.

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~~**Challenge 7: Creating a network of hubs** – Blaenau Gwent is made up of a number of towns and villages but only a few are large enough to be self-sufficient in terms of comprising an adequate range and mix of services. As a consequence, it is vital that a network of hubs is created to provide the sustainable level of services for the area. This network of hubs is also a key part of delivering sustainable settlements where local and regional services can be easily accessed through sustainable modes of transport.~~

~~**Challenge 8: Supporting sustainable transport** – For those trips that do have to be made a much greater proportion will need to be by walking, cycling and public transport. This would also make a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions and provide for those without access to a car. Blaenau Gwent has low car ownership and a poor evening and Sunday bus services. The challenge is to create an environment and transport network in which it becomes a more attractive choice to walk, cycle or travel by public transport.~~

**Challenge 79: Promoting physical and mental health and well-being for all** Safeguarding Development and renewal of settlements needs to take account of all aspects of the quality of life of those who live there, including safety, health and freedom from disturbance. In particular, Blaenau Gwent has low life expectancy and high numbers of people with limiting long-term illness. Fear of crime is also a key issue for residents. The challenge is to provide the infrastructure and create environments that promote safety, health and a sense of well-being for all.

**Challenge 810: Creating a place which supports its green environment** The setting of Blaenau Gwent, bordering the Brecon Beacons and the Vale of Usk, with its rugged mountains and its peaceful valleys, is a major asset which needs to be appreciated by residents and visitors alike. The natural environment with its variety of wildlife is valuable in its own right but can also contribute to the economic and social well-being of the area. Climate change is a threat to this. The challenge is to reverse the decline in biodiversity and increase the resilience of ecosystems. protect and enhance the natural assets both to support the regeneration of Blaenau Gwent and as features in their own right.

**Challenge 911: Creating places with a distinctive sense of identity** Blaenau Gwent has a distinctive, location, history and townscape and this is a further potential key to the area's transformation. This will mean bequeathing to future generations the best of the legacy of the past, including the heritage as an iron, coal and steel producer, the links with the Chartist movement and the birthplace of Aneurin Bevan. The challenge is to protect, conserve and enhance the best of the buildings and townscape.

The Welsh language is integral to the character, culture and history of Wales. Whilst Blaenau Gwent does not have a large Welsh speaking population as found in other parts of ~~Wales~~ the Country, the Council challenge is ~~keen~~ to ensure that the spatial planning system protects and enhances Welsh culture and language where possible.

**Challenge 102: Sustainable use of natural resources** ~~Responsible use of the area's physical resources is a key part of a better future. Air and water pollution, noise, land contamination and dereliction have long blighted the area and affected people's health and well-being and this is a legacy which needs to be remedied. Climate change means that the areas subject to the risk of flooding are growing. Responsible use of the area's physical resources is a key part of a better future.~~ The amount of waste going to landfill ~~is significant and~~ needs to be reduced. The exploitation of minerals needs to be limited. The challenge is to promote the circular economy by reducing waste generation and maximising reuse and recycling, ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources and the provision of an adequate supply of minerals ~~help ensure that the physical environment is safe and healthy; that land is used efficiently; waste is minimised, recycled and processed sustainably; and the re-use or recycling of construction and demolition material and industrial wastes serves not only to reduce the amount of waste produced but also to conserve scarce resources and minimise environmental damage.~~

**Challenge 11: Environmental Quality** ~~Air and water pollution, noise, land contamination and dereliction have long blighted the area and affected people's health and well-being and whilst this has improved in reality there is still room for improvement. Climate change means that the areas subject to the risk of flooding are growing. The challenge is to help ensure that the physical environment is safe and healthy; and that land is used efficiently.~~

**Challenge 123: Sustainable design and the provision of renewable energy development** Blaenau Gwent has the potential to generate much more of its own energy by sustainable means that reduce carbon emissions. The design and layout of buildings could contribute to a reduction in the consumption of energy and emission of greenhouse gases. Meanwhile, some change in climate is certain to occur and it will be necessary to adapt to this in the future development of the area. The challenge is to help, through the development process, to achieve the potential for reducing greenhouse gases and impacts of climate change.

**Challenge 14: ~~Spreading the benefits of regeneration~~** ~~Alongside the challenges there are opportunities which need to be taken. For example, the closure of the Tin Plate Works in Ebbw Vale in 2002 brought fundamental changes to the structure of the Blaenau Gwent economy, taking away a source of well paid, secure employment. It now represents a massive transformational regeneration opportunity that will have a profound impact on the local environment and economy. In addition, plans for this site, has created a further key regeneration opportunity north of Ebbw Vale Town Centre. The challenge is to ensure that the benefits of regenerating these sites are spread across Blaenau Gwent.~~

Vision – Tracked Changes

Through collaborative working, by 2033~~21~~, Blaenau Gwent will become a network of connected, sustainable, vibrant valley communities, that support the well-being of current and future generations with:

- ~~residents living in safe, healthy communities, in a range of good quality homes and having better access to services~~
- a prosperous low carbon economy where people have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to achieve a better quality of life and ~~residents will live in safe, healthy and thriving communities, with access to a range of good quality affordable homes and thriving town centres.~~
- Its distinctive natural unique environment, cultural and historic identity ~~is~~ will be protected and enhanced ~~to~~ create a place where people want to live, work and visit.

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# Appendix 4: A Copy of the Presentation Slides from the Stakeholder Workshop

**Blaenau Gwent Revised Local Development Plan 2018-2033**

**Workshop 2: Spatial Strategy Options & Preferred Spatial Strategy**  
4<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Steve Smith – Development Services Manager  
Lynda Healy – Team Manager - Building Control and Development Plans  
Hayley Spender – Team Leader – Development Plans

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**Aim of Session**

Identify the preferred:

- Level of growth
- Spatial distribution for growth
- Settlement hierarchy to deliver the growth

With a view to building consensus on a Preferred Spatial Strategy for the Revised Local Development Plan that addresses our issues/challenges and meets the vision.

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**Format of Session**

- Update on Workshop 1: Challenges/Issues and Vision
- Aim of the session
- Different options for:
  - Levels of Growth - task 1 identify preference
  - Spatial Distribution - task 2 identify preference
  - Settlement Hierarchy - task 3 identify preference
- Spatial Strategy Options – task 4 assess options
- Alternative Spatial Strategy Option - task 5 identify individual alternative option
- Next Steps
- Close

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**Level of Growth**

- Looking into the future is uncertain – have to make assumptions about future births, deaths, household formation rates and migration
- We commissioned Edge Analytics to prepare a number of population, household and employment led projections

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**Workshop 1: Issues/Challenges**

Held 5 workshop sessions in April, May and June Engaged with primary school children Sessions were well attended and extremely useful

The key issues/ challenges identified were in relation to:

- Economic growth
- Town Centres and their future role
- Improved Connectivity within and outside of Blaenau Gwent and support for improved sustainable transport
- Improving housing offer – aspirational and range

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**Growth Scenarios**

Scenario	Change 2018-2033				Average per year		
	Population Change	Population Change %	Households Change	Households Change %	Natural Change	Net Migration	Dwellings
PG Long Term (Adjusted)	5,009	7.2%	3,231	10.4%	37	297	226
PG Long Term	3,400	4.9%	2,558	8.2%	21	205	179
PG Short Term	1,996	2.9%	2,020	6.5%	6	127	141
Dwelling led (15yr Average)	690	1.0%	1,346	4.3%	8	38	94
Dwelling led (10yr Average)	675	1.0%	1,340	4.3%	8	37	94
Net NI	238	0.3%	1,162	3.7%	16	0	81
Dwelling led (5yr Average)	162	0.2%	1,127	3.6%	5	6	79
WG 2014 (10yr Average Migration)	-587	-0.8%	765	2.5%	-3	-36	54
WG 2014 (Principal)	-1,815	-2.6%	275	0.9%	-9	-112	19

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**Workshop 1: Vision**

Generally the LDP vision was considered to be fit for purpose.

Summary of comments received:

- Current vision lacks economic growth focus
- Connectivity and accessibility needs to be included
- Use of bullet points, shorter sentences and punctuation
- Town centres are not thriving and it should be about more than affordable homes
- Greater consideration to low carbon and technology and use of sustainable natural resources

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**Growth Scenarios – Employment Impacts**

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## Growth Scenarios- Demographic Impacts

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## Growth Options

**Current Supply**

Status	Number of dwelling units
Completions (2018-2019)	75
Units with planning permission	766 (1,277 -40% discount)
Large windfall sites	300 (based on past 10 years 20 pa)
Small windfall sites	420 (based on LDP completions over last 13 years)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,486</b>

**Housing Requirement**

Growth Level	Requirement	Shortfall/ Surplus	Allocate/Deallocate
Low	285 - 810	Surplus of 1,201 to 676	Deallocate some sites
Medium	1,185 - 1,410	Surplus of 301 to 76	Use surplus as 10% flexibility - small allocation required
High	2,115-3,390	Shortfall of 629 to 1,904	Allocate plus 10%

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## Growth Scenarios - Summary

- Great variation, each having different impacts in terms of number of people, the number of houses required and the demographics.
- Population varies between a loss of 1,815 to a gain of 5,009
- Household change varies between 275 to 3,232
- Dwellings required varies between 285-3,390
- The number of people in employment varies between -1,410 to +1,110 (based on reducing the unemployment rate to the Wales average)

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## Growth Options – Strategic Sites

Ref	Site Name	No. Dwellings
SP01	Princ. Site New, Wylton, Crayke	132
SP04	Wemondra Stadium	188
SP17	Land opposite Muir Lodge	249
SP22	Site between and opposite New Ashvale	324
SP07	Nant-y-Croft	150
SP16	Land south of Dedyr, Crayke	100
SP12	Site South	112
SP28	Land to the North of A4835	110
SP27	Reddip W. Ltd. Cwm Dewi Industrial Estate	182
SP03	The Works	260
SP23	Ebbw Vale Northern Corridor	450
SP24	Former Nantllyn Campsite	450
LDP018	Doloss	210
LDP22	Wolgan Road, Upper Coal Cae	184
LDP25	Land off road, Vlan	110
LDP14	Site Caeil, Boumalls Road	140
Total		2,284

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## Growth Options – Viability and Deliverability (WG emphasis)

- Viability** – will have to be demonstrated by the promoter of the site or we will have to pay to undertake the assessments for sites to be included in the Housing Requirement (currently having issues with sites being able to deliver 10% affordable housing and Planning Obligations particularly for education)
- Deliverability** – Past Build Rate average of 99 makes it difficult for us to demonstrate that we can deliver higher figures

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## Task 1: Identify growth level preference

You have all been given sticky dots to identify your preference on a sheet

You can select:

- Low
- Medium
- High

(And within each level the exact scenario)

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## Growth Options

Growth Option	Level of Housing & Employment
<b>Option 1 - Low Growth</b> (based on WG latest 2014 projections principal and 10 yr migration)	Population: loss of between 857 to 1,815 (0.8 to 2.6% loss) Housing: 19-54 per annum (Total: 285-810) Employment: loss of 59 to 94 per annum (Total loss of - 810 to 1,410)
<b>Option 2 - Medium Growth</b> (based on 3 dwelling led projections (5,10 & 15 yr average) and Net nil migration)	Population: gain of between 162 to 690 (0.2 to 1% growth) Housing: 79-94 per annum (Total 1,185-1,410) Employment: loss of 36 to 52 per annum (Total loss of between 540 to 780)
<b>Option 3 - High Growth</b> (based on PopGroup short term, long term, and long term adjusted)	Population: gain of 1,996 to 5,009 (2.9% to 7.2% growth) Housing: 141-226 per annum (Total 2,115 - 3,390) Employment: -3 to +74 per annum (Total -45 to +1,110)

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## Spatial Distribution

**Option 1: Current LDP**  
Based on North/South Divide with Ebbw Vale the main focus of growth

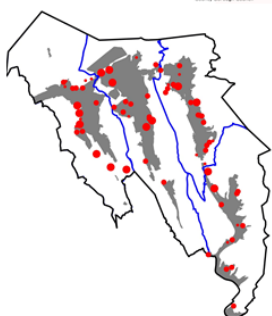
**Option 2: Heads of the Valleys**  
Most growth along the Heads of the Valleys Settlements

**Option 3: Balanced Growth**  
Growth equally distributed according to sustainability assessment of settlements

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## Spatial Distribution – Candidate Sites



Area	Number
Sirhowy Valley	1,500
Ebbw Fawr	2,652
Upper Ebbw Fach	1,017
Lower Ebbw Fach	664

## Settlement Hierarchy – Sustainable Settlement Assessment

**Purpose** is to inform decisions on where development should be located to achieve:

- a sustainable pattern of growth;
- minimise unsustainable patterns regarding the movement of people; and
- support local services and facilities.

**Based on regionally agreed methodology for SE Wales**


Principle 1 – The level of sustainable transport and accessibility  
 Principle 2 – The availability of local facilities and services  
 Principle 3 – The level of employment opportunities  
 In and around settlements

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## Task 2: Spatial Distribution Preference

You have all been given sticky dots to identify your preference on a sheet

You can select:



**Option 1: Current LDP**  
Based on North/South Divide with Ebbw Vale the main focus of growth

**Option 2: Heads of the Valleys**  
Most growth along the Heads of the Valleys Settlements

**Option 3: Balanced Growth**  
Growth equally distributed according to sustainability assessment of settlements

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## Settlement Hierarchy – Assessment Findings

Settlement	Principle 1: Transport Services & Accessibility		Principle 2: Community services & facilities		Principle 3: Employment Opportunity		Total	
	Score %	Tier	Score %	Tier	Score %	Tier	Score %	Tier
Ebbw Vale	34.2%	Tier 1	22.2%	Tier 2	32%	Tier 1	66.4%	Tier 1
Cwm	33.8%	Tier 1	9%	Tier 3	24%	Tier 1	66.8%	Tier 2
Tredegar	33.8%	Tier 1	21.8%	Tier 3	32%	Tier 1	62.4%	Tier 1
Trefil	6.9%	Tier 3	0.9%	Tier 5	8%	Tier 3	15.8%	Tier 3
Fochriw	14.8%	Tier 2	0.9%	Tier 5	8%	Tier 3	21.2%	Tier 3
Bedwellty Pila	10.8%	Tier 3	0.52%	Tier 5	8%	Tier 3	16.82%	Tier 3
Brynmawr (including Hantgigle)	26.9%	Tier 2	16.6%	Tier 2	24%	Tier 1	69.5%	Tier 1
Blaina	17.1%	Tier 2	12.2%	Tier 2	12%	Tier 2	41.3%	Tier 2
Abertillery (including Cwmllwyn, Sir Bethel)	22.6%	Tier 2	21.2%	Tier 1	24%	Tier 1	74.2%	Tier 1

## Settlement Hierarchy

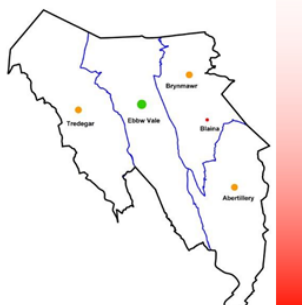
WG requires us to identify a Settlement Hierarchy and a growth split based on a robust understanding of the role and function of places

- Undertook an assessment of the role and functions of settlements for the current LDP
- Have now also undertaken a sustainable settlement assessment

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## Option 1: Current LDP

Settlement Hierarchy
<b>Principal Hub:</b> Ebbw Vale
<b>District Hubs:</b> Tredegar Brynmawr Abertillery
<b>Local Hub</b> Blaina



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## Option 2: Based on Sustainable Assessment of Settlements (LDP boundaries)

**Tier 1: Principal Settlements**  
Ebbw Vale  
Tredegar  
Brynmawr / Nantyglo/Blaina  
Abertillery / Cwmillery / Six Bells / Brynithel / Llanhilleth / Aberbeeg

**Tier 2: Secondary Settlements**  
Cwm

**Tier 3: Villages and Hamlets**  
Trefil  
Pochin  
Bedwelty Pits  
Swfrydd



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## Spatial Strategy Option 1: Growth and Regeneration (Current LDP)

Growth Level	Spatial Distribution	Settlement Hierarchy
<b>Option 2</b> <b>Medium Growth</b> Population: 162 to 690 gain (0.2 to 1% growth) Housing: 79-94 per annum (Total 1,185-1,410) Employment: loss of 52 to 36 per annum (Total loss of between 540 to 780)	<b>Option 1</b> North / South split with most of the growth in the north and with a focus of growth in Ebbw Vale	<b>Option 1</b> Principle Hub: Ebbw Vale District Hubs: Tredegar Brynmawr Abertillery Local Hub: Blaina


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## Settlement Hierarchy Preference

You have all been given sticky dots to identify your preference on a sheet

You can select:

- Option 1** – Existing LDP or
- Option 2** – Sustainable Settlement Assessment (Settlement Boundaries)



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## Spatial Strategy Option 2: Balanced and Interconnected Communities

Growth Level	Spatial Distribution	Settlement Hierarchy
<b>Option 1</b> <b>Low Growth</b> Population: loss of 857 to 1,815 (-2.6 to -0.8% loss) Housing: 19-54 per annum (Total: 285-810) Employment: loss of 94 to 59 per annum (Total loss of 810 to 1,410)	<b>Option 2</b> Balanced Growth Equally distributed across the borough	<b>Option 2</b> Sustainable Settlement Assessment Tier 1: Principal Settlements Ebbw Vale Tredegar Brynmawr / Nantyglo/Blaina Abertillery / Cwmillery / Six Bells / Brynithel / Llanhilleth / Aberbeeg Tier 2: Secondary Settlements Cwm Tier 3: Hamlets Trefil Pochin Bedwelty Pits Swfrydd


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## Spatial Strategy Options

The three variables of:

- **Level of Growth**
- **Spatial Distribution**
- **Settlement Hierarchy**

Are combined to identify different Spatial Strategy options identifying where future development will be located



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## Spatial Strategy Option 3: Economic Growth Strategy

Growth Level	Spatial Distribution	Settlement Hierarchy
<b>Option 3</b> <b>High Growth</b> Population: 1,996 to 5,009 (2.9 to 7% growth) Housing: 141 to 226 per annum (Total 2,115 to 3,390) Employment: -3 to 74 per annum (Total -45 to plus 1,110)	<b>Option 3</b> North / South split based on opportunities for growth along the Heads of the Valleys corridor	<b>Option 2</b> Sustainable Settlement Assessment Tier 1: Principal Settlements Ebbw Vale Tredegar Brynmawr / Nantyglo/Blaina Abertillery / Cwmillery / Six Bells / Brynithel / Llanhilleth / Aberbeeg Tier 2: Secondary Settlements Cwm Tier 3: Hamlets Trefil Pochin Bedwelty Pits Swfrydd


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## Spatial Strategy Option 4: Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy

Growth Level	Spatial Distribution	Settlement Hierarchy
<b>Option 3</b> <b>High Growth</b> Population: 1,996 to 5,009 (2.9 to 7% growth) Housing: 141 to 226 per annum (Total 2,115 to 3,390) Employment: -3 to 74 per annum (Total -45 to plus 1,110)	<b>Option 2</b> Balanced Growth Equally distributed across the borough	<b>Option 2</b> Sustainable Settlement Assessment Tier 1: Principal Settlements Ebbw Vale Tredegar Brynmawr / Nantyglo/Blaina Abertillery / Cwmillery / Six Bells / Brynithel / Llanhilleth / Aberbeeg Tier 2: Secondary Settlements Cwm Tier 3: Hamlets Trefil Pochin Bedwelty Pits Swfrydd

**a better place to live and work / lle gwell i fyw a**

## Appendix 4: A Copy of the Presentation Slides from the Stakeholder Workshop



**Spatial Strategy Options - Assessment**

**Task 4: Assess the four options put forward and against the Issues identified**


The aim is to identify the best performing spatial strategy



**Thank You**

**Close**


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**Task 5: Identify your own Spatial Strategy Option**

Different Combinations / Different approach

Growth Level	Spatial Distribution	Settlement Hierarchy
Option 1 Low	Option 1 North/South with emphasis on Ebbw Vale	Option 1 LDP Hierarchy - 1 principal, 3 District, 1 Local hubs
Option 2 Medium	Option 2 Distributed across the Borough	Option 2 Sustainable Assessment based on SB 4 principals, 1 secondary, 4 Villages/hamlets
Option 3 High	Option 3 Heads of the Valleys focus	



**Next Steps**

- Hold Workshops to build consensus on a Preferred Spatial Strategy with:
  - Stakeholders (3 sessions morning, afternoon and evening)
  - Youth Forum
- Hold meeting on Town Centre Strategy
- Prepare a Report of Consultation
- Prepare the Evidence Base – Background Papers, Housing and Employment Studies, Viability Studies
- Prepare the Preferred Strategy for public consultation in November (Scrutiny in September and Council in October)
- Integrated Sustainability Assessment
- Habitat Regulation Assessment



## Appendix 5: Attendee Groups for Stakeholder Workshops 1 and 2

### Stakeholder Workshop 1: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Table 1**

**Group Facilitator: Ryan Morris (Blaenau Gwent CBC)**

Name	Organisation
Ellie Griffin	Individual
Nicola Williams	Assistant Town Clerk – Brynmawr Town Council
Owen Davies	Owen Davies Consulting
Robert Davies	Blaenau Gwent CBC
Stacey Irish	Girl Guiding Gwent

**Table 2**

**Group Facilitator: Emma Scherptong (Blaenau Gwent CBC)**

Name	Organisation
Alyson Tippings	BGCBC
Jeff Price	Local Landowner
Joan Price	Local Landowner
Judith Doyle	GGAT
Kelly Collins	Caerphilly CBC
Mark Hopkins	Blaenau Gwent CBC

**Table 3**

**Group Facilitator: Hayley Spender**

Name	Organisation
Bethan Owen	Site Promoter
Councillor Carole Hillman	Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council
Councillor Des Hillman	Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council
Mark Harris	HBF
Owen Davies	Owen Davies Consulting
Phillipa Cole	Site Promoter
Ralph Connor	Coetir / Pentref Tyleri
Sarah Jeremiah	BGCBC

### Stakeholder Workshop 2: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Table 1**

**Group Facilitator: Justin Waite (BGCBC)**

Name	Organisation
Howard Allen	Local Landowner
Mrs Wyatt	Individual
Matthew John	Tai Calon
Nia Watts	Monmouthshire County Council
Natalie Waller	Gwent Wildlife Trust
Steven Roberts	Cwmglo Jewellery

### Stakeholder Workshop 2: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Table 2**

**Group Facilitator: Hayley Spender (BGCBC)**

Name	Organisation
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## Appendix 5: Attendee Groups for Stakeholder Workshops 1 and 2

Alan Reed	Individual
Councillor Keith Jenkins	Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council
David Powell	Aneurin Bevan Health Board
Liz Hancocks	Blaenau Gwent CBC
Susan Davies	Local Landowner
Robert Murray	Torfaen County Borough Council
Brian Cromwell	Local Landowner
Patrick Addison	Spicer Haart

Option 1: Growth and Regeneration (LDP)																
Challenge	4 <sup>th</sup> July				8 <sup>th</sup> July				16 <sup>th</sup> July				18 <sup>th</sup> July			
	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A
1: Economic growth			3			2	1			2	1				2	
2: New roles for town centres		1	2		1	1	1			2	1			1	1	
3: Population growth and improving housing offer		3			1	2				3				2		
4: Improving education attainment and skills		2		1		1		2		3				1	1	
5: Creating a well-connected network of hubs	1			2	1	1	1			1	2			2		
6: Supporting Sustainable transport	1			2		2	1		1	2				1		1
7: Promoting physical and mental health and well-being for all				3		3				3					1	1
8: Creating a place which supports its green environment		2	1			2		1	1	2			2			
9: Creating places with a distinctive sense of identity		3				2		1		3				1		1
10: Sustainable use of natural resources		2	1			1		2	1	2			1	1		
11: Environmental Quality		1	2			1		2		3			1	1		
12: Sustainable design and the provision of renewable energy	1	1	1			1		2		2	1		1		1	
	3	15	10	8	3	19	4	10	3	28	5		5	10	6	3

Mixed Impact overall



Option 2: Balanced and Interconnected Communities (LDP)																
Challenge	4 <sup>th</sup> July				8 <sup>th</sup> July				16 <sup>th</sup> July				18 <sup>th</sup> July			
	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A
1: Economic growth			2			1	2		1	1	1			1	1	
2: New roles for town centres		1	1			1	2		1	2			1		1	
3: Population growth and improving housing offer			2			1	2			3				1	1	
4: Improving education attainment and skills		1	1			1	1	1		3			1	1		
5: Creating a well-connected network of hubs			2			1	1	1	3				1	1		
6: Supporting Sustainable transport			2			1	1	1	2	1			2			
7: Promoting physical and mental health and well-being for all	1		1			1		2	1	2				2		
8: Creating a place which supports its green environment	1		1		1			2	3					1	1	
9: Creating places with a distinctive sense of identity	2						1	2		3				2		
10: Sustainable use of natural resources		1	1			1		2	1	2				2		
11: Environmental Quality		2				1		2	2	1			1	1		
12: Sustainable design and the provision of renewable energy		1	1			1		2	1	2			1	1		
	4	6	14	0	1	10	10	15	15	20	1		7	13	4	0

Option 3: Economic Growth Strategy																
Challenge	4 <sup>th</sup> July				8 <sup>th</sup> July				16 <sup>th</sup> July				18 <sup>th</sup> July			
	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A
1: Economic growth	2				2				2	1			1	1		
2: New roles for town centres	1	1			1			1	2	1			1	1		
3: Population growth and improving housing offer	2				2				2	1			2			
4: Improving education attainment and skills	1	1			2				1	1		1	1	1		
5: Creating a well-connected network of hubs	1	1			2				2	1			1	1		
6: Supporting Sustainable transport	1	1			1	1			1	2			1		1	
7: Promoting physical and mental health and well-being for all		2			1	1				1		2	2			
8: Creating a place which supports its green environment		1	1		1	1				1		2	1	1		
9: Creating places with a distinctive sense of identity		2			1	1				2	1		2			
10: Sustainable use of natural resources	1		1			2				1		2		1	1	
11: Environmental Quality		1	1			1	1			1		2	1	1		
12: Sustainable design and the provision of renewable energy	2				1	1				1		2	1		1	
	11	10	3	0	14	8	1	1	10	14	1	11	14	7	3	0

Option 4: Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy																
Challenge	4 <sup>th</sup> July				8 <sup>th</sup> July				16 <sup>th</sup> July				18 <sup>th</sup> July			
	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A	Positive	Mixed Impact	Negative Impact	N/A
1: Economic growth	1	1			2	1			3				1	1		
2: New roles for town centres		2			2	1			1	2			1	1		
3: Population growth and improving housing offer	1		1		2	1			3				2			
4: Improving education attainment and skills		2			3				2	1			1	1		
5: Creating a well-connected network of hubs	1		1		1	2			2	1			1	1		
6: Supporting Sustainable transport	1	1			2	1			3				2			
7: Promoting physical and mental health and well-being for all	1	1			2	1			3				2			
8: Creating a place which supports its green environment		1	1		2	1			1	2			1		1	
9: Creating places with a distinctive sense of identity	1		1		2	1			3				1	1		
10: Sustainable use of natural resources			2		2	1				3			1	1		
11: Environmental Quality			2		1	2			2	1			1		1	
12: Sustainable design and the provision of renewable energy	1	1			1	2			2	1			1	1		
	7	9	8	0	22	14	0	0	25	11	0	0	15	7	2	0

## Planning for the Future

What will it look like?  
Lynda Healy - Development Planning



## Growth

### Where should growth (housing and jobs) go?

- **Ebbw Vale Focus**
  - sustainable transport metro proposals
  - Large areas of brownfield land – The Works and Ebbw Vale North
  - Pressure on services in the area
- **Heads of the Valleys Corridor focus**
  - Spread the growth more evenly across Tredegar, Ebbw Vale and Brynmawr
  - Less pressure on services
- **Spread evenly across the Borough based on a sustainable assessment of settlements**
  - Due to constraints in the south this could lead to the release of greenfield sites

## Planning for the future

- How many people will live in Blaenau Gwent?
- How many jobs will be required and in what type of work?
- What facilities are needed?
- How will we get about?
- What will become of our environment?

## Employment


- The number of people in the workforce is not only reliant on people of working age - we can also seek to increase economic activity, reduce employment and reduce out-commuting levels.
- What can the Plan do? It can provide land but for what types of jobs? High quality, High Tech? Will there be more people working from home?
- Also need to improve education and skills and make sure they match with the jobs being created.



## Living in Blaenau Gwent

- 69,607 people currently live in Blaenau Gwent in 30,416 houses
- How many will live here in 15 years time?

This is an important consideration as most other things we plan for relies on us getting this right. We need to know how many children will be in schools, how many people will need jobs, are more shops and other services required in the area.



- No one answer
- Huge difference between the different scenarios from negative growth of 2.6% to a growth of 7.2%

## Leisure & Services

- How do you see our town centres changing in the next 15 years?
- Should we try and attract more people or leave them contract and possibly disappear? Do we need 5? Do we need to think differently about town centres – service centres?
- What Leisure facilities should we be looking to provide?



## Live


- **Should we be planning for population decline?**
  - Risk with this is that we lose the economically active people and are left with a population who are more heavily reliant on the state keeping the area in the most deprived in Wales category
  - Risk that we would need to close more schools as there would be less children
  - Less pressure on services but could lead to further decline in our towns
  - No pressure on the natural environment
- **Should we be planning to stabilise the population?**
  - Would still be losing people from the working age population
  - Less impact on schools
  - No increased pressure on services but would not support our struggling towns
  - No pressure on the natural environment
- **Should we be increasing the population?**
  - Retain more people in the workforce
  - Would support town centres but may put pressure on schools and other services
  - May put pressure on the environment

Do you think you will stay in the Borough?

## Transport – getting about

National guidance requires us to prioritise sustainable transport and look at getting people to walk, cycle or take the train or bus before they use the car.

Will this work for Blaenau Gwent?  
Is public transport fit for purpose?  
What changes are going to happen?



## Environment

Blaenau Gwent's environment has transformed but is now under threat from:

- Climate change
- Renewable Energy Provision – wind farms and solar panels
- Mineral Development

How important is the environment to you? And Why?



## Planning for the Future

Sheet of questions for you to answer



## Blaenau Gwent Replacement Local Development Plan

### Next Steps

- **Preparing a Preferred Strategy which will be out for consultation in November**
- **Prepare Deposit Plan for next year**
- **Examination and then Adoption by 2022**





Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

# Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council



## Planning Policy Team

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council  
Municipal Offices, Civic Centre  
Ebbw Vale, NP23 6XB

**Tel: 01495 354740**

**Email: [planningpolicy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)**

**Website: [www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)**

